



Program Description

Description

The purpose of the **Kosovo American Education Fund (KAEF) Program** is to support long-term economic development in Kosovo by providing fellowships to promising Kosovars for top-level training at elite U.S. universities. Returning to Kosovo, program graduates assume leadership positions in business, non-profit organizations and the government, and use their technical knowledge to generate sustainable and positive change.

Created by the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by American Councils for International Education, the KAEF program is a perpetual education fund that allows eligible/qualified Kosovars the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills in areas that would support economic growth and investment in Kosovo.

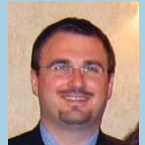
From 2004-2007, the KAEF program has awarded 23 master's-level fellowships through a competitive, merit-based process. The first eight KAEF alumni returned to Kosovo in Fall 2007. Recruitment is currently under way for 2008.

Origin

Shortly after establishment of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo in 1999, USAID created the Kosovo Business Finance Fund (KBFF) to advance economic development and growth in Kosovo. This fund was used to establish the American Bank of Kosovo, a commercial bank that in the following years built up a loan portfolio and a successful level of deposits. The sale of these assets enabled the creation of the Kosovo American Education Fund. In open competition, American Councils for International Education was awarded administration of this endowment in April 2004.

In Their Words

Luan Dalipi
Monterey Institute of
International Studies



"Kosovo needs a series of business success stories to break away once and for all from the image of a post-war country with limited investment opportunities. Kosovars with international MBA degrees will in the near future be the Kosovo Business Ambassadors to the rest of the world. Through investments and job creation, Kosovo will ensure economic stability, and with economic stability, the political stability will only be solidified."

Edona Pacarada
George Washington
University



"Returning to Kosovo and being part of the team entrusted with the mission of promoting sustained economic growth requires a vast understanding of business matters and all the factors involved in the process—social, political, international. I strongly believe the programs offered by the top-notch universities of the KAEF program will provide me with the theoretical framework and practical skills necessary to bring a significant contribution to the advancement of Kosovo's business environment."

Dastid Pallaska
Yale University



"Growing up in a decade of constant change and turmoil has made me realize the importance of good leadership and the consequences that come from the lack of it. It was, in fact, this realization that influenced my decision not to stand idly by the processes that affect the future of my society, but instead to engage them proactively."



KAEF Fellows in the U.S.

Academic Excellence

- Twenty-three Kosovars have received master's-level scholarships through the Kosovo American Education Fund as of 2007.
- Fellows have attended prestigious U.S. universities, including Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Yale. The majority of fellows have studied Business Administration or Economics, but a large number have studied Law, International Affairs, Tax Administration, and Journalism and Mass Communication.
- Without exception, fellows have performed at an exceedingly high academic level. KAEF fellows have won a reputation as hard working, creative, diligent and sociable students.

Practical Experience

KAEF fellows receive an opportunity for valuable practical experience, including:

- Summer internships – KAEF fellows are required to intern with a business or organization working in their field of expertise during the summer months.
- Practical training – KAEF fellows are given the option of staying in the United States for up to six months after completing their degree in order to participate in a practical training internship.

KAEF fellows have served with, among other organizations: Dell Computers, the World Bank, Voice of America, the International Finance Corporation, the Duke Center for International Development, and the Xerox Corporation.

These opportunities to gain valuable practical experience give KAEF fellows the opportunity to test and refine their academic knowledge, learn from industry leaders, and network with professionals working in their area of expertise. KAEF fellows complete the program not only with an advanced theoretical education, but also with an understanding of how classroom knowledge can best be implemented in a fast-paced, real-world environment.

In Their Words

Lulëzon Jagxhiu

Pennsylvania State University



"Most businesses in Kosovo pay very little attention to business planning and analysis, because of the lack of business professionals with knowledge of and experience in a market economy. Unfortunately, the educational system in Kosovo does not have the capacities to create such a cadre. Investing in capacity building will help businesses create proper plans, which are a necessary foundation for a prosperous and sustainable business."

Edona Nahi

Monterey Institute of International Studies



"Education is an essential tool for creating a prosperous society. I believe that getting educated abroad is one of the most effective ways to exchange economic, political and cultural ideas between individuals, societies and nations . . . After the determination of the status of Kosovo, there will be a substantial increase in the demand for professionals skilled in International Business Administration. International companies will enter the local market and local expertise will be in great demand."

Besa Luci

University of Missouri at Columbia



"In today's world, journalism is a powerful field that unquestionably shapes not only global events, but the everyday lives of people. In Kosovo, the majority of journalists are not professionally trained, and most media remain connected to political parties. My intention is to put into practice the knowledge I gain at a graduate-level in the U.S. as a professional journalist in Kosovo."

The Application Process

KAEF identifies talented, motivated Kosovars as recipients of fellowships through an open, merit-based competition that includes outreach components to every portion of Kosovar society:

1. Candidates apply via an online registration form.
2. In the months prior to the September application deadline, program staff advertise the program through print, radio, television and the Internet.
3. KAEF utilizes its relationships with the U.S. Embassy, the University of Prishtina, private universities, and private businesses to set up informational sessions about the program with groups of students and professionals likely to apply.

The Selection Process

Once applications are received, KAEF initiates a rigorous and transparent selection process:

1. In October, applications are read and scored by a committee of representatives from admissions departments of U.S. institutions of higher education.
2. Approximately one-third of the candidates who apply become semi-finalists.
3. In December, KAEF program managers fly to Kosovo along with admissions staff from two of our partner institutions in order to interview each of the semi-finalists.
4. KAEF pays for semi-finalists to take the relevant standardized tests (TOEFL and either GMAT or GRE) throughout January and February.
5. Once all of the test scores are in, a final selection panel, consisting of American Councils staff and admissions officers from U.S. universities, convenes and selects both finalists and alternates.
6. Finalists are informed of their status in April.

All selection decisions are made by an anonymous, impartial panel of university admissions staff from across the U.S.

By the Numbers

Number of Applications by Year

2005: **52**

2006: **106**

2007: **101**

2008: **104**

Applications by Field of Study

Field	Applications
Business	126
Economics	27
Environmental Management	15
International Affairs	52
Journalism	16
Law	39
Public Administration	45
Public Health	24

Applications by Gender

Gender	Applications
Male	238
Female	125

Average TOEFL Score

Year	TOEFL
2005	507
2006	558
2007	592

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American Councils for International Education

American Councils for International Education is a not-for-profit organization that believes that by investing in outstanding individuals and their educational journeys, we can create long-term, equitable, and sustainable development for societies around the world.

American Councils' Role in the KAEF Program

American Councils has nearly thirty years of experience in administering graduate-level educational exchanges between U.S. universities and the countries of Eurasia. The organization's expertise ensures the success of the program in the following ways:

- **Impartial Selection.** American Councils has unmatched experience in advertising and administering a fair, impartial selection of candidates for graduate-level exchange programs. Our selection efforts ensure KAEF is investing in the education of the most promising Kosovars.
- **Ensuring Students' Return to Kosovo.** American Councils carefully screens KAEF applicants to make sure they have a real, lasting devotion to Kosovo. So far, all KAEF alumni have returned to Kosovo. In similar programs administered by American Councils in other countries, 97 percent of students have returned to live and work in their home countries.
- **Cost-Efficient Program Administration.** Through our relationships with over 400 U.S. universities, American Councils generates tuition cost share from university partners exceeding 50 percent of total tuition cost. This makes the resources of the KAEF fund extend further.
- **Appropriate Placements.** Because of our extensive experience working with U.S. institutions of higher education and students from abroad, we have an excellent understanding of universities' strengths and weaknesses, and we place students in programs that uniquely match their goals.

The KAEF Endowment

The program is funded mainly by the interest from the KAEF endowment, with additional support from American Councils for International Education and its university partners.

Given the pressing need for more and better training opportunities for talented Kosovars, American Councils for International Education is devoted to expanding the current endowment, thereby allowing the program to fund more fellowships annually.

We are approaching key figures in Kosovo's business community, prominent Albanian-Americans, corporations with an interest in Kosovo, and private foundations to solicit additional funds.

For more information on how you can support the KAEF program, please contact William J. "Billy" Brown at: wbrown@americancouncils.org

Participating Universities

From the inception of the program to the current day, the following U.S. universities have hosted KAEF fellows: Bowling Green State University, The College of William & Mary, Columbia University, Duke University, George Washington University, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, The University of Minnesota, The Monterey Institute of International Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Tufts University, The Rochester Institute of Technology, The University of Delaware, The University of Missouri at Columbia, The University of Montana, and Yale University.

2005 Fellows**Artan Ajazaj**

Placement: George Washington University
 Field of Study: Business Administration
 - Finance and Banking
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: The World Bank
 Previous Employer: Deloitte & Touche

**Sebajdin Bytyqi**

Placement: Indiana University - SPEA
 Field of Study: Public Administration -
 International Affairs & Policy Analysis
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: OSCE Mission in Kosovo
 Previous Employer: Prime Minister's Office

**Vllaznim Bytyqi**

Placement: University of Delaware
 Field of Study: Public Administration -
 Public Finance and Budget
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Previous Employer: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

**Fortuna Haxhikadrija**

Placement: Duke University
 Field of Study: Public Administration
 - Local Government
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: The European Agency
 for Reconstruction
 Previous Employer: Koha Ditore newspaper

**Teuta Kacaniku**

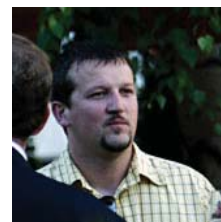
Placement: Tufts University
 Field of Study: International Affairs
 - International Business Relations
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: The World Bank,
 Kosovo Energy Project
 Previous Employer: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

**Edmond Mjekiqi**

Placement: Duke University
 Field of Study: Public Administration
 - Public Management
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: The World Bank,
 International Development Association
 Previous Employer: UNMIK Customs

**2005-2006 Fellows****Aleksandar Radic**

Placement: Rochester Institute of
 Technology
 Field of Study: Business Administration
 - Finance and Banking
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Previous Employer: International
 Organization for Migration

**Artan Tigani**

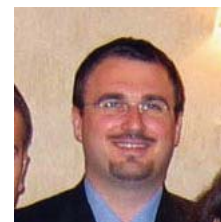
Placement: Rochester Institute of
 Technology
 Field of Study: Business Administration
 - Electronic Commerce
 Fellowship Years: 2005-2007
 Current Employer: Blue Slate Solutions
 Previous Employer: Housing and Property
 Directorate/HQ

**Rhedon Bagolli**

Placement: Monterey Institute of
 International Studies
 Field of Study: Business Administration
 - International Business
 Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
 Previous Employer: Kosovo Trust Agency

**Luan Dalipi**

Placement: Monterey Institute of
 International Studies
 Field of Study: Business Administration
 - International Business
 Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
 Current Employer: Management &
 Development Associates, Business
 Consulting & Training Company

**Gëzim Gjokolli**

Placement: Bowling Green State University
 Field of Study: Economics - Applied
 Econometrics
 Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
 Previous Employer: UNMIK Pillar IV
 Financial Accounting Office

**Lulëzon Jagxhiu**

Placement: Pennsylvania State University
 Field of Study: Business Administration -
 Management Information Systems
 Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
 Previous Employer: CACTTUS, IT
 Consulting and Training Company



2006-2007 Fellows**Besa Luci**

Placement: University of Missouri
at Columbia
Field of Study: Journalism and Mass
Communication - Print Journalism
Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
Previous Employer: The Bureau of
National Affairs

Valbona Shujaku

Placement: Columbia University
Field of Study: Arts Administration
- Cultural Institute Management
Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
Previous Employer: Institute for
Contemporary Arts EXIT

Nebojsa Vlajic

Placement: University of Montana
Field of Study: Law/Environmental Policy
- Natural Resources Law
Fellowship Years: 2006-2008
Previous Employer: Nebojsa Vlajic
Office of Law

Diell Bakalli

Placement: Monterey Institute of
International Studies
Field of Study: International Business
- Business Administration
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: INIT Productions

Krenar Bujupi

Placement: The College of William
and Mary
Field of Study: Finance and Banking
- Business Administration
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Deloitte, Kosova

Nita Gojani

Placement: Johns Hopkins University:
School of Advanced International Studies
Field: International Development -
International Affairs
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Koha Ditore

**2007 Fellows****Valdrin Lluka**

Placement: University of Minnesota
Field of Study: Entrepreneurship
- Business Administration
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Kosovo Trust Agency

**Edona Nahi**

Placement: Monterey Institute of
International Studies
Field of Study: International Business
- Business Administration
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Public Administration
International

**Dastid Pallaska**

Placement: Yale University
Field: International Legal Studies
Fellowship Years: 2007-2008
Previous Employer: University of Prishtina,
Department of Political Science and Public
Administration

**Edona Paqarada**

Placement: The George Washington
University
Field of Study: Finance and Banking
- Business Administration
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Kosovo Trust Agency

**Emira Talovic**

Placement: University of Missouri
at Columbia
Field: International Development Policy
- Public Policy
Fellowship Years: 2007-2009
Previous Employer: Norwegian Church Aid

