

Hoover Institution International Seminar FAQs

1. What is the Hoover Institution?

With its eminent scholars and world-renowned Library & Archives, the Hoover Institution is a public policy think tank that seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas that promote economic opportunity and prosperity while securing and safeguarding peace for America and all mankind.

2. What is the Hoover Institution International Seminar?

The Hoover Institution International Seminar (HIIS) is a seven-day in-person program for up to 30 foreign and defense policy professionals from partner countries. HIIS aims to create positive alignments between policymakers in the United States and those in like-minded countries to promote ideas and actions for free and open societies. The program invites participants to come with ideas about how to solve common problems at the intersection of democracy, technology, economics, defense, and other key areas. The program launched in the summer of 2022.

3. Who is eligible for the program?

The program is open to mid-career individuals working as a foreign policy or national security professionals in their respective countries for at least five years. Applicants must be able to write, prepare, and deliver presentations in English.

4. Are Americans eligible?

Yes. The program is created primarily for international foreign and defense policy professionals but is enriched through US participation. Applicants nationality should correspond to the country from which they are applying.

5. What are the costs associated with participating in the Hoover Institution International Seminar?

Accepted participants will receive round-trip coach airfare, ground transportation to and from a Bay Area airport to Stanford, and meals and lodging for the in-person portion of the program. Please note that A-1 visas holders are ineligible for travel reimbursement.

6. Who should write letters of recommendation on my behalf?

You should request a letter of recommendation from your current supervisor or someone who worked closely with you in the recent past. If you are the founder or head of your institution, then it is suggested that you ask a board member or senior advisor to the organization to submit the letter of recommendation on your behalf. The optional second letter of recommendation could be from a professional associate or colleague who can speak to your experience, the impact of your work, and your potential to continue serving and leading at senior levels. We will not accept letters of recommendation from family or friends. Please ensure that your recommender(s) state their relationship to you.

7. Where do HIIS participants stay for in-person sessions?

Housing on the campus of Stanford University will be provided to participants during the seven-day in-person engagement that will take place at the Hoover Institution. We do not recommend that families accompany participants to the program, as it detracts from the bonding and network-building experience that is integral to the program. Participants are expected to attend the full program, including evening events.

8. What are the deadlines for the application process?

The application form and letters of recommendation are due by Sunday, February 1, 2026 (11:59 pm Pacific Time).

9. What if I cannot attend the in-person engagement of the program?

It is required that participants attend both the in-person and virtual engagements of the program. No exceptions will be made.

10. When will I be informed whether I have been selected?

Applicants will be informed of their selection to the program by March 2nd, 2026. Please do not contact us concerning your application status before that time, as the program team will be very busy processing and reviewing a high volume of applicants.

11. I was not accepted to the program. Will I find out why?

Due to the high volume of applications received, the program will not be able to follow up with each individual applicant concerning their application.

12. Can I reapply to the program next year if I am not accepted this year?

Yes, you can reapply, provided you meet the core criteria.

13. What are the dates of the 2026 program?

The 2026 HIIS Program will begin on June 21 and run through June 27.

14. Whom can I contact with further questions?

For additional questions, please contact the program administrator at
HIISprogram@stanford.edu