



Václav Havel Fellowship

The Vaclav Havel Journalism Fellowship is a joint initiative of RFE/RL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Launched in 2011, it is inspired by the late Czech President Vaclav Havel's belief in the transformational power of free speech, and builds on RFE/RL's legacy of promoting more open societies through journalism.

Goal

The goal of the program is to strengthen the capacity of aspiring journalists to pursue their profession in support of democracy and human rights. Selected Fellows are placed with a language service in the company's Prague headquarters, where they receive on-the-job training and mentoring while working alongside RFE/RL's seasoned professionals. The program equips them with cutting edge tools and multi-media skills, while involving them in the daily editorial debates and discussions that inform a professional, independent press. It helps position them to be both standard-bearers of their profession and leaders in their communities, on-line, on air, and in the world.

The Fellowship is informed by the European Union's Eastern Partnership program and seeks to promote awareness and collaboration among participants in support of the Partnership's goals.

Program Description

Fellowships are for a term of seven months, with six months spent at RFE/RL's Prague headquarters and the last month spent with a local RFE/RL bureau (if applicable). In addition to training and mentoring with RFE/RL professionals, the program features workshops with other media experts, roundtables with journalists and policymakers, visits to local media agencies and NGOS in Prague, and professional development opportunities in the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

Journalists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine are eligible for the Fellowship.

Václav Havel Fellows 2022

Vasilina Sakalouskaya, Belarus



Vasilina enrolled in the Faculty of Journalism at Belarusian State University to study audiovisual media in 2018. However, due to her urgent departure from Belarus, Vasilina has not completed the course. From December 2018 to June 2019, she led the Belarusian historical and cultural association Prylutskaya Spadchyna at the Center of Folk Art. She also worked for the FM radio station Stalitsa for almost a year, preparing news reports on health, culture, international politics, and human

rights. She had her own short program called Varushysya, drawing attention to talented people and their achievements. Since March 2020, she has been an occasional contributor to Radio Liberty, covering the digital activities of the NGO sector and reporting on cultural and human rights topics. She also prepares text reviews and videos on cultural topics for Art Siadziba. Currently, Vasilina is studying media and communication at European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania. Vasilina's mother tongue is Belarusian. She also speaks Russian and English.

Valeryja Ulasik, Belarus



Valeryja worked as a correspondent and executive producer for Belsat TV for five years, developing stories, articles, and news reports on a wide range of topics as well as planning and managing video shoots. After working for Belsat TV, Valeryja started her freelance career, which included TV and online journalism, marketing, event and media management, copywriting, and video production. Valeryja obtained a

bachelor's degree in civil journalism from the Faculty of Political Science at Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, Poland. Her native languages are Belarusian and Russian. In addition, Valeryja speaks Polish and English.

Nicoleta Stavila, Moldova



Nicoleta started her career in the marketing and communications departments of Metro Media Transylvania and UBB Radio Online. In 2020, Nicoleta founded her own company: NGO Generatia ECO, where she was responsible for strategic planning and marketing campaigns, company branding, establishing partnerships and fundraising. In addition, she managed budgets and organized and conducted interviews with

volunteers. She also organized and moderated large- and small-scale events, managed social activities and created content for social media. Since January 2021, she has worked for the Laboratory of Initiatives for Development, creating social media content, writing reports, and

implementing the foundation's marketing strategy. Nicoleta has a bachelor's degree in sociology and social work from the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In 2020-2021, she also attended the School of Advanced Studies in Journalism. She is fluent in Romanian and English, speaks some Spanish and Russian, and is a French language beginner.

Vazha Tavberidze, Georgia



Vazha is a Georgian journalist with 10 years of experience. He started his career at the Georgian Journal Weekly newspaper, where he later became editor-in-chief. In 2018, Vazha was both executive producer and host of the program "Messages from Brussels," produced at the European Parliament. After that, he spent two years as the host of the "RealPolitik" TV show. Vazha is the co-founder and project head of the Georgian Institute for Security Policy. He produced the interview series: "Insights on Putin's Russia" and "Talking NATO for Georgia." Vazha has a bachelor's degree in international law from the Akaki Tsereteli State University in Georgia and a master's degree in European studies from the University of Latvia. He speaks English, Russian, German, and Georgian. His work has been published in numerous Georgian and international outlets, including The Times, The Spectator, The Mirror, Der Profil, Falter, The Daily Beast, and the IWPR.

Egor Fedorov, Russia



Egor gained his first experience with journalism at Russia's Novosibirsk State University where he reported for its University Life magazine. He went on to become an intern and a contributor for Meduza in Latvia. He also worked as a freelance reporter for the independent media outlet Tayga.info (Тайга.инфо) in Novosibirsk in 2018 - 2020, after which he became a full-time news editor. Egor attended an investigative journalism workshop at the CEELI Institute in Prague and completed several journalism-related courses. Egor was nominated seven times for Redkollegia, an independent prize for journalists in Russia (2018-2021). Egor's native language is Russian, and he also speaks English.

Kateryna Lykhohliad, Ukraine



After graduating from university, Kateryna began working for ukr.net as a daily news editor. She then worked for TV Channel 5, first as a daily news editor for the website and later monitoring daily news, writing stories, editing videos, coordinating journalists and shooting her own TV stories. She subsequently turned her attention to investigative journalism and spent almost a year working as an investigative reporter for ZIK

TV Channel and later for the independent agency Slidstvo.Info, where she also served as interim website editor. Kateryna joined the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine in February 2021, focusing on investigative journalism, especially social and crime subjects. Since 2018, Kateryna has also frequently coached beginners of the investigative reporting course organized by the Regional Press Development Institute (RPDI). Kateryna holds a bachelor's degree in publishing and editing from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. A native Ukrainian speaker, she is also a dedicated learner of the English language.