



NCAFP Emerging Leaders Program: 2026-27 Next-Generation Korean Peninsula Specialists

Application Submission Period: Monday, June 1, 2026 – Sunday, June 28, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: Early-July 2026

Virtual Roundtables: August through December 2026

In-person Conference: Early December 2026

Completion of Program: April 30, 2027

The [National Committee on American Foreign Policy's](#) (NCAFP) Forum on Asia-Pacific Security (FAPS) is accepting applications from qualified individuals to join an Emerging Leaders workshop and mentorship program focused on security issues related to the Korean Peninsula. The project will showcase the new ideas and work of selected participants surrounding the following themes: the changing balance of power in the region, the future of multilateral architecture (with special focus given to either/and Japan or the United States), the nexus of economic and security policies, how to address North Korea's nuclear challenge, and transnational issues.

The program is designed to help emerging academics translate their research ideas into policy recommendations, and to develop public communications skills. Applicants' research proposals should focus on topics with relevant policy implications. In addition to peer workshops and skills training, each participant will be matched with a mentor from the NCAFP's network of senior-level former policymakers to further inform the development of the final products—a short policy paper and podcast presentation.

The program will consist of seven (7) virtual roundtable discussions with working group peers to workshop their ideas and review papers; receive training on the art of writing for policymakers and other communications/public speaking skills via in-person roundtables in New York City*; and two (2) one-on-one mentor sessions with a senior policy practitioner. Throughout the project, participants will write a policy paper on their topic of interest as well as record a short podcast covering their conclusions and policy recommendations.

Each participant will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 upon completion of all expected responsibilities. All costs related to in-person participation will be covered.

This program is made possible with generous support from the Korea Foundation.

Please note that depending on the participant's nationality, the participant may need to apply for a visa to visit the U.S. and attend the in-person part of the program. The NCAFP **cannot guarantee the participant's obtainment of a visa.*

Application Requirements:

We will be selecting eight (8) next-generation scholars and experts from around the world. Complete the application [form](#) with the following:

- Resume/CV
- One-page letter of interest, explaining your goals for the program and relevance of your background
- Short bio, no more than 300 words
- A well-developed one-page prospectus of the research topic related to security issues in the Indo-Pacific on which the participant will develop policy recommendations. Preference will be given to policy-relevant topics related to the Korean Peninsula and/or Korea's role in the regional security architecture.

****Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
All candidates must use the [official application form](#).****

Optional additional materials include:

- A letter of recommendation from a peer or professional colleague
- A writing sample, no more than 5 pages

Qualifications & Expectations:

Preferred applicants are Ph.D. candidates, junior researchers, and project management professionals with less than 10 years of experience on security issues related to the Korean Peninsula, who are well poised to influence the policy planning process in the future.

Participants must commit to participating in all required meetings, to take place between August and December 2026 (unless excused by the organizers for unavoidable conflicts), and the in-person conference in NYC to take place in early December 2026.

As part of the program, participants will write a policy paper for publication in an edited volume, as well as produce a short podcast episode on the paper's topic. The publication of the edited volume and podcast episodes will be published by April 2027.

Equal Opportunity:

The NCAFP provides equal opportunities to all applicants. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any type based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws.

See previous cohorts' edited volumes and podcasts here:

<https://ncafp.org/next-generation-korean-peninsula-specialists/>

Questions or needing assistance with submitting your application?

Contact Emily Sparkman, Deputy Director of the Forum on Asia-Pacific Security,
emily.sparkman@ncafp.org

