



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fellowship Pathways for:

Government and Public Service

Introduction

The following awards offer pathways into federal government and public service careers.

Some lead directly to employment in government agencies, offices, or laboratories. For example, alumni of the Rangel and Pickering Fellowships join the U.S. Foreign Service. Alumni of the Payne Fellowship join USAID, and Presidential Management Fellows receive two-year assignments in the federal government according to their qualifications and skills.

Others offer preferential access to government careers for program alumni, provide a point of entry through service requirements, or help alumni develop professional profiles and networks that prepare them to enter government and/or public service careers. For example, alumni of the Boren Awards programs serve for one year in the federal government following graduation – which affords an opportunity to gain experience, access, and connections. Participants in the DOE Scholars program receive paid summer internships with the Department of Energy.

Opportunities are also available at the state and local levels. The Virginia Governor’s Fellows Program offers state government experience, while “urban fellows” programs such as those in Washington D.C. and New York City offer experience in municipal government.

This is NOT a comprehensive list; rather, it offers a sampling of high profile and commonly asked-about fellowship programs. Students are encouraged to search individual agencies and use fellowship search tools to locate additional opportunities.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

1

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

PMF (Presidential Management Fellowship)

<http://www.pmf.gov/>

The PMF program offers an elite pathway into U.S. federal government service for entry-level professionals with graduate degrees. Students apply during their final year in graduate school or within two years after graduation. Those selected as Finalists after two rounds of review (an initial application and an in-person assessment/interview) win the opportunity to secure a two-year appointment in a federal agency with full salary and benefits, including the possibility (not guaranteed) of conversion to a permanent job at the end of the two-year fellowship. Fellows also participate in special professional development and leadership training opportunities, as well as rotational assignments to offer a diversity of experience. As of 2014, two “tracks” are offered within the PMF competition – a “Traditional” track and a “STEM” track for applicants interested in STEM careers in the Federal Government. Deadline for initial application: Fall, usually in September. Info session held each year in September at the Arlington campus.

ACLS Public Fellows Program

<http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows/>

The ACLS Public Fellows program places recent Ph.D.s from the humanities and social sciences in two-year staff positions at partnering organizations in government and the nonprofit sector. Fellows participate in the substantive work of these organizations and receive professional mentoring. The fellowship provides a stipend of \$65,000 per year as well as individual health insurance. Application deadline: March.

Boren Awards

<http://www.borenawards.org/>

The Boren Awards program supports language training in critical and less-commonly-taught languages with relevance to U.S. national security interests (defined broadly to include not only security but also trade, diplomacy, migration, the environment, and other concerns.) The Boren programs support ONLY critical and less-commonly studied languages/regions; projects in Western Europe are NOT eligible. See web site for list of preferred countries/languages. Open to U.S. citizens in all fields of study. Fellows are required to work for the U.S. federal government for 1 year following graduation; the Boren program provides assistance with federal government job placement after graduation, and Boren alumni receive privileged access to certain types of federal government job opportunities. Boren Fellowship alumni may qualify to have the written portion of the Foreign Service exam waived. Deadline: January.

Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program (Germany)

<http://culturalvistas.org/programs-for-students-and-professionals/professional-fellowships/robert-bosch-foundation-fellowship-program>

The Bosch Fellowship Program is a transatlantic initiative that each year offers 20 Americans the opportunity to complete a high-level professional development program in Germany. Bosch Fellows complete 1-2 work phases at leading German institutions and attend seminars with key decision-makers from the public and private sectors. Fellows are recruited from business administration, journalism, law, public policy and related fields. German language skills are not required at the time of application. Non-German speaking awardees commit to an intensive pre-departure program of language acquisition. Deadline on or about October 15 annually.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

2

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Fellowships

<http://www.cdc.gov/fellowships/>

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a variety of fellowship opportunities for undergraduates, graduate students, recent graduates, and medical students interested in topics related to public, environmental, and global health. Deadlines vary by award, with many falling in January/February.

Critical Languages Scholarships (CLS)

<http://clscholarship.org/>

CLS is a U.S. Department of State initiative providing funding for participants to attend a pre-organized overseas summer language program in a “critical” language. For some languages (Azerbaijani, Bangla, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu) no background is required and students at all levels (including beginners) may apply. Other languages (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Persian, Russian) require some prior study. Open to U.S. citizens in all fields of study who are enrolled as students (undergraduate or graduate) at the time of application. There is no service requirement, nor any expectation that participants will go on to careers in public service, but alumni have privileged access to some federal government job opportunities.

Department of Energy (DOE) Scholars Program

<http://orise.orau.gov/doescholars/>

The DOE Scholars Program provides 10-week paid summer internships for undergraduates, graduate students and postgraduates who are US citizens. The program allows participants the opportunity to explore a federal career with DOE at various stages in their education. Appointments are available in a range of academic disciplines (including STEM fields, public policy, business, law, communications, and management) at participating DOE facilities nationwide. Restricted to U.S. citizens. Deadline: January.

Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF)

<http://www.krellinst.org/csgf>

The DOE CSGF funds up to four years of graduate school for U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are planning full-time, uninterrupted study toward a Ph.D. in computational science and closely related fields at an accredited U.S. university. Senior undergraduates and first and second year graduate students in engineering and in the physical, computer, mathematical or life sciences are eligible to apply for the program. Awards include full tuition, living stipend, academic allowance, summer research practicum, allowances for books and health insurance, and mentoring. Fellows are required to be enrolled as full-time graduate students and conduct research in areas of interest to the DOE. The summer should be spent conducting full-time research, enrolled in classes or on practicum assignment. Deadline: January.

District of Columbia Capital City Fellows Program (CCFP)

<http://dchr.dc.gov/page/capital-city-fellows-program>

CCFP recruits recent graduates of master's degree programs in public administration, public policy, urban planning and related fields to work for the city of Washington, DC. Candidates compete for two-year fellowship appointments during which they may complete four six-month rotations in different city agencies. Fellows are appointed at a salary of \$50,000.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

3

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

EMDAP (Emerging Markets Development Advisers Program)

<http://www.ije.org/Programs/EMDAP.aspx>

A professional development fellowship with USAID, EMDAP is open to recent or graduating MA/MS or MBA students with a minimum of two years relevant professional experience in fields related to international affairs, international business/finance, international development, or business management. Fellows are awarded a year-long work placement with USAID overseas, where they work collaboratively with USAID programs and local NGOs. Applicants must be open to a range of different country placements; awardees will be matched with an appropriate placement based on prior experience and language skill. Non-U.S. citizens may apply, but only if placement opportunities are likely to be available in their home country. Application Deadline: May/June for the subsequent September.

EMGIP (Émigré Memorial German Internship Program)

<http://culturalvistas.org/programs-for-students-and-professionals/professional-fellowships/emgip>

Opportunities for U.S. and Canadian citizens to intern at a German state parliament (Landtag) for 1-3 months with travel and expenses paid and program support provided. Applicants may be graduate or undergraduate students between 18-30 years of age. For list of eligible fields see web site, but generally targeted at public policy related fields. Proficiency in German is required. Deadlines: October 1 for spring internships; December 1 for early summer internships; March 31 for fall internships.

Fulbright Clinton Fellowships (Fulbright Public Policy Fellowships)

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-clinton-fellowships>

This fellowship places graduate students aspiring to careers in international policy fields in "special assistant" positions in foreign government settings for one year. Countries available for placement vary from year to year, and are published in advance on the web site. Eligible candidates include students completing (or recently completed) Master's or currently enrolled in Ph.D. program. Open to all fields, but emphasis is on Public Policy / International Affairs. Beyond academic qualifications, applicants should possess a minimum of 2 years professional public policy-related experience (including internships and service work), plus regional expertise and facility in the local language.

HORIZONS Scholarship (Women in Defense)

<http://wid.ndia.org/horizon/Pages/default.aspx>

Sponsored by the National Security Organization Women in Defense, this award offers scholarships in support of women who are U.S. citizens either currently employed or planning careers in defense and national security fields. Deadline: July 1 annually.

NASA Student Programs

<http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/student-programs/>

NASA offers various programs (including grant and fellowship programs) for students at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral level.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

4

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship

<http://ndseg.asee.org/>

The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship is a highly competitive, portable fellowship that is awarded to U.S. citizens who have demonstrated the ability and special aptitude for advanced training in science and engineering, and who plan to pursue a doctoral degree in one of fifteen supported STEM disciplines. Applicants should be in their final year of undergraduate school, or have completed less than two full-time years of graduate study in the discipline in which they are applying. NDSEG Fellowships are offered for up to three years and pay for full tuition, mandatory fees, a monthly stipend, and up to \$1,000 a year in medical insurance. Approximately 200 awards are made annually. This award incurs no service requirement. Deadline: December.

NNSA Graduate Program (Nonproliferation Graduate Fellowship)

<http://ngfp.pnnl.gov/>

This 12-month, full-time, salaried fellowship program provides participants with specialized training and practical experience on NNSA projects and initiatives relating to issue of nonproliferation and nuclear security. In addition to gaining valuable experience working with federal government programs, participants have opportunities to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other government agencies, national laboratories, and non-governmental organizations.

NYC Urban Fellows Program

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/work/urbanfellows.shtml>

The Urban Fellows Program is a highly selective, nine-month fellowship that combines work in Mayoral offices and City agencies with an intensive seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. Eligibility is based on when the candidate received the bachelor's degree. Graduate students who are eligible may apply, but will be expected to suspend graduate study and outside work during the fellowship. \$30,000 plus health insurance.

Payne Fellowships - Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program (USAID)

<http://www.paynefellows.org/>

The USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program seeks to attract outstanding young people who are interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The fellowship provides up to \$90,000 in benefits over two years for graduate school, internships, and professional development activities. Fellowship recipients can use the award to attend U.S. graduate programs throughout the country; those who successfully complete the program will join the USAID Foreign Service upon completion of the program (with a three-year service obligation.) The program is restricted to U.S. citizens; application must be made prior to entering a master's degree program. Deadline: January.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

5

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship

<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/pickering/>

The Pickering Fellowship provides funding to rising seniors and graduate students intending careers the United States Department of State Foreign Service. The program seeks to attract outstanding students who plan to enroll in two-year master's degree programs in public policy, international affairs, public administration, or academic fields such as business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages, and who have an interest in pursuing a Foreign Service career. Women, members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and students with financial need are encouraged to apply. The fellowship provides up to \$40,000 annually for up to two years (either senior year and first year of graduate school or first two years of graduate school.) Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Those who successfully complete the program will receive appointments as U.S. Foreign Service Officers with a five-year contractual obligation. Deadline: January/February.

Rangel Fellowships - Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program

<http://rangelprogram.org/>

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship is a program that aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. Each year, the Rangel Program selects 20 fellows in a highly competitive nationwide process and helps support them through two years of graduate study, internships and professional development activities, followed by entry into the Foreign Service. This program is open to U.S. citizens and especially encourages members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need. Fellows who successfully complete the program and Foreign Service entry requirements will receive appointments as Foreign Service Officers with the U.S. State Department with a five-year contractual obligation. The program is restricted to U.S. citizens; application must be made prior to entering a master's degree program. Deadline: January.

SMART Scholarship for Service Program

<http://smart.asee.org/>

The DoD Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program is an opportunity for students pursuing a graduate degree in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) discipline to receive a full scholarship and be gainfully employed upon degree completion. Awards include full tuition and education-related fees, living stipend, paid (and mandatory) summer internships, allowances for books and health insurance, mentoring, and employment placement after graduation as a DOD civilian scientist. Restricted to U.S. citizens. Candidates may apply as prospective graduate students (at the same time they apply to graduate school) or at any point in their graduate career. Application deadline: December.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

6

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>

USAID Global Health Fellows Program (GHFP-II)

<https://www.ghfp.net/>

Two-year full-time paid professional development fellowship with USAID and/or partner institutions. Placements in both DC area and overseas. Candidates should possess a master's or professional degree in hand by start of award, plus some professional experience in health capacity. The nature and extent of professional experience required varies by position.

Virginia Governor's Fellows Program

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/ourcommonwealth/GovernorsFellows/index.cfm>

Virginia Governor's Fellows is a summer program in which fellows are placed in positions in the VA Governor's Office and various agencies throughout the VA executive branch. Open to rising seniors, graduating seniors, and enrolled graduate students. Applicants must be either enrolled at a VA college or university or a VA resident if enrolled elsewhere. Please note that no funding is attached to this program; in some cases a modest amount of support may be available through the university. Interested applicants should express their intention to apply to the Office of Graduate Fellowships or the Honors College.

THINKING OF APPLYING? Please Contact:

7

Dr. Kathryn E. Ágoston, Director of Graduate Fellowships, George Mason University
kagoston@gmu.edu • 703-993-3131 • <http://gradfellows.gmu.edu>