



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

Clarke  
DS  
Fellowship

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

# Embark on a Career to Protect Diplomacy

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The U.S. Department of State seeks 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.

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.

One of several high-profile State Department diversity recruitment programs, this two-year graduate fellowship supports fellows by providing academic funding for a two-year master's degree program, two summer practicums, professional development, and mentorship.

Upon successful completion of the fellowship program and Foreign Service entry requirements, Clarke DS Fellows receive an appointment as a Foreign Service Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agent.

## What is a Foreign Service DSS Special Agent?

DSS Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers, responsible for the security of Foreign Service personnel, property, and sensitive information around the world. DSS Special Agents play a critical role in leading and managing U.S. security programs stateside and overseas. They are available for assignment anywhere in the world at any time – always ready for a new and exciting opportunity. Throughout their career, DSS Special Agents are responsible for: leading and managing U.S. diplomatic mission security programs, conducting counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations, implementing programs that safeguard classified information, assessing security threats, and leading security training and training assistance programs.

## Clarke DS Fellowship Benefits

- **Up to \$42,000 annually (for two years)** in academic funding for tuition, room and board, books/lab fees, other academic expenses, and some travel expenses.
- **Two summer practicums (with stipends, housing, and travel allowances):** one at a U.S. Department of State office in Washington, D.C., 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, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 19 years old and no older than 33 years old (except for preference-eligible veterans).
- Be seeking admission to a two-year full-time master's degree program 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.
- Be able to 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.

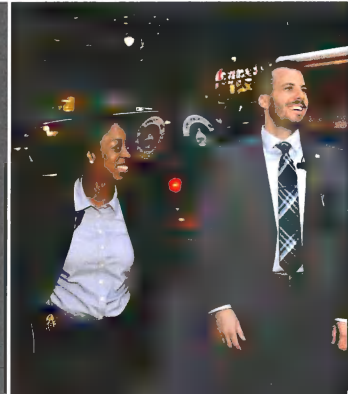
As a Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agent in the Foreign Service, you will play a critical role in leading and managing U.S. security programs stateside and overseas.



You will have the unique opportunity to engage in diplomacy and make a positive impact worldwide – all while developing yourself personally and professionally.



You will experience daily the excitement of a career at the forefront of law enforcement and international affairs.





## Obligations of Clarke DS Fellows

As a Clarke DS Fellow, you must:

- Obtain and maintain a medical clearance specific to DSS Special Agents, a Top Secret security clearance, and meet suitability requirements.
- Maintain physical fitness standards to ensure you can pass the final PRT prior to onboarding as a DSS Special Agent.
- Agree to a multi-year commitment with the Foreign Service 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 degree program.
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA and stay on the two-year timeline to graduate with your 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.

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### Are You Ready to Start Your Journey?



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