



## EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS

# 2019 ISLAND OF IRELAND PROGRAM

In the spring of 2019, Eisenhower Fellowships (EF) will broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and networks of 14 ascendant mid-career leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland. Through EF's immersive, customized programs of professional meetings and exchanges, Fellows develop their leadership skills, make new connections and leverage dynamic collaboration for positive change on the island and across Europe.

Eisenhower Fellows are visionaries who tackle big challenges. From investigating the intersection of behavioral science and policy in the U.S., with an emphasis on climate change action, to analyzing how data security and privacy can be ensured, to discovering innovative approaches designed to minimize tensions in communities emerging from conflict, the 2019 Island of Ireland Fellows are fully engaged in transforming their societies to better the world around them.

The 2019 Fellows follow in the footsteps of their predecessors from EF's initial cohort of Island of Ireland Fellows convened 30 years ago. The 1989 Irish Fellows were the change agents of their day; several went on to play key roles in the Northern Ireland peace process, culminating in the 1998 signing of the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace and stability to the Island and a new level of trust among its people.

The work of Eisenhower Fellowships is as relevant today as it was then. Bridging three decades, the 2019 Island of Ireland Fellows carry on the legacy of their colleagues to advance EF's vital mission of enhancing international understanding to make the world more peaceful, prosperous and just.

### WHY NOW?

The United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union and the ongoing process known as "Brexit" to provide for an orderly UK exit from the EU has ushered in a period of uncertainty across the country and throughout Europe, particularly on both sides of the border in Ireland.

If the UK leaves the European Union without a deal for an orderly exit, for example, the re-introduction of border controls between Ireland and Northern Ireland is a real possibility. A "hard" border not only threatens to impede trade and mobility, but also re-creates a physical and psychological separation between Ireland and the North that many had thought erased in the years since the UK's and Ireland's EU accession and the Good Friday Agreement.

In these anxious times, enlightened leaders on both sides of the border in Ireland who would benefit from the exposure and opportunities afforded by Eisenhower Fellowships are needed more than ever.

### WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

Eisenhower Fellows are dynamic leaders from all fields between the ages of 32 and 45 who have demonstrated significant professional and civic accomplishment and substantial promise for even higher achievement. They possess the clarity of vision and purpose to achieve goals that will benefit their country and region, a desire to collaborate across disciplines and the innovative spirit to imagine, articulate and realize their ideas. EF has recruited the top leaders in Ireland and Northern Ireland from government, business, civil society, the sciences and journalism. Following the program, Fellows will join one of Eisenhower Fellowships' most active networks. The 45 Irish Fellows on both sides of the border meet regularly to discuss pressing issues and to collaborate on projects of impact.

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP?

An Eisenhower Fellowship is life-changing. Fellows spend six weeks in the U.S., visiting approximately 8 to 10 cities and meeting with anywhere from 60 up to 100 experts in their fields. The experience generates professional insights, an expanded network of contacts and a broadened international perspective. Fellowship travel starts and ends in Philadelphia with opening and closing seminars, where Fellows work with each other, discussing leadership challenges and formalizing plans for concrete projects they will implement when they return home.

EF's impact is not limited to the Fellows' personal and professional transformations. As part of their candidacy, Fellows must propose a project or initiative they intend to develop on fellowship and implement upon their return home. This commitment ensures that an Eisenhower Fellowship has a positive and demonstrable impact on the lives of people around the world.

Nearly 2,400 men and women have been awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship since the organization's founding in 1953, and all are members of a unique global network of diverse and dynamic doers. The EF global network of influential leaders is marked by collaboration between Fellows to achieve sustainable, real-world impact across borders and cultures.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For information, please visit [www.efworld.org](http://www.efworld.org).



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