Partnerships for Scholar Advancement

In 2017, IIE-SRF launched the Partnerships for Scholar Advancement (PSA), a network of partner organizations and individuals committed to providing IIE-SRF scholars (current fellows and alumni) with opportunities for career advancement and professional development during and after their IIE-SRF fellowships. PSA connects participating scholars to opportunities through a network of institutions and individual partners across the academic, not-for-profit, and corporate sectors.

PSA has been building a core group of partners that includes more than 15 institutions. In the U.S., partner institutions include, but are not limited to:

- American Academy of Religion, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Historical Association, Central Eurasian Studies Society, Midwest Political Science Association, and National Academy of Sciences, among other academic societies;
- Coursera (through the Coursera for Refugees initiative);
- ELS Language Centers;
- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Willkie Farr Gallagher LLP; and
- Global Young Academy

Across Europe, PSA’s most notable partners are the GREET and BRIDGE programs.

IIE-SRF also partners with over 50 individuals who offer their expertise and advice to IIE-SRF scholars directly. These Advisorships are one-on-one relationships between an Advisor and an IIE-SRF scholar with the purpose of supplementing career advancement and professional development efforts. Advisorships are among the most effective ways for displaced scholars to work through impediments to securing longer-term positions and opportunities in academia and related sectors.

Possible Advisorship roles include:

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

More than 55 scholars have been paired with Advisors, resulting in:

- Memberships in academic societies
- Book and article editing and publications
- Jobs, fellowships
- Attendance and presentations at conferences
- Admission to Ph.D. programs

IIE-SRF launched PSA as a pilot initiative focused on U.S.- and Canada-based institutions and scholars in the STEM fields. The initiative has since expanded to cover all fields of study and to support Europe-based scholars. Since 2017, over 120 IIE-SRF scholars have benefited from different opportunities offered by PSA.

Please contact Olga Gregorian (ogregorian@iie.org) with your interest and any questions.