



**On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the application process for the second edition of the Transatlantic Future Leaders Forum (TFLF) internship program opened to prospective candidates. The best Polish students will get a chance to undertake an internship in the U.S. Congress and the Parliament of the United Kingdom.**

TFLF is an organization set up to enable the brightest students from Poland to gain unrivalled experience in the offices of prominent lawmakers in Washington D.C. and Westminster. The program was brought to life by the alumni of the legacy program organized by the US-EU Government Initiatives (USEUGI) – an institution operating in the years 2004-2014 under the direction of Mr. Marek Podhorecki. The USEUGI program was discontinued after the death of its founder in 2014. In the autumn of 2015, a group of alumni decided to revive that initiative by creating TFLF.

The first edition of the TFLF program was held in 2016. Three interns were sent to Washington D.C., and two more were accepted as interns at Westminster. TFLF also organized several extra-curricular meetings for the interns. The Washington interns visited, among others, The Boeing Company (both in D.C. and at their factory in Charleston, SC) and the US Department of State, they were also able to meet with prof. Joseph Stiglitz at the World Bank, Ian Brzezinski at the Atlantic Council as well as the former Polish Ambassador to the U.S – Ryszard Schnepf. The Westminster interns met with the representatives of Barclays, Wells Fargo, APCO Worldwide as well as the Institute of Directors. – Participating in the program allowed me to experience the atmosphere of the place where the most important political decisions in the U.S are made. Apart from the knowledge I gained and people I met, it has allowed me to look at my professional career from a wider perspective. – admits Wiktor Rybicki, an alumnus of the first edition.

Following the success of the first edition, the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw joined TFLF as a partner. The Embassy has awarded TFLF a grant to cover some of the costs of our scholars (such as plane tickets and accommodation in Washington D.C.) and will also assist TFLF in developing a series of appointments and meetings with US government officials for the scholars.

In the forthcoming years the founders of TFLF plan to broaden the scope of the program, thus allowing larger pools of gifted students to take advantage of this invaluable opportunity.

From January 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 Polish nationals studying either in Poland or abroad will be able to apply for the second edition of the program, which will be held in the summer. Applications must be submitted through the official TFLF website using the application form at: <http://transatlanticforum.org/>. Ideal candidates would be proactive, motivated and have a record of involvement in extra-curricular initiatives. Experience in the NGO sector will be advantageous. Select candidates will be invited to attend an oral interview, which will be held in Warsaw on April 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The best candidates will be recommended by the committee to the staffers responsible for the internships in the participating Washington D.C. and Westminster offices.

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