

**Indiana Science Policy:
Educate, Collaborate, Transform
INSPECT Fellowship**
Hosted by the Indiana Academy of Science



Program Summary

The Indiana Science Policy: Educate, Collaborate, Transform (INSPECT) Fellowship is a new fellowship program hosted by the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS). The INSPECT Fellowship's purpose is to bring together the scientific community and state government while training scientists to be effective advisors for public policy. These fellowships will allow current graduate students in STEM fields to work side-by-side with elected officials to incorporate more scientific information into state and local policy decisions to promote the long term health, sustainability, and economic growth of Hoosiers across Indiana.

Fellowship Details: The INSPECT Fellowship is a 10-week summer program (≈ June 1 - Mid-August) for current graduate students that places Fellows in an executive agency host office in the state of Indiana. The Fellowship will include an Orientation/Training at the beginning and a Fellowship reception at the conclusion of the program. INSPECT Fellows will be current Masters or Doctoral level graduate students from partner Universities across the state of Indiana, selected based on career interests, desire to link science and policy, and scientific integrity.

Fellows will be matched to host offices based on mutual interest and placement availability. Potential host offices include but are not limited to the following topics: life sciences, agriculture & conservation, education & workforce, public health, technology & engineering, energy & transportation, and economics & finance.

Eligibility: INSPECT Fellows must be current graduate students (Masters or Doctoral) in a STEM-related field or public policy oriented program in one of the INSPECT Partner Universities (currently: University of Notre Dame, Ball State University, Indiana University-Indianapolis, and Indiana University-Bloomington). Social scientists (i.e. students in the fields of anthropology, economy, psychology, etc.) are welcome and encouraged to apply. Students must be enrolled in a degree granting program and be able to work full-time with their hosting institution over the 10-week summer term. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply, however, eligibility for international students may depend on Host Office placements and funding mechanisms from university partners.

Fellow Selection Process: The INSPECT Fellowship is awarded to qualified applicants who exhibit a keen interest in improving the interface between science and political decision-making, and who wish to learn the public policy process in Indiana. The selection process for Fellows is managed by the Indiana Academy of Science and is determined by an Advisory Committee assembled and overseen by the INSPECT Fellowship Coordinator. Three finalists selected by each participating institution are forwarded to the IAS INSPECT Fellowship Committee. The IAS committee selects individual Fellows based on merit and aptitude for the science policy fellowship. Selected Fellow applications are forwarded to the preferred Host Offices for final confirmation, after which Fellows will be notified.

Application Requirements: Resume or CV (3 pgs max), Recommendation letters (2), Personal statement, Statement on science policy in Indiana, Diversity statement

Compensation: INSPECT fellows will receive a stipend determined by their institution, but not less than \$8,500 for the approximately 10 week-long program. Fellows may also receive funds or support for professional development/training costs and travel expenses.

FAQ

What will my role be if selected as a INSPECT Fellow?

Graduate student fellows will serve as nonpartisan science advisors in a variety of possible placements in executive agencies in the state of Indiana. Fellows will serve their host office by performing relevant tasks such as researching, drafting, and revising relevant policies.

Who administers this fellowship?

This fellowship is administered through the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS) who oversees soliciting applications in concert with the participating universities and facilitating Fellow placements with host offices. IAS is a professional membership organization of Indiana scientists. Founded in 1885, it is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting scientific research and diffusing scientific information; to encouraging communication and cooperation among scientists and to improving education in the sciences. It is one of the oldest scientific professional membership organizations in the United States, the only multidisciplinary scientific organization in the state of Indiana, and is dedicated to promoting scientific research, diffusing scientific information, improving education in the sciences, and encouraging communication and cooperation among scientists.

What does the timeline look like once I apply for this fellowship?

Applications for this fellowship are due to your University representative according to each University's internal deadline (near end of Fall semester). Each University partner selects a finalist pool of three applicants to forward to the IAS Advisory Committee. Applications are reviewed by the INSPECT Fellowship Advisory Committee in February and the selected finalist is forwarded to a host office for approval or decline. Placed Fellows are announced ≈ April 1. Fellows meet (virtually) ≈ May for Orientation/Training prior to service with their host agency.

What are the selection criteria for this Fellowship?

Fellow selection based on. but not limited to:

- Interest in policy practices and procedures at the state-level, particularly in Indiana
- Capacity to provide nonpartisan, objective, non-biased information to state personnel
- Professionalism, maturity, curiosity, initiative, creativity, leadership, and team-work skills
- Initiative and ability to work independently on a variety of tasks
- Excellence in written and oral communication, particularly in breaking down complex technical information for a general audience
- Academic fit and interest with the host offices