

Faculty Opportunities in Washington, D.C.

The Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Mobility Program

The [Intergovernmental Personnel Act \(IPAs\) Mobility Program](#) is intended to facilitate cooperation between the federal government and non-federal entities by providing temporary assignments of skilled personnel to the federal government from state and local governments, colleges and universities, or other eligible organizations. These assignments must be for work of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Incoming IPA assignments allow employees of eligible organizations the opportunity to serve in federal agencies for a limited period without loss of employee rights or benefits because they are funded through grants to the institution as reimbursement for salary and benefits.

IPAs are offered in agencies throughout the federal government, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense – just to name a few. If you are interested in learning more or pursuing an IPA, [please contact](#) the Office of Federal Relations and we will be happy to assist in providing more information regarding specific IPA opportunities.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science Policy Fellowships

The Science & Technology Policy Fellowships are opportunities for professional development and public service. They are operated by AAAS as part of its mandate to "advance science and serve society." The aim is to foster scientifically informed, evidence-based policy and practice by engaging scientists and engineers from a broad range of disciplines, backgrounds, and career stages to directly contribute their knowledge and analytical skills to the federal government; to learn firsthand about policymaking and implementation at the federal level; and to build leadership for a strong S&T enterprise that benefits all people.

[Learn more](#)

The American Society of Human Genetics

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) and the National Human Genome Research Institute co-sponsor the genetics and public policy fellowships to give genetics professionals an opportunity to contribute to the policymaking process. This unique fellowship provides three types of experiences time spent in the NIH as a part of the executive branch; a staff position on Capitol Hill serving elected officials and the legislative branch; and experience working with ASHG in the nonprofit science-advocacy sector.

[Learn more](#)

Food and Drug Administration Fellowship Program

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) invites outstanding health care professionals, scientists, and engineers to apply to its two-year fellowship program, where they will receive regulatory science training and the chance to conduct cutting-edge research on targeted scientific, policy, or regulatory issues under the mentorship of an FDA senior scientist.

[Learn more](#)

The National Academies Fellowships Office

The Fellowships Office (FO) of the National Academies administers predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowship awards on behalf of government and private/foundation sponsors. These fellowship awards play an important role in the career development of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers and scholars for the academic, federal, industrial, and international workforce.

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The Library of Congress

The Library of Congress offers many fellowship opportunities throughout the Library.

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The Smithsonian

Fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution provide scholars with opportunities to pursue independent research projects in association with members of the Smithsonian professional research staff.

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The White House Fellows Program

Founded in 1964, the White House Fellows Program is one of America's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service. White House Fellowships offer exceptional scholars firsthand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. Selected individuals typically spend a year working as full-time, paid fellows to senior White House staff, cabinet secretaries, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors, and trips to study U.S. policy in action both domestically and internationally. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly nonpartisan basis.

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Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Through an international competition, the center offers nine-month residential fellowships. Fellows conduct research and write on their areas of expertise while interacting with policymakers in Washington and Wilson Center staff. The center accepts non-advocacy, policy-relevant, fellowship proposals that address key policy challenges facing the United States and the world.

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American Academy of Arts and Sciences

The Academy sponsors four fellowship programs: (1) the Visiting Scholars Program for the humanities and social sciences; (2) the Hellman Fellowship in Science and Technology Policy; (3) a policy fellowship in the humanities, the arts, and American Institutions; and (4) a policy fellowship in global security and international affairs.

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The Abe Fellowship Program

Sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, the Abe Fellowship Program encourages international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program fosters the development of a new generation of researchers interested in policy-relevant topics and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network. In partnership with the SSRC, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) established the Abe Fellowship Program as its flagship program in 1991.

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The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows Program

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows program provides the nation's most comprehensive experience at the nexus of health science, policy, and politics in Washington, D.C. The fellowship is an outstanding opportunity for exceptional midcareer health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health and health care policy. Fellows experience and participate in the policy process at the federal level and use that leadership experience to improve health, health care, and health policy.

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The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is a nine-to-twelve-month program that offers fellows the opportunity to participate in a residential track or a non-residential track. The residential track allows fellows to participate in the policymaking process on either the federal or state level as legislative assistants in Congress, as professional staff members in executive agencies, or in policy organizations. The non-residential track allows fellows to work on a policy project in brief placement(s) throughout the year at relevant sites. Core program components focused on career development and professional enrichment are provided for fellows in both tracks. Fellows also have the opportunity to apply for second-year funding to continue components of their fellowship experience/project either at their placement sites, at the state/local levels, or with non-governmental organizations.

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Society for Research in Child Development Policy Fellowship

The Society for Research in Child Development is currently offering two types of fellowships congressional and executive branch. Both fellowships provide opportunities for researchers to come to Washington, D.C., and use developmental science outside of the academic setting to inform public policy. These fellowships are open to doctoral scientists from any discipline relevant to child development, and both early and midcareer professionals are encouraged to apply.

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The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Federal Government Fellowship Program

ASME is the first engineering society to establish a federal government fellowship program. The program, which began in 1973, enables selected ASME members to devote a year working in government, providing technical advice to policymakers in Congress, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and key federal agencies.

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Science & Technology Policy Fellowship

The EERE STP Fellowships serve as a next step in the educational and professional development of scientists and engineers interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy policy. The EERE STP Fellowships provide an opportunity for highly talented scientists and engineers to participate in policy-related projects at DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Washington, D.C. EERE STP Fellows apply the expertise gained from their education and history of conducting research to new and ongoing EERE initiatives.

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Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Government Fellowships

Each year, IEEE-USA sponsors government fellowships for qualified IEEE members. The fellows spend a year living and working in Washington as advisers to the U.S. Congress and to key U.S. Department of State or U.S. Agency for International Development decision-makers. The fellowship program links science, technology, and engineering professionals with government and provides a mechanism for IEEE's U.S. members to learn firsthand about the public policy process while imparting their knowledge and experience to policymakers.

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Department of State Professional Science and Engineering Society Fellows Program

The United States Department of State Professional Science and Engineering (S&E) Society Fellows Program enlists bright, inquisitive scientists and engineers with an interest in policy and international affairs to further the diplomacy and development policies of the United States. Fellows contribute their science and technology expertise to the policymaking process by working directly in an office at the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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Society for Neuroscience Early Career Policy Fellows Program

Interested neuroscience students, postdoctoral trainees, and early-career faculty (within 10 years of MD or PhD) can get involved with science policy and advocacy through the Society for Neuroscience Early Career Policy Fellows Program. Fellows will learn how to become effective advocates for science and how to encourage others to do the same. The yearlong program includes travel and lodging to attend the annual Hill Day.

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Jefferson Science Fellowship Program

The Jefferson Science Fellowship (JSF) program is administered by the National Academies and supported through a partnership between the U.S. academic community, professional scientific societies, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Fellows are given assignments either in the Department of State headquarters in Washington, D.C., or at U.S. missions abroad. Jefferson Science Fellows return to their academic careers following their Department of State assignments but remain available to the U.S. government as expert consultants for short-term projects over the following five years.

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American Institute of Physics and Member Society Government Science Fellowships

The need for dialogue between the science community and the federal government has never been greater. Through this fellowship program, the American Institute of Physics, and several of its member societies, sponsor member scientists to come to Washington and spend a year taking an active role in providing science and technology expertise to the federal government.

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The American Political Science Association

The American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program is a highly selective, nonpartisan program devoted to expanding knowledge and awareness of Congress. Since 1953, it has brought select political scientists, journalists, federal employees, health specialists, and other domestic and international professionals to Capitol Hill to experience Congress at work through fellowship placements in the Senate, House of Representatives, and other select offices.

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American Chemical Society Public Policy Fellowships

Science and technology are increasingly important in public policy. From environmental sustainability to homeland security, policymakers routinely make decisions that require input from and have impact on the chemical community. Yet only 5 percent of the members of Congress have backgrounds in science and engineering, and scientists often lack the opportunity and expertise to successfully engage in the policy process. The ACS Congressional and Science Policy Fellowship Programs are designed to address both these concerns. The programs provide a unique opportunity for ACS members to gain practical experience and insights into public policy by working on Capitol Hill or at ACS in Washington, D.C.

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American Psychologists Association Congressional and Executive Branch Science Fellows

These opportunities allow a select number of psychologists to spend a year in Washington, D.C., where they receive firsthand experience with federal policymaking and agency research and funding. Congressional fellows work as special legislative aides in congressional member or committee offices and engage in a diverse range of policymaking activities on vital issues. There are special designations for midcareer/senior professionals and experts in health and behavior issues, and American Psychological Foundation (APF) supports a specialized congressional fellowship for developmental and clinical psychologists with experience working with children. Executive Branch Science Fellows work as a special assistant in a federal agency on topics ranging from science policy to research administration. Past placements have included the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Justice, and U.S. Agency for International Development.

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The Optical Society/Materials Research Society Congressional Fellowships

The Optical Society (OSA), along with co-sponsors the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE) and the Materials Research Society (MRS), hosts two congressional fellows each year. Congressional fellowships are designed to provide a unique public policy learning experience, demonstrate the value of science-government interaction and bring technical backgrounds and external perspectives to the decision-making process in Congress. Fellows spend one year working in Washington, D.C., as special legislative assistants on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee, beginning in September.

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Glenn T. Seaborg Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship

To fulfill the strategic goal of enhancing nuclear public policy, the American Nuclear Society (ANS) invites ANS members to apply for a one-year Washington, D.C.–based congressional fellowship. Congressional fellows will have an opportunity to work either in a U.S. senator's or representative's personal office or in a senate or a house committee, and become a direct contributor to the federal policymaking process. Along with providing Congress with expertise in nuclear science and technology, fellows will support other issues of importance. In return, fellows will gain a better understanding of how the legislative process works.

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Social and Behavior Sciences Team Fellowship Program

In this year-long program, fellows and associate fellows translate insights from the social and behavioral sciences into concrete recommendations on how to improve federal programs, policies, and operations. They will work closely with agency collaborators to identify opportunities for improvement and evaluate the relative efficiency and effectiveness of proposed interventions.

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