Professional Science & Engineering Society Fellows Program

Where Diplomacy & Technology Engage...
How the Professional Fellow

The Society determines the selection process, including application deadlines. Typically, the annual selection process starts with an application deadlines. Finalists are interviewed by the committee.

Once selected, the Fellow coordinates with the State Department for the process of obtaining a security clearance required prior to entry into the Foreign Service. Finalists are also interviewed by the State Department ethics clearance. This review is necessary to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Several months in advance of the start date, the Fellow is given a list of potential placements. Placements are based upon mutual agreement of the Fellow and the State Department. The placement process.

To learn more about the Professional Science and Engineering Fellows Program, contact the State Department Adviser at stas@state.gov or 202-647-8725. www.state.gov/g/sta-fellows-

Those interested in applying are encouraged to carefully review the application process.

AIP — For additional information, please contact the AIP Fellowships Program at www.aip.org/gov/fellowships/

IEEE-USA — For additional information, please contact Eric Winslow at swinslow@ieee.org

"We still have far too few officers with scientific backgrounds in the Foreign Service. The National Academies and others in the scientific community, including the Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, the American Institute of Physics, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, have joined our ranks... and they are forward to welcoming more scientists on to their staffs as Foreign Service Officers or as career Foreign Service Officers.

— Secretary of State Colin Powell, speech
The Society Fellows Program, which is managed by the U.S. State Department Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary (STAS), provides opportunities for Scientists and Engineers to work with the U.S. Department of State on science-specific policy issues. Fellows work with the Department's mission in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The application process for the Society Fellows Program involves submitting a completed application to the Society Fellows Program Coordinator at scipolicyfellows@aip.org or (301) 209-3090. After submitting an application, the Society Fellows Program Coordinator will review the guidance on each Society's website.

For more information, contact the Fellowship Coordinator at scipolicyfellows@aip.org or (301) 209-3090.

We encourage applications from individuals with diverse scientific backgrounds, but thanks to the scientific community such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Institute of Physics, a small group of scientific Fellows are making a real difference. And we look to our State Department team, either as Fellows or Civil Service Officers."

— to the National Academy of Sciences
The United States Department of State Professional Science and Engineering Society Fellows Program seeks bright, inquisitive scientists and engineers with an interest in policy and international affairs to offer their services to further the mission of the Department. Fellows contribute their science and technology expertise and their voices to the policymaking process by working directly in an office of the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Agency for International Development. In turn, Fellows benefit from a remarkable learning experience in foreign policy.

The Professional S&E Fellows program was established in 2001 by the Science and Technology Adviser (STAS) in support of the goal of building the science, engineering and technology expertise of the Department. Fellows are members of the sponsoring societies, which currently include the American Institute of Physics (AIP) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). Other science, technology and engineering associations are consulting with STAS on joining the program. The Fellowships are conducted under the umbrella of the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships. This connects Fellows to a broad network of other Fellows from diverse backgrounds and disciplines and serving in a multitude of Executive Branch agencies and the Congress, which greatly enhances the experience.

"The problems of today and tomorrow are global problems, and addressing them effectively will require all the scientific knowledge and technological sophistication we can muster — together with the wisdom and will to bridge the world's political and cultural divides."

Dr. Nina Fedoroff was appointed by Secretary Rice in 2007 as the third Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State. In September 2007, she was named to serve concurrently as Adviser to the Administrator of USAID.
The U.S. Department of State

The U.S. Department of State is the nation's lead foreign affairs agency, and the U.S. Agency for International Development is the lead agency for extending U.S. foreign development assistance. These agencies serve key roles in maintaining the four pillars of our nation's security — defense, diplomacy, development, and intelligence. The State Department also supports the foreign affairs activities of other U.S. Government entities, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice; and the National Science Foundation, among many others.

Science and technology considerations underlie, to a greater or lesser degree, many of the problems and issues on the world stage, or we must rely on science and engineering to solve them. Thus an understanding of science and technology is essential to effectively address these issues and to formulate and implement government policies and programs.

The opportunities for scientists, engineers and technologists are many. From trade issues on technology products; to policies on treaties and negotiations that address counterterrorism, environmental protection, and biotechnology; to protecting and assisting U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad; to assisting diplomats in subduing the technology learning curve, the Professional Science and Engineering Society Fellows find they are well-placed to contribute their expertise while working in policymaking or program management on issues that matter.

www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/99494.htm
Fellows Share Experiences

The Professional Society Fellow is a public-spirited individual who has achieved significant expertise in his or her professional field and is ready and eager to apply that knowledge in support of national and global interests. Of course the issues and problems of international affairs encompass not only science, engineering and technology considerations, but a host of other disciplines, including economics, politics, military affairs, geography, religion, and culture. Fellows must be comfortable engaging in this highly multi-disciplinary environment, ready to learn from others as well as sharing their own expertise.

Since the inception of the program, Fellows have been attracted to the needs of the State Department in many areas, including understanding the technicalities of nuclear nonproliferation, the power of satellite imaging, employing energy resources, enhancing technological competitiveness, and extending the use of computer and Internet-related technologies in support of the Department’s worldwide presence.

Fellows in this program may be at any career stage, from postdoc to mid-career or near retirement. The assignments, or “portfolios,” are designed through a consultation that considers the expertise and interests of the Fellow, and the opportunities and needs of the host office. Professional Society Fellows typically have assignments in which they serve the functional role of a foreign affairs officer, being given a portfolio of substantive, policy-oriented responsibilities that are integral to the work of the host office. Alternatively, some Fellows have taken assignments in which they are more focused on the development and application of technical systems. The following examples—one who has completed his fellowship and two who have just begun—typify the Professional Engineering and Science Society Fellows Program.

STEVE CZUCHLEWSKI, 2006 IEEE-USA Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow: A civic-minded physicist, now retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos, New Mexico), Steve Czuchlewski has always been mindful of the public well-spring that funded much of his training and research. It was this awareness that led him to apply to IEEE-USA to spend his first year of retirement serving at the U.S. State Department as the 2006 Fellow.

Czuchlewski chose a nonproliferation assignment within the Bureau of Europe and Eurasian Affairs (EUR). Since much of the U.S. international collaboration in nuclear nonproliferation is led by the Department of Energy (DOE) or the Department of Defense (DOD), this was a good match to his Los Alamos career. One of his major responsibilities was to ensure that U.S. embassies and their host governments were fully informed on nonproliferation projects that were about to be conducted with participation by US agencies. He represented the Department at nonproliferation meetings with DOE and DOD, and in interagency initiatives led by the National Security Council.

“My most interesting assignment was representing the Bureau in the development of a bilateral agreement with the Russian Federation to cooperate in technical areas pertaining to the peaceful uses of atomic energy (e.g., nuclear power reactors). In this capacity, I participated in a negotiating session with the Russian delegation.”

LUBNA RANA, 2008 AIP Fellow: A visiting scientist at University of Maryland, Lubna Rana has had several papers on particle theory published. She is also engaged in developing new, innovative programs for Goddard Space Flight Center’s Office of Higher Education. Rana created and directs the NASA lecture series Eyes on the Sky. Despite this highly engaging and rewarding work, Rana was thrilled to be selected as a Fellow. She says, “I never even imagined that I would have the opportunity to channel my interests [in international relations] into something real. When I learned of the AIP Fellowship program, it was the
New Science & Engineering Fellows are Introduced to the U.S. Department of State

perfect opportunity for me to bridge my two passions: physics and international affairs.”

Because of her interest in nonproliferation, Rana chose an assignment with the Bureau for International Security and Nonproliferation’s Office of Regional Affairs after interviews in 10 offices. For her, the experience at State so far has been an eye-opener about how foreign policy works. “Life at State is so vastly different from working in academia. I almost feel like it’s a new me I am dealing with!”

WILLIAM H. BEHN, 2008 IEEE-USA Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow: William H. Behn sought a fellowship at the State Department because of a long-standing interest in public policy and international affairs that surfaced while he was a graduate student in engineering and economics at Stanford University, and as a consultant to the RAND Corporation. He says: “It is clear that public policy has a major impact on people’s lives and, in particular, poorer areas and less developed countries.”

While following this interest, he also gained extensive industry experience at Advanced Micro Devices and Hewlett Packard in technology planning and industry alliances.

Selected by IEEE-USA to be the 2008 Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow, Behn had already demonstrated his competency and enthusiasm while the 2007 IEEE-USA Congressional Fellow on the staff of the House Science and Technology Committee.

Employing his engineering, diplomatic and scientific training, Behn interviewed with five major State Department bureaus before signing on as Senior Science Advisor, East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP), Office of Regional and Security Policy Affairs, which provides direction for U.S. policies on multi-country issues in the region. Specifically, Bill will be responsible for the Plan of Action for the Enhanced ASEAN-U.S. Partnership, which was signed by the Secretary in July 2006 and guides U.S. engagement with this important regional organization.

During his year-long tenure at State, Bill also expects to actively contribute to science and technology based public diplomacy within the region.
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AIP

For additional information, please contact the AIP Fellowship Coordinator

scipolicyfellows@aip.org or (301) 209-3090.

www.aip.org/gov/fellowships/

IEEE-USA

For additional information, please contact Erica Wissolik

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www.ieeeusa.org/policy/govfel/default.asp