

2022 NC STEM Policy Fellowships Request for Applications



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North Carolina Sea Grant is accepting applications for the 2022 NC STEM Policy Fellowship until 5 p.m. on March 28. The fellowships provide graduate students from North Carolina colleges and universities with opportunities to serve full-time for a year in high-level state government offices, focusing on policy topics related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Sea Grant continues to partner with the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and host offices to provide funding for the NC STEM Policy Fellowship program, which enters its third year. Five placement options are available for the term starting in August 2022. (See the host office list below.)

“These fellows gain valuable real-world experience and professional development opportunities while working in host offices engaged in STEM policymaking,” says Susan White, North Carolina Sea Grant’s executive director. “Five host offices also benefit by gaining access to the best science and policy graduate students available to help make mission-critical decisions.”

The fellowship program strongly encourages proposals from graduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and/or from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities, as well as from graduate students who can demonstrate how their interests can benefit underserved and underrepresented communities. (For information on North Carolina Sea Grant’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility, please visit: go.ncsu.edu/DEIJA.)

Each fellowship includes a competitive stipend, as well as reimbursement for health insurance, associated travel, and training opportunities, totaling \$54,500 for the year. In addition, professional development and networking opportunities for fellows are available through a partnership with Sigma Xi, the international honor society of science and engineering, starting with a policy “bootcamp” in summer 2022.

“With these fellowships, North Carolina benefits by retaining the great talent that our state’s universities produce,” says John Fear, North Carolina Sea Grant’s deputy director.

North Carolina’s program is modeled after successful national-level fellowships — the National Sea

Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship — as well as the California Council on Science and Technology's Science Fellows Program.

See application requirements and other details below and at go.ncsu.edu/stem-fellows.

NC STEM Policy Fellowship Host Offices 2022

NC Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office:

The NC Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office is dedicated to ensuring a sustainable energy future for the citizens of North Carolina. The NC STEM Policy Fellow previously focused on three broad areas: 1) Workforce Development; 2) Resilience Work; and 3) Energy Policy Support in support of priority recommendations produced in response to Executive Order 80. Possible fellow activities could include continued development of the Clean Energy (CE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) apprenticeship program; integration of climate adaptation and resilience planning into cabinet agency policies, programs, and operations, as outlined in the North Carolina Climate Risk and Assessment and Resilience Plan; and the opportunity to engage with the Energy Policy Council. The Energy Policy Council advises the governor and General Assembly on legislation and rulemaking that addresses domestic energy exploration, protects the environment and encourages economic development

NC Biotechnology Center:

The NC Biotechnology Center's vision is to accelerate life sciences technology-based economic development through innovation, commercialization, education and business growth. The NC STEM Policy Fellow will support life sciences companies considering a North Carolina expansion in partnership with the NC Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). The fellow will gain expertise in factors that influence life sciences growth in NC through company research, including developing presentations highlighting relevant NC resources, and writing summary documents. The fellow will also support the next iteration of the NC Biotech Window on the Workplace study, which focuses on current and future demographics of the biopharma manufacturing workforce in NC, to be published in 2022. Additionally, the fellowship includes ample networking opportunities with local organizations including NC BIO, training institutions across the state, and many others who are working to advance North Carolina's life sciences community.

NC-Department of Commerce, Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation:

The mission of the Office of Science, Technology & Innovation (OSTI) at the North Carolina Department of Commerce is to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of all North Carolinians through advancing science, technology, and innovation. The North Carolina STEM Policy Fellow previously assisted the OSTI with advancing science, technology, and innovation through targeted programmatic activities and through the development of policy suggestions. The fellow may also have the opportunity to engage with the Board for Science, Technology and Innovation (BSTI). The BSTI is a 25-member appointed Board that

delivers policy suggestions on science, technology, and innovation to the NC Governor and General Assembly.

NC Department of Public Safety, Office of Recovery and Resiliency:

The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) was established to lead the state's efforts in rebuilding smarter and stronger following natural disasters. NCORR focuses on long-term disaster recovery and resilience. The NC STEM Policy Fellow will have the opportunity to engage across the climate resilience portion of NCORR's mission. Resilience activities at NCORR include advising on state policy, supporting interagency collaboration, and providing technical assistance to communities. The Fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to multiple projects within the resilience portfolio as appropriate based on the fellow's skills, experiences, and interests.

NC Department of Transportation, Office of the Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs:

The NC Department of Transportation's mission is: connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina. The NC STEM Policy Fellow will be placed at the N.C. Department of Transportation, supporting the Deputy Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs. The fellow will gain expertise in assessing the challenges and opportunities associated with decarbonization of the transportation sector. Areas of work may include (but are not limited to) assistance with policy development and recommendations to support the NC Clean Transportation Plan and other transportation related goals associated with Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 246.

Eligibility for the 2021-22 NC STEM Policy Fellowship:

- Applicants must have an interest in state and national policy decisions on STEM topics.
- Each applicant must receive a master's or doctoral degree no later than Dec. 31, 2022, and no earlier than July 31, 2021.
- Applicants must receive degrees in STEM or in a STEM-related discipline through one of North Carolina's accredited public or private institutes of higher education.
- Students are eligible regardless of nationality. Domestic and international students may apply.

Application Requirements

The following materials are required for application submission via the **North Carolina eSeaGrant** portal: go.ncsu.edu/ncesg

- Resume/Curriculum Vitae (not to exceed two pages).
- A career-goal statement that emphasizes the applicant's expectations for the fellowship experience as it relates to future career endeavors (1,000 words or fewer using 12-point font and 1-inch margins).
- Two letters of recommendation, including one from an academic mentor.
- Copies of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

Deadline: Completed applications, including recommendation letters, are due by 5 p.m. on Monday March 28, 2022 via the online portal.