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Washington
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BROOKINGS
Executive Education

LEGIS Fellowship



“Brookings Executive Education was the premier way for me to go.”

2017 FELLOWS ASSIGNMENTS

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
 Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
 Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)
 Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
 Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
 Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
 Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
 Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)
 Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)
 Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
 Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
 Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
 Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
 House Appropriations Committee
 Senate Homeland Security Committee
 Senate Budget Committee
 Senate Finance Committee
 House Foreign Affairs Committee

Leveraging Capitol Hill Experience

In 2013, Mark Simakovsky came to Capitol Hill to work for Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) as a LEGIS fellow. Simakovsky, Eurasia and NATO strategy adviser for the U.S. Department of Defense, wanted to better understand the role Congress plays in the United States’ ability to navigate global challenges.

“Brookings Executive Education was the premier way for me to go,” he says.

During the 12-month fellowship, Simakovsky strengthened his reputation as a “known interlocutor” on U.S. defense policy and as a regional expert on Russia and Eurasia. He engaged with members of the U.S. Senate Armed Services and U.S. Senate Foreign Relations committees and established relationships with important decision makers.

Simakovsky leveraged his Hill experience to help the Pentagon craft – and shepherd through Congress – the billion-dollar European Reassurance Initiative. This U.S. response to Russia’s 2014 invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea supported U.S. allies and partners threatened by Russia aggression.

Simakovsky now is a vice president for Beacon Global Strategies, a private-sector advisory firm; nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center; and term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He continues to use the knowledge and network he acquired during the fellowship to help BGS clients meet their business objectives.

LEGIS Fellowship Program

Think of a LEGIS Fellowship as the gold standard for Capitol Hill experience.

During the Brookings Executive Education program, you spend months immersed in legislative activity – working with legislators and their staffs, participating in committee hearings, briefing members of Congress, drafting legislation, and serving as a constituent liaison.

Equally important, you connect with key decision makers and powerbrokers, learn about policy development, and join a national network of policy entrepreneurs.

“As a LEGIS fellow, you engage in the legislative process from the inside,” says former Rep. Bob Carr (D-MI), an executive in residence and senior adviser for the program. “Consequently, you gain an understanding of the strengths and limits of Congress and the impact of politics and procedure on policymaking. You also experience a quantum leap in networking, with access to legislators, congressional staff members, lobbyists and citizens from across the country.

“These relationships are crucial. You learn who your agencies can work with going forward, who they can pitch their case to – on both sides of the aisle.”

On the other side of the equation, you become an indispensable subject-matter expert for legislators. Your perspectives on critical issues provide insights that congressional staffers, as generalists, may not be able to supply.

“The cross-pollination of knowledge is an extremely beneficial part of your fellowship,” says Executive in Residence and former Rep. Charles Boustany Jr. (R-LA). “You dive deeply into specific areas of interest and receive an invaluable education. At the same time, you mentor young staff members, which is a tremendous help to short-staffed, underbudgeted congressional offices that don’t have the funds for senior-level employees.

“When you return from your fellowship, you educate your agency on matters that affect its ability to execute its objectives, like congressional oversight. Realistic, implementable policy is a two-way street. It comes from informed interactions between the executive and legislative branches of government.”

For more than 20 years, the program has attracted professionals from government agencies, businesses and the nonprofit sector. The program begins with an in-depth, eight-day orientation that explains legislative mechanics. It also includes a job fair that helps you select your Capitol Hill assignment.

Brookings Executive Education

Brookings Executive Education is a partnership between the Brookings Institution and Washington University in St. Louis. Brookings Executive Education’s mission is to develop leaders who have a strong value system and think on a global scale; deliver groundbreaking, research-based content that advances government, business and society; and provide an experiential learning platform that teaches professionals how to lead change. Courses are taught by Olin Business School faculty, Brookings Institution scholars, and former U.S. government officials and military officers.





“The access to information was remarkable.”

An Expert Providing Expertise

The daughter of Capitol Hill staffers, Florie Knauf grew up in Washington, D.C. She joined the Department of Energy’s Office of the General Counsel after she graduated from law school in 2007.

In 2014, Knauf was employed by the DOE’s Office of Nonproliferation and Arms Control and was ready to expand her impact and scope. She applied and was accepted to the LEGIS Fellowship program. During the program orientation, she developed an instant rapport with then Rep. Charles Boustany Jr., from Louisiana’s 3rd Congressional District, and went to work in his office.

“The access to information was remarkable,” Knauf says. “For 14 months, I kept my eyes and ears open to figure out all the puzzle pieces and moving parts on the Hill.”

Boustany chaired a weekly working session on China, a “China 101” that Knauf led. During her fellowship, she also served as co-director of the U.S. House of Representative’s U.S.-China Working Group (to further cooperation between the two countries) and staffed a congressional delegation to China with four members of Congress.

Knauf says the fellowship broadened her industry expertise. In addition, the relationships she established “added value to DOE’s opening of the China Center of Excellence for nuclear security, a Nuclear Security Summit deliverable.”

Knauf now manages external affairs and overall marketing efforts for Centrus Energy Corp., a global enriched-uranium-fuel supplier.

Program Benefits

- Insider’s knowledge of the legislative process
- Exceptional networking opportunities with senior-level federal officials
- Lasting relationships with members of Congress and congressional staff
- Enhanced agency engagements with Congress
- Strong alumni network
- Community of policy entrepreneurs

Fellowship Term

You can spend seven or 12 months on Capitol Hill, depending on your professional interests, agency objectives and agency workload.

Orientation

Date: Jan. 2-11, 2019

Seven-month Fellowship

Date: Jan. 2-Aug. 2, 2019

Early application date: Sept. 7, 2018

Application due: Oct. 26, 2018

Tuition: \$4,525

Full-year Fellowship

Date: Jan. 2-Dec. 13, 2019

Early application date: Sept. 7, 2018

Application due: Oct. 26, 2018

Tuition: \$6,135

Note: You can apply class credit from the Inside Congress and Insider’s Budget Process courses to the Certificate in Policy Strategy and/or the two credit hours from these courses to a Master of Science in Leadership degree.

For more information on the program, contact Assistant Dean Ian Dubin at idubin@brookings.edu or 202-797-6319.

Eligibility and Application

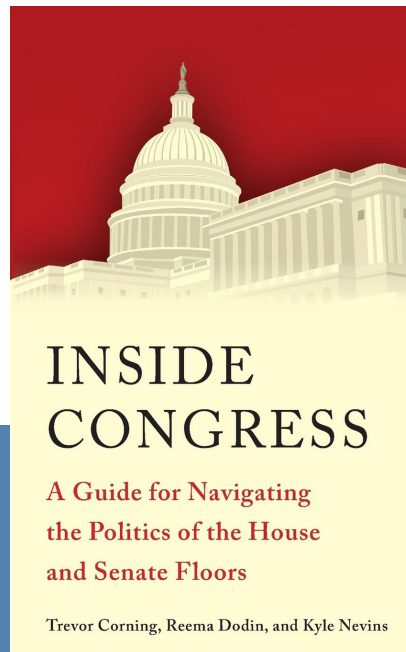
The LEGIS Fellowship program is competitive. To be eligible for the program, you must have at least a GS-13 grade level. (Private-sector candidates should have a minimum of seven years of management experience.)

You also must have a significant interest in legislative policy and be able to work independently. To apply, complete and submit the application form available at <https://www.brookings.edu/fellowships-programs/legis/>.

Application Checklist

Before you submit your application, check to make sure it contains all of the following:

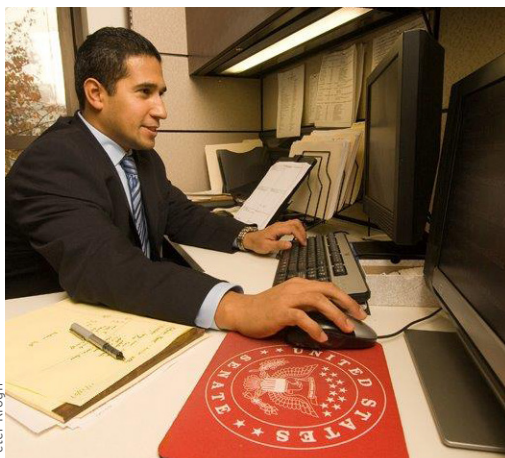
- Your completed application form
- An up-to-date, detailed resume
- An assessment or recommendation from your supervisor or your agency's Executive Resources Board that addresses your potential and what you would bring to the fellowship
- A statement describing how the fellowship fits your career goals and the value it would create for your agency
- A completed, approved and signed training form (SF182, DD1556 or HHS350) that includes a valid billing address and purchase-order number (government candidates)
- Complete tuition billing information (private-sector candidates)



Learn the ins and outs of working on Capitol Hill.

Published in 2017, "Inside Congress" explains the unique rules and procedures of the House and Senate – legislative processes that have evolved over the past 200 years. Consider the 60-page book your resource for little-known congressional procedures, how a proposed policy becomes a law and the impact of party politics on legislation.

<https://www.brookings.edu/book/inside-congress-a-guide-for-navigating-the-politics-of-the-house-and-senate-floors/>



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