

KEY TALKING POINTS

KNAUSS FELLOWSHIP KEY TALKING POINTS:

In addition to the NOFO requirements, interested students should be made aware of the below talking points. We ask that SG programs recruiting for Sea Grant Knauss Fellows be aware of these talking points.

- Foreign Nationals, Dual Citizens, and permanent residents:
 - The fellowship is currently open to all students enrolled in a US Accredited University.
 - There are SIGNIFICANT limitations for foreign nationals - including, but not limited to, reduced position availability (as much as a 50% reduction in positions), heavy restrictions on security access which may mean limited access to federal networks and daily escorting throughout all federal facilities (FN must be in the line of sight of a federal employee at all times). Finally foreign nationals are NOT eligible for direct hire.
 - There are limitations for dual citizens and permanent residents - including reduced position availability (as much as a 30% reduction in positions)
- The Knauss Fellowship is a DC based fellowship. All selected fellows must have the ability to move to the DC region. Some offices do allow telework, however, this is not guaranteed.
- Most positions require a public trust clearance, some require a secret clearance. Fellows will be asked detailed questions about personal history. An example of a security background form can be found [HERE](#). Please note, that federal laws supersede state laws.
- The Knauss Fellowship is an extension of a student's education. The program expects participants to contribute meaningfully to their host office, participate in a professional development program, as well as complete all mandatory reporting requirements.
- The Direct Hire is a PERK of the program. Receiving the Direct Hire Authority is incumbent on the successful completion of the fellowship - which includes completing 10 full months of the program, maintaining good standing with the host office and the participation in programmatic professional development activities.
- The Knauss Fellowship is administered through the state SG program, all student applicants should be made aware of the anticipated salary, benefits, etc. that the state SG program will be providing. [The Texas Sea Grant Knauss Fellow is considered as an Independent Contractor, not as an employee, and will be setup as a vendor for receiving quarterly stipend payments and reimbursement of Professional Development costs. As an Independent Contractor, benefits are not taken from the stipend; it is the responsibility of the Fellow to budget to pay for taxes and to secure health insurance from your stipend funds. A Fellow may continue as a student to finish their advanced degree. As a student, your stipend will be paid via Texas A&M Scholarships and Financial Aid through your student account.](#)
- Having access to materials from previous Knauss Fellowship applications can be a useful reference, however, students should refrain from copying materials directly. The NSGO recommends students have coaching sessions or conversations with previous fellows, rather than direct access to application materials.