



CREDIT: ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

THE KNAUSS LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Exciting. Educational. Career-Building.

The Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program gives graduate students with an interest in marine science a unique opportunity to spend a year working for the federal government in Washington, D.C. Fellows can request placements in the legislative or executive branches. Of the approximately 60 Knauss fellowships awarded annually, 12 fellows are placed in Congress.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE PLACEMENT?

IT'S A RICH EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. A Congressional placement exposes fellows to a wide range of policy and spending decisions in ocean and coastal resource management, conservation, and maritime commerce.



"I have yet to see a better opportunity to launch a career in ocean policy at the highest levels than this. Diving into hands-on involvement in the heart of D.C. and instantly joining the most influential network of ocean professionals is the best introduction a budding marine policy wonk could ask for."

— Michael Conathan, director of ocean policy
Center for American Progress

LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIPS BUILD RESUMES AND CAREERS. Alumni of the Knauss legislative fellowship have gone on to jobs at federal agencies like NOAA, at nonprofit organizations like The Pew Charitable Trusts and the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and in many other positions in marine and coastal science policy.



"It was a huge springboard to a job that was much more advanced than my years of experience might have otherwise allowed me to get!"

— Jessie Ritter, policy specialist
National Wildlife Federation

FELLOWS GAIN VALUABLE, HARD-TO-FIND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POLICYMAKING. They analyze and help draft legislation, advise Congress members during hearings, visit Congress members' districts to meet with constituents, and learn first-hand the complex and fascinating gears of policymaking on Capitol Hill.



"[Legislative fellowships teach] how you can build coalitions, how you can find common ground with people. I was amazed at how bipartisan it was."

— Stuart Levenbach, Ph.D., policy analyst
White House Office of Management and Budget

THE EXPERTISE OF NATURAL SCIENTISTS IS USEFUL TO NON-SCIENTISTS. Legislative fellows write briefing papers that summarize technical subjects in ways helpful to Congress members and their staffs, most of whom are not scientists.



“The fellowship showed me outside of an academic setting the many different ways an education in marine science could be put to use. It taught me how to communicate science to a more general audience and how science can inform policy decisions.”

— Julien Lartigue, Ph.D., director
NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

WHICH PLACEMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

It depends on your interests and goals. Executive-branch fellows often focus in depth in a single area of federal agency activity, such as fisheries management.

Legislative-branch fellows typically work on a broad range of issues and learn to juggle time commitments among them. Legislative fellows have been placed on the staffs of Congressional committees, for example, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard) and the House Committee on Natural Resources (Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans). Other legislative fellows have been placed to work for individual members of Congress.

To help you choose which placement to request, find more information through these resources:

NATIONAL SEA GRANT OFFICE

bit.ly/Knauss-fellowship-info
bit.ly/Knauss-where-now

MARYLAND SEA GRANT

bit.ly/MDSeaGrant-Knauss-fellowship-info



See our video on the legislative fellowship at youtu.be/TTU2vZX0wAE

ABOUT KNAUSS LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS



72%

of Knauss fellows hold a degree in the natural sciences.



72%

of Knauss fellows requested a legislative-branch placement because they thought it would be more educationally enriching than an executive-branch placement.



80%

of Knauss fellows would recommend the legislative-branch to future fellows. 20% would maybe recommend.

SOURCE: 2017 SURVEY OF 43 LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI



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