

The Robertson Foundation for Government is a non-profit family foundation founded in the memory of philanthropists Charles & Marie Robertson.

The Foundation identifies, educates, and motivates top U.S. graduate students to pursue federal government careers in foreign policy, national security, and international affairs.

ROBERTSON FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT



AN EVENING AT THE EMBASSY

Left, Fellows and board members of the Robertson Foundation for Government at the Embassy of Finland with Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde (front).

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INTERNATIONAL JOBS GUIDE

The Robertson Foundation for Government's latest collaboration with GovLoop, "Making Global Impact: Guide to International Jobs in Government." This is our third such guide, and our first with APSIA as a co-sponsor.

The guide has received glowing reviews from academics, career services directors, and practitioners. The guide could not have been published without our partner schools and their career services teams, including Tamara Golden, Matt Upton, Bryan Kempton, Aileen Axtmayer, and Kelli Young.

Thanks are due to the Robertson Foundation for Government Board and Family for their support in producing the guide. A public resource, it is certain to help aspiring Federal employees in their search for meaningful international careers.

Please feel free to share this with your friends or refer to the guide online at:

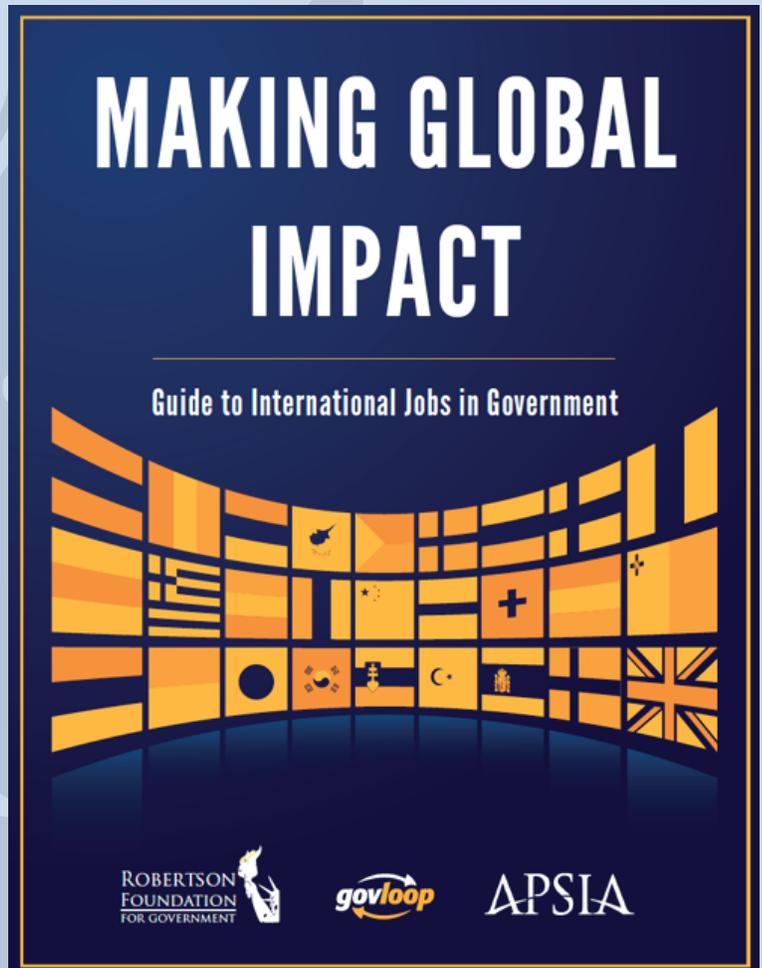
<http://pathtopmf.com/international-jobs/>

The following note was sent to us from Senator Charles Robb, a friend of the Foundation. We thank Senator Robb for his input and his ongoing support of RFFG.

I've read a great many government information publications over the years, and I believe the latest collaboration between RFFG, GovLoop and APSIA, has produced the most complete (and yet still concise) collection of readable, useful and realistic information for anyone seeking an international job in government that I have ever seen. The experiences of those who have been through the process, including some of our RFFG Fellows, when combined with all of the pertinent facts, and links to all of the agencies and resources job seekers will need to access, provides an invaluable reference to anyone at all interested in exploring the options available.

If anyone ever questioned the commitment of the RFFG, to the goals of the original benefactors, or the determination of the current generations of leadership to fulfill the original promise, this ought to put any doubts to rest. I don't know if you plan to produce this publication in hard copy, but if you do, I'd like to receive one. I realize it's easier to keep it in digital format for occasional updating, yet it's attractive enough for the coffee table. Congratulations on a really first rate effort.

The entire Robertson family should be very proud of the final product. Bravo Zulu!



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Want to be in the next Newsletter?

Send any updates or photos to:

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&
rliford@rffg.org

IMPLICATIONS OF THE “HISTORIC” CAPITAL COMPROMISE -- THE ROAD DOWN WHICH WE KICK THE CAN IS LONG AND WINDING

from Michael Schneider,

Maxwell School Professor & RFFG Career Advisor

For Robertson Foundation Fellows seeking federal employment, the “historic compromise” reached October 16 is value neutral. Little is solved, yet nothing is lost, save honor, an estimated \$24 billion, and international respect for our decision making capacity. The government has re-opened, the debt ceiling temporarily raised, but the Congress and Administration must revisit the agreements early in the new year.

In the meantime, the sequester cuts continue, and in my view are likely to continue in FY 2014 in one form or another. Perhaps in a major deal random across the board cuts will be replaced by a more flexible approach, yet any budget deal is not likely to add government personnel in large numbers.

Nevertheless the federal government is large; some hiring will continue, with good work and career advancement in very interesting agencies. The challenge is, as always, to identify your interests and strengths, and to scour the web, and probe your contacts, alums from your schools, friends, faculty mentors, family friends, not-so-random contacts at public forums, etc.

Thus far retirements from federal service seem to have taken a sharp turn upward; apparently more senior feds, tired of the budgetary drama, in their late 50s and 60s are concluding that they should retire. This bodes well in the longer term for federal hiring, unless another wave of reductions occurs, and ripples down to fewer entry level hires.

One positive note about the interim solution is that leaders of the budget and appropriations committees in the House and Senate will be on the conference committee to discuss options for reducing and rationalizing federal spending, perhaps raising revenues, and effecting major tax reforms. Given the past imbroglio, the “grand bargain” will be very difficult to achieve. Yet the pressure are greater on Paul Ryan and Patty Murray who will lead the two sides, there is bound to be serious negotiations over a major settlement that the two parties didn’t reach in 2011. Let’s hope for real results. The costs are enormous for the on-again, off-again crisis budgeteering, including the difficulty for

Federal departments to conduct business if they must allocate funds only on a quarterly basis. This is no way to run anything.

Another positive note from the past three weeks’ machinations is the recognition of the worth of federal employees, evident in various editorials and columns, and the decision by Congress to pay lost salaries retroactively. The shutdown did remind many Americans about services they had long taken for granted and the government employees who deliver these services.

Internships in the federal government, remain the number one way to gain experience, contacts and recommendations that will help lead to federal employment. This experience gives applicants an advantage, even if not specified, because potential hiring officials know that the applicant has on-the-job training and supervisors from within who can vouch for the applicant. On the Hill, an internship is considered almost a sine qua non for entry level employment.

Read the latest RFFG, GovLoop, APSIA publication, “Making Global Impact – Guide to International Jobs in Government,” and check out especially, pp 6-7 with its fine listing of international jobs.

Bo Kemper and I met with senior DoD personnel officials just before the shutdown of the USG. They were quite enthusiastic about prospects of internships – even a very few long-term training assignments for which we are preparing draft MOUs -- in the policy elements of the Department, and eager to help make contacts for the Services. We’ll follow up once their shops are up and running and dealt with a backlog. Bo had very fruitful meetings with PACOM officials that will lead to placements as well. RFFG Fellow Grace Choi has developed a proposal for long-term internships in the Congress that might prove very fruitful for other Fellows. Similar agreements with other major federal agencies will help Fellows compete for future employment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ROBERTSON FELLOWS

MARYLAND CLASS OF 2015



Katherine Lafen
Silver Spring, MD



Christopher Lee
Huntsville, AL



Andrew Reighart
Towson, MD



Peter Tierney
Madison, WI



Rebecca Scherpelz
Indianapolis, IN

FLETCHER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2014



Allison Hutchings
Great Falls, VA



Stéphan Laroche
Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Dan Mingrone
Storrs, CT



Justinas Sileikis
Queens, NY

MAXWELL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015



Sean Comber
Delmar, NY



Alexandra Hackbarth
Bend, OR



Conor Moore
Aliso Viejo, CA

Recognized in the previous newsletter were:

Bush School Fellows Rebeca (Clary) Orrie, Andrew Ericson, Kyle Fowler, and Jenny Russell
UCSD IR/PS Fellows Joyce YunSun Kang, Daniel Rothstein, and Jake Schurmeier

Note to Fellows: if you have a preferred headshot over these, send to bokemper@rffg.org and rliford@rffg.org.

GOVLOOP

from Steve Ressler,
Founder of GovLoop.com



GUIDE UPDATES

As mentioned on page 2, RFFG continued their partnership with GovLoop to launch two separate guides in late summer and fall. The “Guide to International Jobs in Government” provided tips, tricks, and career profiles to get an International Job in government based on interviews with International Affairs career officers, HR leaders at government agencies, and real-world advice from people in these positions.

Additionally, we revised and updated the “Guide to Managing the PMF Application Process.” This guide serves as an insider’s guide to the PMF application process and was updated from the 2012 edition to reflect changes in PMF process from application to assessment and the virtual career fair.

Both guides have gotten great reactions from with over 2,500 combined downloads and 70,000 hits. Additionally, the guides have been featured in Washington Post and elsewhere.

All guides can be downloaded for free at pathtopmf.com.

INTERNATIONAL JOBS ADVICE

Government agencies are on the lookout for top candidates with international experience. Here are some ways to leverage your experience overseas as you pursue a career in government:

- Tailor your international experience to a particular position on your resume. You may even consider having an “Experience Abroad” section on your CV if you have traveled to multiple countries and if the position you are applying for is with an organization that highly values time spent overseas. Make sure that when you describe each international experience you identify the skills you gained and applied while abroad (i.e. foreign language proficiency, problem solving, collaboration across cultures, etc.)

- Highlight critical language study. Proficiency in a foreign language is an asset for any organization, but if you studied a critical language, be sure to emphasize that and list your level of fluency. Most government agencies measure proficiency on a 1-5 scale with 3 being the target mark for acceptable fluency. When listing your level, be sure to specify differences in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. An excellent resource for more information on federal foreign language requirements is the Interagency Language Roundtable.

- Keep track of your contacts for national security purposes. Government agencies know valuable experiences abroad include friendships with locals. However, for most federal positions you will have to complete a background check that requires a list of foreign contacts. Make sure to keep track of names and be open about staying in touch. Federal agencies appreciate that you have the social and language skills to develop meaningful relationships abroad. They simply want to ensure that these ongoing friendships are not a threat to national security.

JOB-HUNTING TIPS

The government job market can be hard these days but here are some tips:

1. Fee-based (vs appropriated) agencies are more likely to be hiring now in times of budget cuts. Look into agencies like CFPB and PTO.
2. USAJOBS has a direct link to the Pathways Recent Graduate openings – it’s <http://1.usa.gov/12n2hWC>
3. More job openings are open for shorter periods (a recent DON pathways job was open for 4 days), so make sure you are checking more than once a week.
4. Networking works. Sharon McCoy a Robertson Fellow currently working at GovLoop was able to get a position at BBG by moving to DC, interning, and conducting 20+ informational interviews. In the end, a friend of an interview was leaving BBG and passed on her name as a replacement.
5. If you haven’t already, sign up for GovLoop’s entry-level jobs emails - <http://bit.ly/yuGGXX>
6. Look into agencies with the highest percentage of eligible retirees. At HUD, for example, 42 percent of employees will be eligible in 2016 - <http://bit.ly/1fA3VIS>



Above, Bush 2014 Fellow Emily Mullins (seated) and Bush 2015 Fellow Rebeca Orrie (standing) join RFFG Treasurer John Linnartz in a model of George H.W. Bush's oval office at the Bush Presidential Library in College Station, TX.

FULBRIGHT-CLINTON FELLOWSHIP

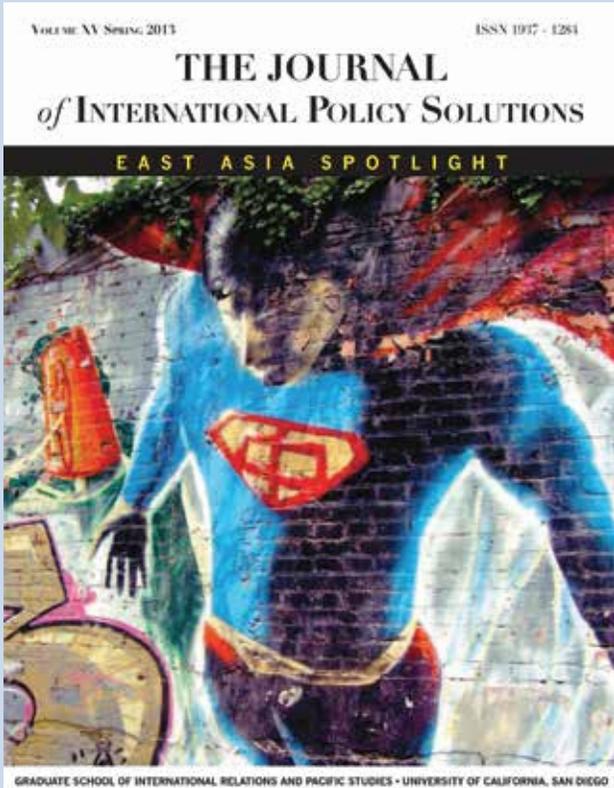
The J. William Fulbright-Hillary Rodham Clinton Fellowship is a component of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Fellows serve in professional placements as special assistants in foreign government ministries or institutions and gain hands-on public sector experience in participating foreign countries while simultaneously carrying out an academic research/study project.

The application closes on January 10th, 2014. Applicants must have finished their Master's Degree and have at least two years of professional policy experience.

See: <http://goo.gl/5Xz2ck>



Bush 2014 Fellow Rebekah Redden shared this photo from her time at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. President Bill Clinton visited the embassy and stopped to take a photo. Rebekah is to his left.



Congratulations to Adrian Pavia (UCSD IR/PS 2013), who served as Editor in Chief of The Journal of International Policy Solutions (seen above).

UCSD IR/PS 2012 Fellow Chas Culverwell also wrote one of the articles in this issue.

If you are interested in the Journal, you can find it here: <http://bit.ly/ngB6QS>

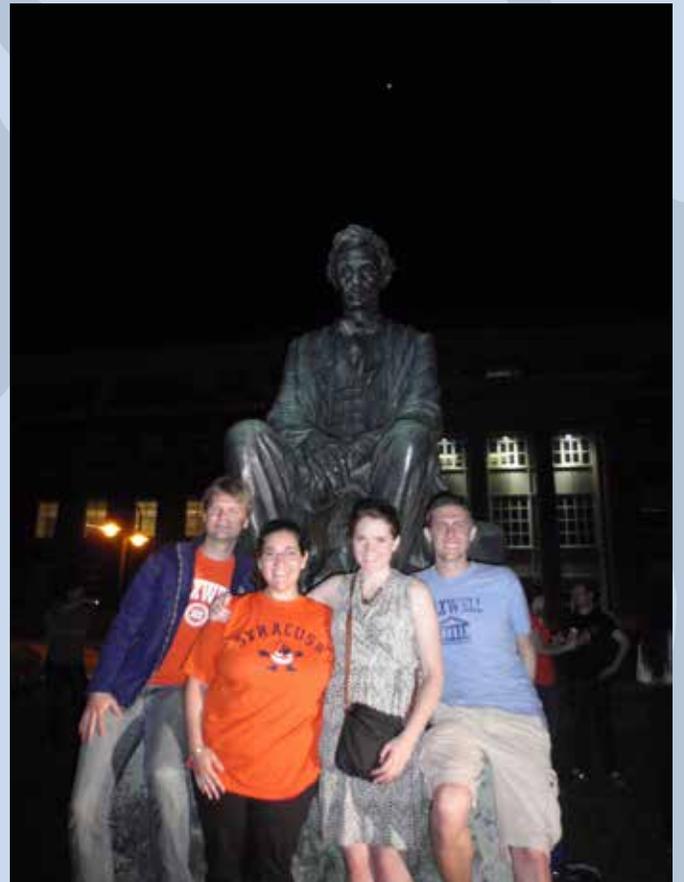


The photo above is from a talk given by Bush 2014 Fellow Rebekah Redden at the US Embassy of Berlin. Rebekah (in the green lanyard) writes that the talk was part of a MeetUS program which aims to forge bonds and create cultural understandings between the US Embassy and Berlin/German students.

Thanks for sharing, Rebekah!



Bush 2015 Fellow Andrew Ericson shared this photo of himself with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel



L-R Maxwell Fellows Nathan Strand '13, Laura Alexander '13, Kate Simma '14, and Oliver Elliott '14

LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS ON FEDERAL WORKERS

from Paul Light,
NYU Professor of Public Service & RFFG Advisor

Now that the shutdown is over, federal employees can rest easy, at least until January. I can't see a silver lining in all this, but I do see some hope on the horizon regarding federal employees. Ironically perhaps, it came from the House of Representatives where one conservative member after another went to the floor during the shutdown to praise federal employees for their important work. It was all part of the legislation authorizing retroactive pay for the 900,000 nonessential workers who have been given a "pay holiday" during the shutdown, and it was certainly a way for some conservative members to get back on the good side of the shutdown debate. But praise is praise, even if it comes late in the day and perhaps for the wrong reason. I'll take it.

Moreover, we also saw moderates from both parties standing together on the need to end the shutdown. The sequester is still in effect, of course, and will continue to exact its toll through furloughs, but I like to believe that there is a glimmer of support for more thoughtful debate on what government should do to protect its employees during stalemates. I haven't heard much about the young talent that is being shut out, driven away, and discouraged by the dysfunction, but I do hear the not-so-subtle support for frontline agencies that get the job done on behalf of the American public.

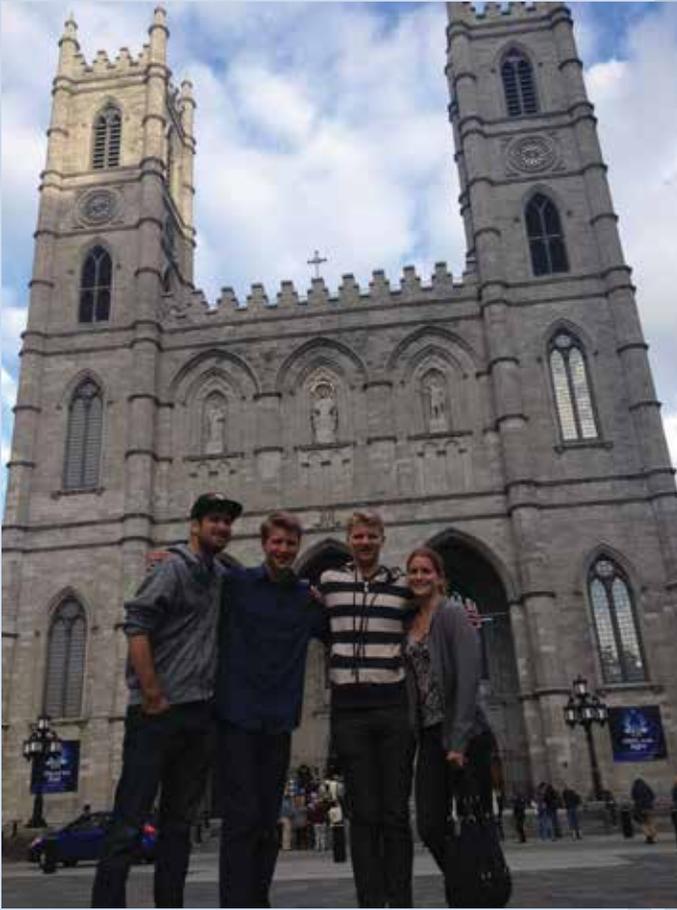
The surveys continue to show that Americans are just plain angry and frustrated at government. But they're not mad at federal employees per se. They mad at the inability to govern. And that's why you have to stick with it. The federal government has enormous responsibilities in this uncertain world, and the hiring process will start to thaw at some not-too-distant point in time. The House is backing up right now because of pressure from all corners--the business community, technology sector, state and local governments, home buyers, drug makers, veterans, and on down a long list of groups that depend on good government for everything from patents to small business loans.

You won't see the tax cheaters on this list, of course. They don't mind a breakdown or two if that delays the audit or indictment. But there is now a substantial coalition of organizations and citizens who are saying that government has to honor the promises it has made. I can hear the hiring process humming ever so quietly, but can't yet proclaim a restart. But we've seen something hopeful in this mess, and it is the acknowledge that many Americans want government to work. And that's a good thing. The question now is whether our leaders will do the right thing for the longer term, and address the debt problem by tackling the very big issues, not just by sending federal employees home for another round of furloughs. We'll see.

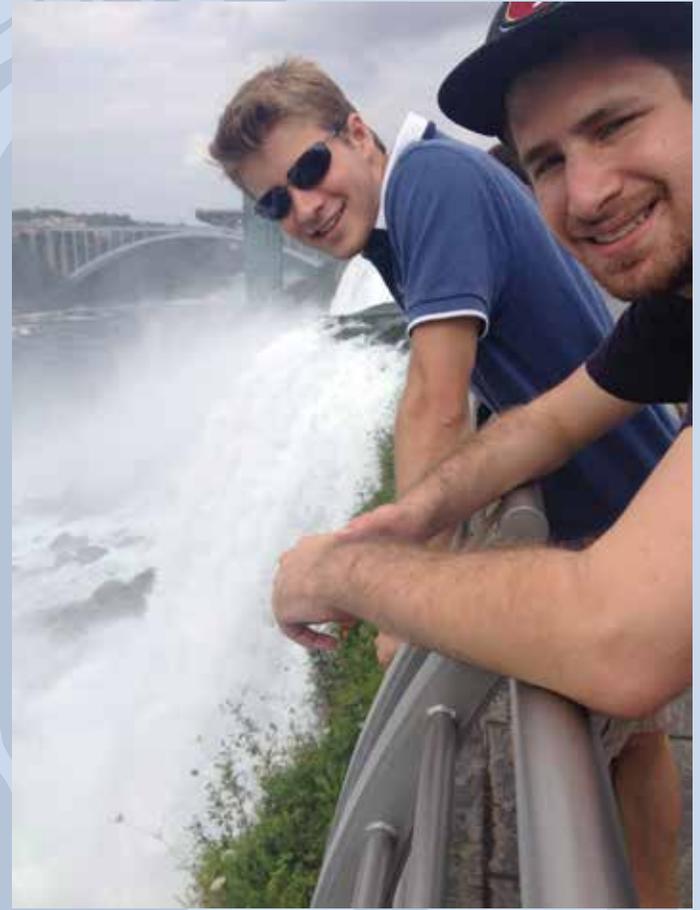


Maxwell 2013 Fellow Laura Alexander shared these photos from her current position with the iAgri consortium in Tanzania.

UC SAN DIEGO IR/PS EASTERN ROAD TRIP



*Eli, Jordan, Kent, and Shannon
at Notre Dame Cathedral in Montreal*



*Jordan and Eli
at Niagara Falls*

After finishing summer internships in Washington, UCSD Robertson 2014 Fellows Eli Yani, Kent Boydston, Shannon Morrison, and UCSD 2013 Fellow Jordan Wilson took a trip around the Eastern U.S.

They visited battlefields around Gettysburg, Niagara Falls and Buffalo, and Thousand Islands. They hiked through Montreal, where they saw Mont Royal, Notre Dame Cathedral, and tasted famous local food.

After leaving Montreal, they packed up some maple syrup before going to the Ben & Jerry's factory in Vermont and then a cider mill.

On their last day, they visited Philadelphia, seeing the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and eating some famous Philly cheese-steaks.

Thanks to for sharing this experience with us!



*Kent, Eli, Jordan, and Shannon
at Niagara Falls*