

# Security and Democracy Forum

## Founders' Fellowship

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"Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."  
— Benjamin Franklin

### About the Fellowship

The Founders' Fellowship is the Security and Democracy Forum's flagship professional development program for emerging national security leaders. Named in honor of the democratic ideals that shaped the American experiment, the Fellowship equips early-career professionals with practical skills, substantive knowledge, and a community of principled peers committed to the idea that security must serve democracy.

### Purpose

The Founders' Fellowship provides a platform for aspiring leaders to contribute to national security conversations while gaining mentorship, publishing experience, and exposure to the policy process. Fellows will participate in writing workshops, contribute to Forum publications, and engage in professional development events designed to elevate their voice and accelerate their impact.

### Who Should Apply

We invite applications from graduate students, junior professionals, veterans, and public service-minded individuals with a demonstrated interest in security, democracy, and public policy. Ideal candidates are thoughtful, values-driven, and ready to grow. The fellowship is meant for working professionals and will attempt to accommodate for scheduling conflicts.

### Program Highlights

- 6-month non-residential fellowship
- Invitations to exclusive SDF events
- Expedited review of contributed articles or op-eds
- Access to professional development resources
- Receive mentorship from experienced policy practitioners
- Gain exposure across the Forum's networks and platforms

### Timing

The Founders' Fellowship operates in two annual cohorts: Spring and Fall. Applications open approximately six weeks before each cycle begins. The fellows will meet approximately once a month in person in Washington, DC.

### Join Us

The Founders' Fellowship is your opportunity to shape the future of democratic security. Whether you're exploring a career in national security or deepening your policy expertise, this fellowship offers a launchpad rooted in integrity, accountability, and service.

To learn more or apply, send a resume to [graham@securityanddemocracy.org](mailto:graham@securityanddemocracy.org).