

COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

Membership



Membership

“The Council on Foreign Relations after ninety years remains at its core a membership organization.”

—CFR President Richard N. Haass

Founded in 1921, the Council on Foreign Relations’ ranks include many of the most prominent leaders in the foreign policy arena. With over 4,900 members, CFR’s roster includes government officials, renowned scholars, business leaders, acclaimed journalists, prominent lawyers, and distinguished nonprofit professionals. The membership is divided almost equally among those living in New York, Washington, DC, and across the country and abroad, and it is a group unmatched in accomplishment and diversity in the field of international affairs.



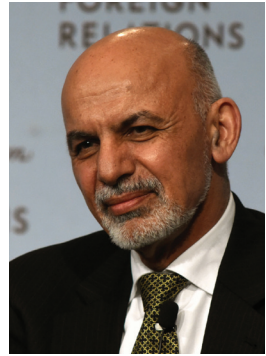
Richard N. Haass

Term Membership

The Stephen M. Kellen Term Member Program, established to cultivate the next generation of foreign policy leaders, encourages promising young men and women from diverse backgrounds to engage in a sustained conversation on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Each year a new class of term members between the ages of thirty and thirty-six is elected to serve a five-year term. Term members enjoy a full range of activities, including events with high-profile speakers, an annual Term Member Conference, roundtables, trips to various sites, including military bases, international organizations, and U.S. governmental agencies, and one weeklong study trip abroad every two years.



Term members participating in the annual conference.



Recent speakers include (left to right) James R. Clapper, director of national intelligence; Ellen J. Kullman, chair of the board and chief executive officer, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc.; and Ashraf Ghani, president of Afghanistan.

The Member Experience

UNPARALLELED ACCESS IN AN INFLUENTIAL FORUM

“The convening power of CFR is unparalleled, attracting the most prominent world leaders in government and business.”—CFR Board Co-Chairs Carla A. Hills and Robert E. Rubin

Each year, CFR organizes nearly one thousand events, providing a nonpartisan forum for members to engage with and gain insight from experts in international affairs. Members have in-person access to world leaders, senior government officials, members of Congress, and prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business, many of whom are members themselves. These events include history maker interviews, CEO forums, expert panel discussions, symposia, town halls, and film screenings.

For members residing outside of New York and Washington, CFR hosts foreign policy seminars in more than a dozen cities, local roundtables that build on expertise of area members and community leaders, a national book club series, webcasts, and a conference call series on current events.

RESOURCES, INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL, AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Member resources include CFR’s “think tank” and its wide array of publications and briefing materials. Study and advisory groups provide venues for experts to critique manuscripts and other content produced by CFR scholars. Members may participate in nonpartisan Independent Task Forces, which offer comprehensive policy prescriptions for major foreign policy issues facing the U.S. government. Members receive a subscription to *Foreign Affairs*, CFR’s flagship publication, and access to the magazine’s full archives online, as well as exclusive content on CFR.org and ForeignAffairs.com.

Applying for Membership

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

CFR seeks quality, diversity, and balance in its membership. Criteria for membership include intellectual attainment and expertise; degree of experience, interest, and current involvement in international affairs; promise of future achievement and service in foreign relations; potential contributions to CFR's work; desire and ability to participate in CFR activities; and standing among peers.

CFR membership is restricted to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have formally applied to become citizens. Candidates applying for membership must be nominated in writing by a CFR member and seconded by a minimum of three, maximum of four, other individuals. Candidates for term membership must be thirty to thirty-six years of age on January 1, and must be nominated by a CFR member and seconded by a minimum of two, maximum of three, other individuals.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Membership: March 1 and November 1 (*annually*)
- Term Membership: January 3, 2017

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, email applications@cfr.org to request the online application for membership or term membership. The application consists of three parts:

- contact information
- curriculum vitae
- nominator and seconder information (sponsors will automatically be notified via email once they have been entered as a reference)



Left: Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaking at CFR's New York headquarters.
Right: Members Joan Spero, Jami Miscik, and Ann M. Fudge at a CFR meeting in New York.



CFR Co-Chairman Robert E. Rubin, CFR member Frank J. Caufield, Co-Chairman Carla A. Hills, and CFR member Fareed Zakaria.

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David Rockefeller and Peter G. Peterson, former chairs of the CFR Board of Directors, at a CFR event.

CFR Mission

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.

To learn more, please visit www.cfr.org/about/membership or see the Annual Report at www.cfr.org/about/annual_report. For questions, please contact Membership at applications@cfr.org or 212.434.9456.

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