

About President Oscar Arias

President of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Óscar Arias Sánchez holds international stature as a spokesperson for the developing world. Championing such issues as human development, democracy, and demilitarization, he has traveled the globe spreading a message of peace and applying the lessons garnered from the Central American Peace Process to topics of current global debate. The *New York Times* reported that Oscar Arias's "...positions on Central American issues have become the standards by which many people in Congress and elsewhere have come to judge United States policy."

Dr. Arias served his first term as President of Costa Rica from 1986-90. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his work to end the military conflicts in Central America, culminating with the signing of the Esquipulas II Accords that year. After leaving office, he dedicated himself to working with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, the NGO he established with the monetary proceeds of the Nobel Prize.

In 2006 he was elected to a second term as President, becoming the first Nobel Laureate in history to be elected to a nation's top office. He will serve until 2010. The fight against poverty, the reduction of crime, the expansion of the education system, and the promotion of investment in research and infrastructure in Costa Rica are at the top of his domestic agenda. Internationally, he continues to advocate for a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty, free trade, and the "Costa Rica Consensus" to establish new criteria for debt relief based on social investment and demilitarization.

THE OSCAR ARIAS PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING FELLOWSHIP

República de Costa Rica



2007-2008

Administered by:
The Office of Career Services
International Experience Program
Harvard University
Harvard College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

The 2007-08 Arias Presidential Fellowship

This fellowship offers an extraordinary opportunity to work personally with Dr. Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Laureate, in the Casa Presidencial in San José, Costa Rica. The Fellow will hold the official title of Assistant to the President for English Communications, becoming responsible for assisting with Dr. Arias's English-language speeches, articles, official correspondence, even the occasional inscription on a monument. The Fellow will also occasionally be responsible for translating material for the President from Spanish to English.

Past Fellows have collaborated on speeches delivered to United Nations bodies, international diplomatic and university conferences, as well as gatherings of educators, lawyers, and businessmen. They have collaborated on articles appearing in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and Japan's *Asahi Shimbun*, to name a few.

The atmosphere in the Casa Presidencial is dynamic and can become intense, but always remains very friendly and supportive. Staff members gladly lend each other assistance and often collaborate on challenging projects. The fellowship typically lasts 12 months, with the possibility of a one-year extension. The fellow will arrive for a two-week training period in mid-July 2007, and will officially take over on August 1st.

Fellowship Requirements

- Exceptional writing and research skills
- Fluency in Spanish
- Interest and background in international relations and Latin American affairs
- Knowledge and interest in topics of conflict resolution, demilitarization and international trade
- A desire to learn and work in Costa Rica
- Good interpersonal skills
- Bachelor's degree (Master's degree or some post-college work experience welcomed).

The Fellowship Provides:

- A monthly stipend to cover living expenses (negotiable within reason, depending on experience and qualifications)
- Basic health insurance
- A personal office in the Casa Presidencial
- Round-trip airfare to San José, which is reimbursed upon arrival.

Completed Applications Will Include:

1. A résumé, with cover letter, explaining your interest in the Fellowship and your future plans
2. An official transcript
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. A speech (2-3 pages) written by you on any of the following topics:
 - Poverty alleviation and the peace process
 - Democracy's viability in the developing world
 - The merits / demerits of demilitarization
 - Current state of U.S. foreign policy
 - Inequality, education or environmental protection in Latin America.

At the top of the document, write your name, a title, and the audience to whom the speech is addressed. Remember that a speech is not an essay. It should be poetic without sacrificing clarity, statesmanlike without losing a conversational feel, inspirational without failing to convey a real policy argument. To view previous speeches by the President in English and Spanish, visit <http://www.go.cr/discursos>.

Please submit all application materials to Room 206 at the Office of Career Services, 54 Dunster Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 **no later than 5pm on April 16, 2007**. Further questions can be addressed to the current fellow, Timothy Josiah Pertz, via e-mail: tpertz@casapres.go.cr. Applicants will be notified in early May. Applications should be addressed to President Oscar Arias, c/o Timothy Pertz.