Apply for a Reporting Fellowship

Applicants must be female journalists with at least three years of professional working experience in news media. Reporters working in print, broadcast, digital media, or photojournalists, including freelancers, are eligible. Applications are accepted in English and Spanish.

Visit the www.iwmf.org website to learn more!

“Without the IWMF’s fellowship, I would not have been able to explore [these] themes in Mexico... The fellowship pushed me to sharpen my reporting, second guess my prejudices, and expand my horizons – all while being supported by the intelligence, leadership, and kindness of IWMF facilitators, fixers, and fellow journalists.”

– Sara Mojtehedzadeh, IWMF Mexico-U.S. border reporting fellow, April 2016

“The HEFAT training was invaluable to me and was probably the most significant and clear step in my career at this moment.”

– Jean Friedman-Rudovsky, IWMF Colombia reporting fellow, April 2016

About the IWMF

Founded in 1990 by a group of prominent U.S. women journalists, the International Women's Media Foundation is a Washington-based organization that is dedicated to strengthening the role of women journalists worldwide. Our mission is to unleash the potential of women journalists as champions of press freedom to transform the global news media. We seek to ensure that female journalists worldwide are fully supported, protected, recognized and rewarded for their vital contributions at all levels of the news media.

About the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation is a private family foundation working to improve the standard of living and quality of life for the world’s most impoverished and marginalized populations. We focus our funding on critical gaps to catalyze transformational change in four main areas: 1) food security; 2) water security; 3) conflict mitigation; and 4) public safety. The Foundation has invested more than $180 million in the U.S., Mexico and Central America to address forced migration, improve livelihoods and increase food security on both sides of the U.S. border.
Adelante: Latin America Reporting Initiative

Adelante is a five-year reporting initiative led by the International Women’s Media Foundation, which was made possible by a $5 million grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. Operating through 2020, Adelante (or ‘forward’ in Spanish) aims to reshape traditional media narratives and increase reporting by and about women in Latin America.

Adelante was developed to amplify the voices of women journalists and to strengthen their professional development, impact and safety. It is also providing unique opportunities for hundreds of reporters from the region and around the globe, with in-country training and international reporting fellowships in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and the Mexico-U.S. border.

Over the life of the program, the IWMF is organizing fellowships for 270 international female journalists through 30 reporting trips. Each trip is focused on a theme designed to enhance the narratives around underreported issues. These include:

- Democracy and governance
- Peace and conflict
- Immigration
- Women’s rights and development
- Agricultural development
- Security
- Economic opportunity
- Conservation

IWMF reporting fellows’ stories and images have been published or aired by leading international news outlets including The New York Times, National Geographic, Marketplace, PBS Newshour, Businessweek, Foreign Policy, Christian Science Monitor, Unvision, Le Monde, The Atlantic, Cosmopolitan, USA Today, Agencia EFE, and more.

Additionally, the IWMF will award year-long fellowships to 90 local journalists in the countries of focus who are reporting on issues of importance in their own communities. These fellowships will help journalists – both men and women – develop skills and deepen their expertise in a particular subject area, with support from international journalists and local editors.

Visit the Reshaping the Narrative page on the www.iwmf.org website to view all the published stories.

In 2016, the IWMF offered six Latin America reporting fellowships.

In Colombia, fellows reported on rural development in a post-conflict context in Cali, and on conservation in La Guajira. They profiled women combatting sexual violence, the transition from combatant to civilian life for female FARC members, and the threat of climate change on indigenous populations.

On the Mexico-U.S. border, fellows reported from Tijuana and Juarez, MX and Brownsville, TX on the human and economic impact of migration. They covered families divided by the border and the Dreamer Moms advocacy movement, poor working conditions in Mexico’s maquiladoras (factories), and local reactions to the U.S. presidential election.

In El Salvador, fellows reported on women, health and development in San Salvador. Their stories included a lawyer fighting for the release of women imprisoned as a result of the country’s abortion ban, a young woman leading a paramedic crew in the world’s murder capital, and the impact of the Zika virus on reproductive rights.

Future reporting trips will focus on a wide variety of themes from security, peace and development, to migration, and to democracy and governance.

Reporting Fellowships

The IWMF provides unprecedented access to sources and locations in tough reporting environments, where journalists working solo face myriad logistical and security challenges. The fellowship is structured to allow for a mix of group and individual reporting, with an emphasis on peer mentoring.

In addition, all program participants receive Hostile Environment and First Aid Training (HEFAT) as part of their fellowship experience. During our three-day HEFAT courses, fellows learn vital first aid skills and participate in a range of simulated scenarios tailored to the reporting environment, which include kidnapping, terrorist attacks, mob violence and car crashes.

“I knew that the border was complex, but I have a much better idea of how complex and diverse the border actually is. The trip deepened my knowledge...it made me realize that there are many stories to tell, and that we need to look deeper to get past the cliché stories we often tell when parachuting in.” - Jika Gonzalez, IMWF Mexico-U.S. border reporting fellow.