HOSTED BY THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

INSPECT Fellowship

Indiana Science Policy: Educate, Collaborate, Transform

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Indiana Science Policy: Educate, Collaborate, Transform (INSPECT) Fellowship is a 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 at one of our Partner Universities (University of Notre Dame, Ball State University, IU-Indianapolis, IU-Bloomington) 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 through mid-August) for current graduate students that places Fellows in an executive branch agency host office within 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 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. **There is no assurance that fellowship placements and efforts will match the applicant's scholarly interests.** Potential host offices include but are not limited to the following topics: Earth sciences, life sciences, agriculture & conservation, education & workforce, public health, technology & engineering, energy & transportation, and economics & finance.

ELIGIBILITY

INSPECT Fellows must be current graduate (Masters or Doctoral) students in a STEM-related field or public-policy oriented program. 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 within a Partner University and be able to work full-time with their host agency 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 pages max)
- Recommendation letters (2)
- Personal statement
- Statement on science policy in Indiana
- Optional 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will my role be if selected as an 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 providing scientific background, preparing targeted policy or legislative drafts, or compiling technical information. **There is no assurance that fellowship placements and efforts will match the applicant's scholarly interests.**

Who administers this fellowship?

Selected Fellows will be supervised by mentor(s) in the host agency placement. The fellowship program is administered by 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.

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). Prior to the application deadline, virtual information sessions will be offered to interested applicants. University partners select 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 is 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 teamwork 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
- Interest and academic fit with potential host offices