American Society for Nutrition
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ASN Science Policy Fellowship: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ASN Science Policy Fellowship?
The ASN Science Policy Fellowship is a one-year Fellowship that provides students and early-career nutrition scientists and health professionals with an opportunity to learn about science policy, gain experience engaging with policymakers and federal agencies, and build relationships with mentors and other professionals working in science and policy.

What is the timeframe for the ASN Science Policy Fellowship?
The ASN Science Policy Fellowship runs from March 1 through February 28 each year. The Fellowship is conducted primarily remotely, with select in-person activities, including the NUTRITION annual meeting and activities in Washington, D.C.

Is the Fellowship full time or part time?
The ASN Science Policy Fellowship is not a full-time position. It is a flexible, part-time professional development experience that Fellows complete alongside their academic or professional responsibilities.

What time commitment is required for the Fellowship?
The Fellowship is designed to be flexible enough to accommodate Fellows' academic or professional responsibilities.

The Fellowship generally requires two hours or less per month, although the time commitment may be greater during busier periods, such as the NUTRITION annual meeting and Capitol Hill visits.

Fellows are ex officio members of the ASN Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy (CASP), which meets for approximately 90 minutes every other month. Fellows may also participate in monthly calls or meetings with the ASN Chief Science Policy Officer, mentors, federal agency staff, and others working in nutrition policy.

Fellows should be prepared to participate actively throughout the Fellowship and to complete assigned projects and other activities.

Is the Fellowship paid?
No. The ASN Science Policy Fellowship is an unpaid Fellowship based at the Fellow's home institution. ASN does not provide a stipend or honorarium.

Does ASN cover or reimburse expenses associated with Fellowship activities?
Yes. ASN covers registration and travel expenses associated with the NUTRITION annual meeting and the Fellowship's Washington, D.C., activities, including Capitol Hill visits. ASN also reimburses other travel expenses associated with these two activities.

Who is eligible to apply?
The ASN Science Policy Fellowship is open to ASN members in good standing who are studying or working in a field related to nutrition science, practice, or public health.

Eligible applicants include:

- Graduate students pursuing advanced studies, including master's, doctoral, and professional degrees
- ASN Early Career I members, generally those who are within five years of completing a terminal degree
- Postdoctoral trainees
- Medical interns

Individuals who have completed a doctorate or other terminal degree within the past five years may be eligible through ASN's Early Career I membership category.

Do I have to be an ASN member to apply?
Yes. Applicants must be an ASN member at the time of application. Information about ASN membership is available on the ASN membership webpage.

Are individuals in instructor-level faculty positions eligible to apply?
Eligibility depends on the individual's career stage. Faculty members who completed a doctorate or other terminal degree within the past five years may be eligible as ASN Early Career I members.

I am a citizen of another country. Am I eligible to apply?
Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, hold a U.S. green card, or be working in the United States during the Fellowship period. This requirement is related to the Capitol Hill visits portion of the Fellowship.

What are the expectations for Fellows during the fellowship?
Fellows are expected to actively participate in the Fellowship and engage in activities that provide practical experience in nutrition science policy. Expectations include:

- Participating as an ex officio member of the ASN Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy (CASP)

- Completing projects assigned by CASP, ASN staff, or mentors. Assignments may include writing articles or newsletter content, preparing comments on proposed regulations or guidance, developing educational materials for Capitol Hill visits or other advocacy activities, preparing presentations, or providing updates to the CASP.
- Participating in webinars, meetings, calls, and in-person activities
- Engaging with federal agency staff and other policy professionals
- Participating in Capitol Hill visits and ASN's NUTRITION annual meeting
- Developing individual goals for the Fellowship and working with mentors to develop longer-term career goals
- Meeting with mentors at least every other month, or more frequently as appropriate, and maintaining regular communication with mentors and the ASN Chief Science Policy Officer
- Participating in additional science policy or advocacy projects as opportunities arise
- Preparing a final Fellowship report

Activities may vary from year to year based on current nutrition policy priorities and available opportunities.

Will I have a mentor?
Yes. Fellows work with mentors during the Fellowship and are expected to maintain regular communication with them. Mentoring may include discussions about science policy, professional development, and longer-term career goals.

Can I apply if I cannot participate in every Fellowship activity?
Because active participation is an important part of the Fellowship, applicants should be able to commit the necessary time to Fellowship activities, including meetings, projects, mentoring activities, the NUTRITION annual meeting, and Washington, D.C., activities.

What materials are required for the application?
Applicants should submit all materials specified in the current Fellowship application by the application deadline. These may include the application form with statement of purpose, CV, and letters of recommendation. Incomplete or late application packets will not be reviewed.

Who reviews applications?
An evaluation panel of five ASN members reviews and assesses completed application packets. The panel includes members of the Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy, Early Career Nutrition Interest Group, and Student Interest Group.

Should my recommendation letters be sent separately by the authors, or should I include them in the complete application packet?
Please submit all application materials together as one complete application packet. The packet may be submitted as one PDF or as separate PDF files. All materials must be received by the application deadline.

How long can my statement of purpose be?
The statement of purpose may be up to 500 words.

It is acceptable to submit the statement of purpose as a separate PDF rather than including it on the application form. If you use the application form, the statement may extend onto a third page as long as it does not exceed the 500-word maximum.

How are the Fellows selected?
Applicants are reviewed based on factors such as the applicant's interest in science policy, academic and professional background, career goals, and potential to benefit from the Fellowship experience.

How many Fellows are selected each year?
ASN selects two Fellows each year for the one-year Fellowship.

When will applicants be notified about the selection decision?
Applicants will be notified of selection decisions by the end of January each year. Applicants for the 2027 class of Science Policy Fellows will be notified by January 29, 2027. Additional dates and deadlines for the 2027 application process are available on the ASN Science Policy Fellowship webpage.

What can I expect to gain from the Fellowship?
The Fellowship is designed to provide practical experience and professional development in nutrition science policy. Fellows have opportunities to learn how nutrition science informs public policy, engage with policymakers and federal agencies, participate in ASN policy activities, and build relationships with mentors and other professionals working in science policy.

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