

FILA

FAA International Leaders in Aerospace Fellowship Program

*Developing the
next generation of
international
aviation leaders.*



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2027 APPLICANT GUIDE

Connect. Learn. Lead.



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

WELCOME TO FILA

WHAT IS FILA?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) International Leaders in Aerospace (FILA) Fellowship Program is a three-week professional development experience that combines one week of virtual learning with two weeks of immersive, in-person learning in the Washington, D.C. area.

The program helps fellows develop leadership skills and broaden their professional perspective while engaging with FAA leadership and subject matter experts and learning about regulatory, safety, operational, technological, and organizational practices. It also provides opportunities to strengthen relationships with international aviation partners.

The fellowship combines a core experience with opportunities tailored to each fellow's interests and goals.

A shared foundation. A personalized experience. Impact that continues beyond the fellowship.



IS FILA RIGHT FOR YOU?

FILA is designed for established and emerging international aviation leaders. Rather than providing technical skills training, FILA focuses on leadership development, professional growth, and exposure to the people, perspectives, and organizations that shape the aviation system.



Strong FILA candidates bring demonstrated aviation experience, leadership potential, and initiative.



EXPERIENCE

Professional experience in a civil aviation or aerospace environment.



LEADERSHIP

Demonstrated leadership, increasing responsibility, and a strong trajectory of professional growth.



INITIATIVE

Experience identifying opportunities, taking on new responsibilities, or contributing to organizational goals.

THE FILA EXPERIENCE

LEARN • ENGAGE • DEVELOP • APPLY

Expand your understanding of U.S. aviation practices, engage with aviation and government leaders, develop your leadership skills, broaden your perspective, and bring new ideas to your organization.



LEARN

- Leadership approaches
- Regulatory practices
- Aviation policy
- Safety & operations
- Emerging technologies



ENGAGE

- FAA & U.S. government leaders
- Subject matter experts
- Industry & aviation professionals
- International partners



DEVELOP

- Leadership skills
- Strategic thinking
- Professional relationships
- Organizational perspective



APPLY

- Reflect on experience
- Connect to career goals
- Apply new perspectives
- Create organizational impact



WHAT TO EXPECT

Through immersive experiences, fellows deepen their understanding, strengthen connections, and grow as leaders.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Facilitated discussions with FAA and other U.S. government leaders, subject matter experts, and aviation professionals.



BRIEFINGS

Explore U.S. approaches to aviation regulation, safety, operations, technology, policy, and leadership.



FIELD VISITS

Experience aviation operations, facilities, and technology firsthand.



FORMAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Develop skills in systems thinking, decision-making, critical analysis, and leading organizational change.



The FILA experience is designed to inspire collaboration, strengthen leadership, and empower fellows to make a lasting impact in aviation.

2027 COHORTS & PROGRAM SUPPORT



APPLICATION PERIOD September 14 – October 16, 2026

Applicants may be considered for either 2027 cohort. If additional applicants are needed for Cohort 2, a subsequent application period may be announced.



COHORT 1



Virtual:
February 8 – 12, 2027



In-person:
February 22 – March 5, 2027



COHORT 2



Virtual:
May 24 – 28, 2027



In-person:
June 7 – 17, 2027



In-person activities will take place in **Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area.**

Program dates are tentative and subject to change.



WHAT DOES THE FAA PROVIDE?

The FAA provides program-related support for fellows during the in-person portion of the fellowship, including:



Round-trip
economy class
airfare



Lodging



Meals



Local ground
transportation for
program activities



PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Fellows are expected to participate fully and engage professionally throughout the program.

Detailed participation requirements are outlined on Page 5.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Review these requirements and prepare the information you will need before beginning your application. *Please note: The application must be completed in one session. You will not be able to save your progress and return later.*



WHO CAN APPLY?

FILA is open to current, long-term employees of international civil aviation authorities or organizations that provide essential civil aviation services, such as Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).

CONFIRM THAT YOU CAN

1

FULL PARTICIPATION

Participate in the full three-week fellowship, including the one-week virtual and two-week in-person portions.

2

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENT

Submit an endorsement letter from your supervisor or an authorized organizational official confirming your organization's support for your application and participation in the required virtual and in-person components of the fellowship.

3

U.S. TRAVEL

Travel to the United States for the in-person portion and obtain the required U.S. visa or travel authorization.

4

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

Participate in virtual sessions that may occur outside your regular business hours due to time-zone differences.

5

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Demonstrate a high level of proficiency in both written and spoken English.



No translation or interpretation services will be provided during the fellowship.

HAVE THESE READY



CURRENT CV/RESUME

Provide an up-to-date summary of your professional experience.



ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENT LETTER

Have an endorsement letter confirming your organization's support.



YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS

Be prepared to explain how FILA will support your professional growth and future goals.

READY TO CONNECT. LEARN. LEAD?

The FILA Fellowship offers an opportunity to expand your perspective, build meaningful professional connections, and strengthen your leadership for the future of aviation.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU APPLY?

- 1 APPLICATION REVIEW**
 The FILA team will review your application for eligibility, completeness, and overall fit with the program.
- 2 INTERVIEW**
 Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview.
- 3 COHORT PLACEMENT**
 Applicants will be considered for either 2027 cohort based on their indicated preference and program needs.
- 4 STATUS UPDATE**
 All applicants will be notified of their status following the selection process.

APPLY FOR THE 2027 FILA FELLOWSHIP

APPLY NOW >



Application Period
September 14 – October 16, 2026



QUESTIONS?

FILA Program Team
 FAA Office of ICAO &
 International Training
aviationtraining@faa.gov

Official FAA program information
[Visit the International Outreach and Training Services website.](#)