2022 Aspen Strategy Group Rising Leaders Program

Core Programming
Kick-Off Event in Washington, D.C.: March 9-11

In Washington, D.C., incoming Rising Leaders will gather for networking and discussions about current national security and foreign policy issues. Programming may include an Aspen leadership seminar and private discussions with ASG members.


At the core of the program is the Aspen Security Forum, our nonpartisan annual summer gathering of thought leaders held on the Aspen Institute’s campus in Aspen, Colorado. Participants step away from their daily lives and come together to discuss the most pressing foreign policy and national security challenges facing the world today.

This year, we will bring Rising Leaders to attend our discussions and engage with our participants. In addition, Rising Leaders will have the opportunity to:

a. Attend off-the-record discussions with senior government officials; members of Congress; journalists; prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business; and Aspen Strategy Group members
b. Participate in a writing workshop with ASG members and/or former ASF speakers
c. Publish a policy paper

2022 Year-Round Programming

1) Kick Off and Reunion Events: In Washington, D.C., previous, current, and incoming Rising Leaders will gather for networking and discussions about current national security and foreign policy issues

2) Monthly Meetings: Rising Leaders will meet virtually to hear from: senior government officials; members of Congress; journalists; prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business; and Aspen Strategy Group members

3) Breakout Conversations: Rising Leaders will meet after select ASF events to discuss takeaways

4) Online publication opportunity in a book of policy papers on the ASG website and the Weekly Leaf newsletter

Preferred Qualifications & Required Materials

- Candidates for the Program should be young professionals in their field.
- Demonstrated interest and involvement in national security, diplomacy, international development, human rights, homeland security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and/or other related fields.
- Strong academic record.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
• Must be able to attend the kick-off event in Washington, D.C. on March 9-11 and the 2022 Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, CO on July 19-22, as well as monthly virtual meetings.
• Please note that full-time students and those living abroad during the term (March – December 2022) are discouraged from applying.
• The candidate application consists of three parts:
  o Brief statement of interest (under 250 words)
  o One short answer essay question (between 250-350 words)
  o One-page resume
• References will submit a letter of recommendation via the Reference Portal.

Annual Deadline and Notification
The application deadline for the Class of 2022 is 9:00 AM (ET) on Monday, January 10th. Successful candidates will be contacted for interview in late January.

Over the course of the program, participants will:
• Develop and hone their leadership skills
• Participate in breakout conversations and monthly meetings with high-level officials
• Attend a writing workshop with an Aspen Strategy Group member or former ASF speaker
• Contribute to the conversation at the Aspen Security Forum
• Have the opportunity to engage with world leaders, senior government officials, members of Congress, journalists, prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business
• Publish a relevant policy paper
• Join a lifetime network of Rising Leaders alumni, which offers the chance to further connect with other bold thinkers in national security