

Advisorships

One of the resources offered by IIE-SRF Partnerships for Scholar Advancement (PSA) is **the advisorship**: a one-on-one relationship between an advisor and an IIE-SRF fellow with the purpose of supplementing the fellow's efforts in career advancement and professional development. Advisorships are among the most effective ways for displaced fellows to work through impediments to their securing longer-term positions and opportunities in academe and related sectors.

IIE-SRF fellows and alumni are accomplished academicians in different fields of study who, having faced threats to their lives and careers in their home countries, have been awarded one- to two-year fellowship worldwide. In the relatively short tenure, fellows must overcome significant acculturation challenges and learn quickly in order to be competitive in a foreign academic marketplace. Some fellows need assistance in their preparations to compete, and without that assistance, their talents may be lost.

Advisors are individuals, preferably with a PhD or equivalent degree, in any academic field or professional capacity who commit to offering time, advice, and/or networks to help IIE-SRF fellows overcome obstacles that may prevent the fellow from reaching her or his career goals. These obstacles may include a lack of connections and networks in the country of refuge, or lack of information and understanding of the opportunities and employment requirements in a specific field. Initial efforts may focus on advising on CV-writing and formatting, while later the focus may shift to networking strategies, interviewing skills, or searching for job opportunities. No matter the focus, advisors and fellows should find their experience to be mutually beneficial.

POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE ADVISOR:

- Assisting with editing CVs, resumes, and cover letters and/or conducts mock interviews
- Reviewing teaching statements, grant applications, post-doctoral applications, or other academic writing
- Providing career advice and guidance
- Introducing the fellow to discipline-specific connections, thus extending her or his network
- Bringing attention to academic fellowships, publishing opportunities, or job postings in the fellow's academic field(s)
- Helping the fellow build her or his academic presence by sharing information about relevant conferences and membership of academic societies

Join other partners around the world and become an advisor today – contact Olga Gregorian at ogregorian@iie.org or srf@iie.org.