Below is a list of criteria/desirable skills to be applied to Fellowship applications in which applicants express specific interest in or affiliation with the GNSO and its Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies (Note that this list represents the baseline; returning fellows will be expected to have increased / improved their knowledge and engagement accordingly):

- Understanding of and sensitivity to the ICANN ecosystem – business, technical community, governments, user community, and civil society.
- Knowledge of the different stakeholder interests represented in the GNSO (demonstrated, for example, by attending an ICANN webinar, completing relevant ICANN Learn course/s, attending an ICANN meeting introductory session (whether remotely or in person).
- Knowledge of the GNSO policy development process (demonstrated, for example, by attending ICANN policy briefings, completing relevant ICANN Learn course/s, attending in person or remotely a Newcomer Track ICANN meeting session, etc.)
- Ability and willingness to work, in good faith, towards consensus solutions and cooperate constructively with others (demonstrated, for example, by creative thinking and prior participation in team- or group-based activity, not necessarily within ICANN).
- Ability to advocate for some SO/C issues both in- and outside the community, in a manner that can be understood by non-experts.
- Ability to both share knowledge gained (e.g. blogs, articles) and to enhance local participation and engagement in their region.
- Willingness to adhere to ICANN’s Expected Standards of Behaviour.
- Knowledge of issues currently faced by the GNSO community, or willingness to undertake efforts to upskill in a timely manner.
- Ability and demonstrated willingness to actively contribute to GNSO activity not simply at funded face-to-face meetings, but via remote participation in conference calls or a group mailing list. First-time fellows cannot realistically be expected to be active in PDPs, but they should show engagement with SO/Cs, with strong affiliation to one being clear by their third fellowship. This could be measured by asking: what is the likelihood that the applicant would connect with SO/Cs as a fellow?

Note: For the purpose of these criteria, knowledge levels may be designated as follows:

- Familiar = becoming aware, first introduction
- Basic = ability to talk about at a high level
- Fluent = comfortable getting into detail and teaching others
- Expert = subject matter expert, let me write a book on the subject.