The New York State Senate Fellowships

Established 1965

Graduate/Post-Graduate/Mid-Career

Legislative Fellowships (13)

Memorial Fellowships

Richard J. Roth Journalism Fellowship (1) • Richard A. Wiebe Public Service Fellowship (1) • James L. Biggane Fellowship in Finance (1)

Thursday, September 5, 2019 through Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Application deadline is Friday, April 26, 2019. Each year there are approximately 16 fellowships.

All Senate fellowships are on-site in Albany, New York. Fellowships are not financial aid for academic work, on-campus or classroom study. Housing in Albany is the responsibility of the Fellow.

A Grant-in-Study Stipend is awarded — $33,000 — distributed in biweekly installments prorated from the first day to the last day of enrollment. Some benefit options are available (health, dental, vision, life insurance, and the New York State retirement program).

Applications from a wide range of interests and disciplines are welcome and encouraged. Training in the history/politics/government of New York State is not required. Placements are usually to the office of an elected member of the Senate or to a central staff office.

After the program ends, Fellows may sometimes be hired to full employee status in the Senate. A great number of former Fellows are today employees of the Senate, the Assembly, the Executive Chamber, state agencies, associations, and lobbying firms.
Fellowship Overview
Legislative Fellowships, 
Roth Fellowship, Wiebe Fellowship, Biggane Fellowship

Basic Eligibility
In most cases, Fellows must be full-time matriculated graduate students in an accredited university during the immediate previous spring and fall semesters.

Fellowships are open to all Academic Majors. The Biggane Fellow may be a person in mid-career at the time of application. Biggane applicants need not be currently enrolled in graduate-level study, but must have previous graduate-level experience.

Fellows are not Senate employees for the purpose of accruing sick leave, vacation time or personal leave, but are instead enrollees in specifically established and sponsored programs under the authority of the Secretary of the Senate and the administration of the Student Programs Office. For purposes of Public Officers Law Sections 73 and 74 only, Senate Fellows are considered employees. Consequently, Senate Fellows are strictly prohibited from engaging in direct lobbying activities before the State Legislature within a period of two years after the termination of their legislative service, as pursuant to Section 73 (8)(a)(iii) of the Public Officers Law.

Writing Samples
The first writing sample is an essay. Any topic is acceptable. The essay may be a paper or portion of a paper previously prepared for a class. The essay should be between 6-10 pages (double-spaced, single-sided, 8.5 x 11).

The second writing sample is to be a policy proposal (single-spaced, one page).

The third writing sample is to be a rebuttal of your policy proposal (single-spaced, one page).
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**Interviews and Selection**

Interviews will be scheduled during the months of May and June and selections determined in July.

**Office Placement**

All office placements are arranged by the Office of Student Programs only. Each Fellow is assigned to a specific office and is expected to function as a regular staff member. While most placements are to the office of an elected member, the Roth, Wiebe, and Biggane placements are made to central staff offices rather than the office of an elected member. The Roth placement is made to the Senate Majority Press Office, the Wiebe placement to the Majority Counsel/Program Services Office, and the Biggane placement to the Senate Finance Committee.

Concurrent employment, on-campus obligations, and class work that may conflict with fellowship commitments are prohibited. Upon arrival in September, Fellows participate in an orientation program in addition to regularly scheduled informational forums.

Senate Fellows are required to work a minimum of 35 hours per week or 70 hours per biweekly pay period. Due to the nature of legislative work, longer hours may sometimes be necessary and are to be expected during some portions of the Fellowship Program. Additionally, Senate Fellows must work through the last scheduled date of the Program in order to receive the full and timely payment of their final biweekly stipend check.
Application Checklist

Applicants must submit a complete application, including the following:

- Application must be made on the Official Application Form. Applications are not complete until the form and originals of all supporting materials are received and on file in the Office of Student Programs.
- Coursework-in-progress list signed by campus official (if not on transcript)
- Call Office of Student Programs to indicate your intent to apply
- Policy Proposal
- Rebuttal of Policy Proposal
- Statement of Purpose
- Writing Sample Essay
- Resume or CV
- All official transcripts (graduate and undergraduate). Applicants should order official confidential transcripts from their academic institution early, to be mailed directly to the Office of Student Programs.
- Three letters of reference from persons familiar with the applicant’s character, academic and/or professional abilities (at least two from faculty members).

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