International Military Fellows Program

The International Military Fellows Program (IMFP) extends the professional development of high-performing international graduates of the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) for up to one year. Fellows engage in a post-graduate residency designed to deepen strategic insight, foster leadership, and contribute meaningfully to NWC education, research, and engagement activities. Officers that complete the IMFP emerge better prepared to lead within today's global complexity.

Eligibility

- This program is designed for active-duty, international graduates of the Naval Command College (NCC), Naval Staff College (NSC), and Maritime Security and Governance Staff Course (MSGSC). Applicants must be willing to stay for at least 46 weeks at the NWC and must secure funding, authorization, and approvals from their parent service before applying to the program. Applicants that do not meet the above criteria may be eligible for the International Military Scholars Program.

Location & Duration

- Commencing after graduation, the full year program is conducted in-residence at the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) in Newport, Rhode Island.

Learning Format

- The program features three months of core required activities across the year. Otherwise, fellows pursue self-driven pathways supported by academic mentors to achieve their goals and contribute to NWC's education, research, and engagement activities.

Outcome

- Upon completion of the program, fellows receive a letter of recommendation and join an elite network of strategic leaders. Between 2010 and 2026, 63% of fellows went on to serve as strategic leaders in their country, including one Head of Navy.

General Program Overview

Orientation for New Faculty| Program Opportunities, Required
Weeklong orientation integrating fellows into the NWC, typically ending with an educational trip to a U.S. Naval Installation in New England.

Executive Mentorship| Program Opportunities, Required
Dedicated mentoring from Distinguished Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) fellows, NWC faculty, and specialized NWC study groups, such as the regional study groups or the Naval Education Research and Design (NERD) Lab.

Instructional Opportunities| Ongoing, Required
Active teaching roles across the college, such as the Perspectives on Modern War, the Maritime Security & Governance Staff Course, and the Leadership Development and the Profession of Arms Course.

Research Opportunities| Ongoing, Required
Collaborative research with world leading faculty or home service directed research projects.

Engagement Opportunities| Ongoing, Required
Participation in NWC conferences, workshops, symposia, and short courses.

Additional Opportunities | Program Opportunities
When schedules and funding permit, fellows will have the opportunity to potentially engage directly across the U.S. defense and security enterprise through tailored excursions.