Legis Congressional Fellowship

Join a renowned community on Capitol Hill and engage in the policymaking process.
The Legis Congressional Fellowship (Legis Fellowship) provides an exceptional opportunity for experiential learning. While working on Capitol Hill, you will gain practical congressional insight and return to your organization with a clear and comprehensive understanding of the legislative policymaking process. In addition, you will create an enduring network of valuable contacts on Capitol Hill and throughout many federal agencies—a broad community of policy entrepreneurs.

What You Receive

- A unique opportunity to spend an extended period of time on Capitol Hill, gaining an insider’s understanding of the legislative process
- Exceptional networking opportunities with other senior federal and corporate executives
- Lasting relationships with members of Congress and congressional staff
- Enhanced understanding of political pressures in Congress
- Opportunities to promote a positive opinion of your home agency with Congress
- Ability to position your agency to more productively engage with Congress

From Many, One

For more than 20 years, the Brookings Executive Education (BEE) Legis Fellowship has been renowned for the diversity of participants it attracts—from government managers to private-sector executives to military officers. Moreover, the Legis Fellowship fosters a strong alumni network in which Legis fellows assist and advise one another year after year, creating a community of policy entrepreneurs across government.

One Legis fellow from the Department of Defense describes the experience: “What struck me was the ability to interact with a whole lot of members of the federal workforce. Not only with DOD folks, but folks from other agencies … I gained perspective on how others tackle problems in their own work environments.”

For public-sector managers, Legis is an opportunity to acquire an in-depth understanding of the legislative process that will help your agency interact more effectively with Congress and build your résumé with a unique cross-branch fellowship. Corporate executives gain a more thorough knowledge of congressional affairs and public policy to strengthen their companies’ relationships with policymakers in Washington, D.C.
Benefits and Opportunities

Co-led by former Congressman Bob Carr, D-MI, and BEE senior staff, the Legis Fellowship includes a workshop on résumé writing and a job fair. In addition, Legis fellows are invited to Brookings Briefings, discussions with leading experts on priority policy issues.

Legis fellows also have the opportunity to take advantage of leadership and policy courses:

- Attend two free BEE courses (residential courses not included), if taken within a year of the fellowship’s completion.
- Receive a 33% tuition reduction for any two BEE courses (residential courses not included) taken within two years of the fellowship’s completion.
- Receive eight days of credit toward the 20 required days to earn a Certificate in Public Leadership. Legis fellows will receive credit for the Inside Congress and The Insider's Legs and Regs requirements of the Certificate in Policy Strategy.

Fellowship Term

Spend 7 or 12 months working in the office of a member of Congress or serving on the staff of a committee in the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives, becoming part of the action on Capitol Hill. Prior to your service on the Hill, you will attend an intensive two-week orientation in Washington, D.C., which will prepare you for your congressional assignment by offering keen insights into the legislative and congressional decision-making processes.

Seven months:
January 5, 2015–July 31, 2015
Applications due October 31, 2014
Tuition: $4,525

Full year:
January 5, 2015–December 18, 2015
Applications due October 31, 2014
Tuition: $6,135

For more information on becoming a Legis fellow, email legis@brookings.edu or call 800-925-5730.

Breadth of Experience

By working for members of Congress in their offices and on congressional committees, Legis fellows gain practical insight into congressional decision making, as they learn the policymaking process from a unique perspective. Legis fellows have opportunities to:

- Draft legislation, speeches, and floor statements
- Brief members from both houses of Congress
- Serve as constituent liaisons
- Plan and participate in the committee hearing process
Eligibility and Application

An application is required to become a BEE Legis fellow. The application form is available on the BEE website at www.brookings.edu/Legis. Applicants must have a significant interest in legislative policy and be able to work independently. Government candidates must have a minimum grade level of GS-13. Private-sector candidates should have a minimum of seven years of management experience.

Application Checklist

In order for your application to be considered, it must contain all of the following:

- A completed application form, available at www.brookings.edu/Legis
- A current, detailed résumé
- An assessment/recommendation by your supervisor or Agency Executive Resource Board that addresses your executive potential and need for this training
- A statement describing your need for training, the relevance of this training to your career goals, and how the fellowship will be used by your agency
- For corporate candidates only: complete tuition billing information
- For government candidates only: a completed, approved, and signed training form, including a valid billing address and purchase order number (SF182, DD1556, HHS350, or other approved training form)

Past Legis fellows have served in high-profile offices on both sides of the political discussion. Our host offices are from all facets of the political spectrum. Offices include, among others:

- Rep. Bob Aderholt (R-AL)
- Rep. Charles Boustony Jr. (R-LA)
- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN)
- Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
- Senate Minority Whip
- Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)
- Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
- Senate Majority Whip
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
- Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
- House Minority Whip
- Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
- Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI)
- Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)
- Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)
- Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
- House Majority Leader
- Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC)
- Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)
- Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)
- Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)
- Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA)
- Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
- Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- House Appropriations Committee
- Senate Homeland Security Committee
- Senate Budget Committee
- Senate Finance Committee
- House Foreign Affairs Committee
- House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

About Brookings Executive Education

At BEE, we look to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln to exemplify our mission: to be the premier provider of executive education for those engaged in and with government. Our leadership and policy courses provide value while enhancing understanding for participants and their organizations to improve teams, share learning, and spark innovation. Our goal is to support the men and women who serve our country in their quest for leadership excellence. For more information about BEE courses and credentials, review our 2014–15 Course Catalog, visit www.brookings.edu/ExecEd, or spend some time on the BEE YouTube channel. Register at registrar@brookings.edu or 800-925-5730.