



# Developing the Next Generation of Diplomatic Security Leaders in the U.S. Foreign Service

The William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security (Clarke DS) Fellowship is a two-year graduate fellowship designed for individuals who want to pursue a master's degree and a career as a Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agent in the Foreign Service.

DSS Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers, responsible for the security of Foreign Service personnel, property, and sensitive information around the world. A high-profile State Department diversity recruitment program, the Clarke DS Fellowship aims to attract qualified candidates to the Diplomatic Security Service who represent ethnic, racial, gender, social, and geographic diversity.

Women, members of minority groups underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need, are encouraged to apply.

## As a Clarke DS Fellow, you will receive:

- Up to \$24,000 annually for tuition for a two-year, full-time master's degree program.
- Up to \$18,000 annually during the two years of graduate study for room and board, books/laboratory fees, and other academic expenses, and travel between your residence and graduate school.
- Two summer practicums (with stipends, housing, and travel allowances): one in Washington, D.C. with the Diplomatic Security Service, and one overseas at a U. S. embassy or consulate.
- Personalized mentoring and professional development opportunities throughout the program.
- An appointment as a Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agent upon successful completion of the fellowship program and Foreign Service entry requirements.

## To be eligible to apply for the Clarke DS Fellowship, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 19 years old and no older than 32 years old (except for preference-eligible veterans).
- Be planning to enter a two-year full-time master's degree program starting fall of the cohort year, at a U.S.-based accredited institution.
- Be on a timeline to graduate with master's degree after attending four full-time (fall and spring) semesters during your two years of the fellowship.
- Hold a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale at the time of application and maintain this GPA throughout the program.
- Pass the [Physical Readiness Test](#) (PRT) if selected as a finalist for the fellowship.
- Have a valid U.S. driver's license if selected as a finalist for the fellowship.



### As a Clarke DS Fellow, you must:

- Receive and maintain a Top Secret security clearance, meet a minimum medical qualification standard, including supplemental physical qualification standards specific to DSS Special Agents, and meet suitability requirements.
- Maintain physical fitness standards to ensure you can pass the final Physical Readiness Test (PRT) prior to onboarding as a DSS Special Agent.
- Agree to a three-year commitment with the Foreign Service as a DSS Special Agent upon successful completion of the program and Foreign Service requirements.
- Fulfill the two summer practicum obligations (the first one in the summer after selection, the second one in the summer after your first year of graduate school).
- Maintain your status as a full-time student (fall and spring semesters) in your approved master's program.
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA and stay on the two-year timeline to graduate with your master's degree.
- Be prepared to enter the Foreign Service as a DSS Special Agent immediately after successful completion of the fellowship program and Foreign Service entry requirements.

### Requirements as DSS Special Agents

Once appointed as a DSS Special Agent, you must successfully undergo and pass a rigorous training program, which includes:

- Firearm training / qualifications
- Physical Readiness standards and tests
- Specialized driving tests

As a DSS Special Agent, you must be:

- Willing to travel frequently and willing to live and serve anywhere overseas and in the U.S.
- Willing to carry and, if necessary, use firearms in the performance of special agent duties.
- Willing to provide public support of U.S. government policies, regardless of personal views.
- Flexible and willing to accept assignments or duties outside the functional field, should the need arise.

### Are You Ready to Start Your Journey?



**Web:** [ClarkeDSFellowship.org](http://ClarkeDSFellowship.org)



**Phone:** 202-238-7920



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