

The Alfa Fellowship Program

Nearly fifteen years after the fall of the Soviet Union, Cold War-era policies and concepts continue to affect U.S. relations with Russia. Despite historic changes that have taken place in Russia over the past decade, and its subsequent emergence into the global community, there are still too few experts in the United States with direct, meaningful experience in the modern business, government, public policy, and cultural environment of the New Russia. The Alfa Fellowship Program is designed to address this problem by providing a new and exciting opportunity for professionals from the U.S. to live and work in Russia and to enable them to develop a genuine professional expertise in the New Russia. The expectation is that as the program develops, a new generation of American opinion leaders and professionals will be exposed to the realities of life in post-Soviet Russia.

The six-month Fellowship in Russia will begin with a three-week seminar program with key Russian government, media, social, cultural, and private sector officials to discuss current issues facing Russia. Drawing upon extensive contacts throughout industry, media, government, and non-profit institutions in Russia, the Alfa Fellowship Program will place participants in five-month professional level work assignments at leading institutions in business, media, and civil society. The Alfa Fellowship Program will endeavor to secure positions that meet the interests of both participants and host institutions by carefully matching Fellows with their respective assignments. To promote this effort, an advisor will be assigned to each Fellow at his or her internship location.

A competitive selection process will review qualified candidates with fluency in Russian language, as well as a graduate degree and professional experience in business, economics, journalism, law, or public affairs/policy.

Program Highlights

The Alfa Fellowship Program will bring qualified American professionals to Russia for intensive language training and practical professional experience in private enterprises, media organizations, public institutions, and government. The Alfa Fellowship Program is entering its second program year with 15 participants in two separate programs in 2005-06.

Alfa Fellowship Program awards will be granted by committee from applications submitted by the December 3, 2004 application deadline for the first program beginning in April 2005. Qualified candidates for the April program must be fluent in Russian. The application deadline for the second program is January 14, 2005. The second program begins in October 2005 and includes six months of language training (April – September 2005) prior to the start of professional assignments in Russia. Qualified candidates for the second program must have completed at least beginning Russian or have the equivalent of two years post-secondary Russian language training.

The Alfa Fellowship Program includes an Orientation Seminar in New York City, a Moscow Seminar Program, and regional excursions in Russia, as well as the aforementioned professional assignments. Fellows will also participate in a regular series of topical seminars and meetings with key Russian officials to discuss current issues and developments in Russia. Each Fellow will receive travel, free housing, health insurance, and a stipend.

Alfa Fellowship professional assignments are available in private enterprises, media organizations, think-tanks, public policy institutions, law firms, non-government organizations, and in various levels of Russian government.

The Alfa Fellowship Program is funded by a grant from Alfa Bank. The Alfa Fellowship Program is represented in the U.S. by CDS International and in Moscow by the Center for International Fellowships.

Professional assignments will be arranged with the assistance of the Alfa Fellowship Program Board of Advisors and leading Russian businesses, government agencies, universities, and think tanks.

CDS International, Inc.

Founded in 1968, CDS International is an American non-profit organization committed to the advancement of international career training opportunities customized to provide individuals with in-depth practical knowledge of other nations' business practices, cultures and political traditions. Each year CDS serves approximately 1,600 young professionals and students from over 50 countries through a wide variety of work/study, internship and study tour programs. These experiences help to strengthen global cooperation and understanding among individuals, businesses, institutions and communities. CDS International has contacts throughout the world, through both its alumni associations and its partner organizations.

CDS International, Inc.

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Alfa Fellowship Program

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13. Vladimir Pozner, President, Academy of Russian Television

Alfa Fellowship Program

Participants list. Moscow 27.09.2004-27.03.2005

1. Hillary Stockton California

Career: Lawyer and Legal Services

Education: Stanford Law School, Georgetown University

Placement -Boston Consulting Group (Moscow) Limited

2. Mariya Rasner Virginia

Career: Journalism, Banking

Education: Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy

Placement –radio station Ekho Moskv

3. Paul de Zardain Washington

Career: Journalism and international economics

Education: Johns Hopkins, SAIS

Placement – TNK-BP

4. Nathan Clausen Virginia

Career: Economist, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Education: George Washington University, University of Minnesota

Placement - Institute of Economic Analysis