

Rangel and Pickering Graduate Fellowships Seek Individuals Interested in Becoming Consular Officers



The Charles B. Rangel and Thomas R. Pickering International Fellowship Programs are seeking individuals interested in pursuing careers as Consular Officers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. Consular Officers assist Americans during times of crisis overseas, facilitate adoptions, promote legitimate travel and business, combat fraud to protect our borders, and fight human trafficking. These positions are rewarding opportunities to directly support Americans overseas, protect our borders, and facilitate travel. Consular Officers serve in top leadership roles within the State Department. The Rangel and Pickering Fellowships help support those pursuing this career track through funding up to \$42,000 per year for two years to obtain two-year graduate degrees in areas like Public Policy, International Affairs, Business Administration, Migration Studies, and other areas related to the work of the Foreign Service. The Fellowships also offer mentoring and professional skills development, paid domestic and overseas internships, and entry into the Foreign Service for those who successfully complete the program. Learn more about the fellowship at www.rangelprogram.org and about Consular work below and at <https://careers.state.gov>.

Consular Officers are action officers who provide emergency and non-emergency services to American citizens overseas; they protect our borders and facilitate legitimate travel through issuing visas to foreign nationals and passports to American citizens. They have highly developed problem-solving, organizational, and interpersonal skills. They utilize technology, supervise large numbers of U.S. and local staff members, manage significant resources, conduct public outreach, and serve as key advisors to senior U.S. foreign policy makers. Consular Officers touch people's lives in important ways, including assisting Americans in crisis and promoting national security. Following is an overview of a potential consular career track:

Entry Level

- Work overseas, hone foreign language capabilities, strengthen your analytical and
- interpersonal skills, and learn how to achieve results in an international, multicultural environment.
- Supervise local and U.S. employees overseas in U.S. Embassies and Consulates.
- Make decisions on visa issuance (adjudicate visas) for those seeking to enter the United States.
- Assist American citizens overseas in dealing with emergency situations involving arrests, hospitalization and major accidents and provide non-emergency services, such as reports of birth and notarial services.
- Respond to inquiries from a range of sources including host government officials, U.S. congressional offices, business contacts and attorneys.
- Combat consular fraud.

Mid-Level

- Manage a small consular section or part of a large one, such as the American Citizen Services (ACS), anti-fraud, or visa unit.
- Supervise American entry-level officers and Locally Engaged Staff (LES).
- Make complex decisions regarding visas and services for American citizens and resolve challenging management issues involving workflow and human resources.
- If posted to Washington, D.C., support Consular Officers in the field on visa, American
- Citizens services, children's issues, fraud and management issues.
- Participate in significant professional training and complete assignments in non-consular areas to hone skills.

Senior Level

- Manage a large consular section, supervise American officers and local staff members and be part of the embassy's senior management.
- Can rise to the highest levels, including an Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission, or a Principal Officer at a large consulate, or a Consul General at a large post.
- Serving in Washington, D.C., assume high-level positions including Office Director,
- Executive Director, or Deputy Assistant Secretary, directing resources to support the work of consular operations around the world, helping to resolve problems at a high level, and serving in senior non-consular positions.

Below are examples of Consular Officers who have risen to the top of the Foreign Service and some of their positions in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State.



Ambassador Ruth A. Davis, Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources; U.S. Ambassador to Benin; Director of the Foreign Service Institute; Consul General in Barcelona; consular and other positions in Kenya, Japan, Italy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Bureau of African Affairs, and the office of the Secretary of State in Washington DC.



Hugo Rodriguez, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs; Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires in the U.S. Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay; Deputy Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs; Division Chief for the Western Hemisphere in the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Overseas Citizen Services office; Watch Officer and Senior Watch Officer in the Executive Secretariat's Operations Center. He has also served abroad in consular positions at U.S. Embassies in Peru and Italy.



Ambassador Wanda Nesbitt, U.S. Ambassador to Namibia; U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire; U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar; Dean of Language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute; Senior Vice President at the National Defense University; Deputy Chief of Mission in Tanzania and Rwanda; also served as a consular officer and in other positions in Haiti, France, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Bureau of Human Resources.