



IEEE-USA Congressional Electric Grid Policy Fellowship Position Description

Background

IEEE-USA has maintained a Congressional Fellowship program for more than 50 years. The IEEE-USA Congressional Fellows are among the most respected in Washington. The program places skilled engineers, scientists, and other technical experts in Capitol Hill offices to provide Congress with world-class technical expertise.

IEEE-USA's Congressional Fellowship program draws candidates from engineering, science, technology, legal, and public policy disciplines. IEEE-USA maintains this program as part of its mission to serve the public good. Fellows do not provide any services to IEEE-USA, other than periodic reports designed to educate others about the fellowship experience.

This fellowship focuses on aiding Congress in addressing challenges facing the US electrical grid.

The power system is the backbone of our modern economy, but today it faces a host of new and existing challenges: aging infrastructure; rising electrical demand from data centers, domestic manufacturing, and electrification; increasing physical and cyber threats; and new technology integration.

Congress not only can create or alter programs and funding that impacts the power system, it also oversees key agencies — including the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency — that collectively help determine how our electrical grid is regulated, managed, expanded, and modernized.

The IEEE-USA Congressional Electric Grid Policy Fellowship seeks to augment the capabilities of congressional staff by selecting and placing qualified Fellows with relevant technical expertise in offices or on committees actively working on grid policy. This includes consideration of new and different ways to address the challenges listed above to ensure affordable and reliable electricity to power American homes and businesses.

The IEEE-USA Congressional Electric Grid Policy Fellowship is open to qualified IEEE members (membership can be acquired at the time of application) who are US citizens, and are chosen by a selection committee and confirmed by IEEE-USA's Board of Directors. Non-members may apply for membership prior to applying for fellowship positions at <https://www.ieee.org/membership/join>. Fellows will spend a year living and working full-time in Washington, DC as advisers to Congress.

Eligibility Requirements

The IEEE-USA Congressional Electric Grid Policy Fellowship is seeking those with significant (7+ years) of work experience (or the education equivalent) in the electric power industry or related fields. Work experience consists of professional employment and does not include graduate studies or student-related employment. A Master's degree in a relevant discipline will count as 3 years of work experience, and a Ph.D. or J.D. will count as 6 years. An applicant *must* possess their degree(s) prior to the start of the fellowship for the degree to count toward the work experience eligibility requirements.

Additional requirements include:

- IEEE membership (Membership can be acquired if fellowship is granted; applicants need not be electrical engineers.)
- A Bachelor's degree in an engineering, science, technology, legal, or public policy discipline.
- U.S. citizenship
- Ability to work full-time in person in Washington, DC, from September 2026 through August 2027.

Required Skills

- Expertise or experience in providing scientific, technical, and/or analytical support, which can be used to contribute to the advancement of the legislative objectives of the congressional host office to which the Fellow is assigned. Expertise or experience in one or more:
 - interstate transmission of electricity,
 - knowledge of planning, siting, and permitting issues relevant to electrical infrastructure,
 - electric generation,
 - system optimization and/or control,
 - large electric loads,
 - energy markets, and
 - grid physical and cybersecurity.
- Knowledge of energy research and development activities carried out by the Department of Energy.
- Ability to communicate clearly and succinctly both technical and non-technical information to non-technical audiences.
- Self-reliance, drive, and ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Experience successfully working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders and constituents on complex and/or politically sensitive issues.
- Sound judgment in presenting options to senior-level staff in an organization, which for Fellows means presenting to senior congressional staff and Members of Congress.
- Ability to efficiently and effectively manage tight deadlines and excel in a fast-paced work environment.

Preferred Skills

- Knowledge of the legislative process.
- Prior experience interacting with Capitol Hill or federal agency/federal Administration.

Responsibilities

A Fellow's specific responsibilities and duties will vary depending on their expertise and the needs of the host office, but will likely include but not be limited to:

- performing research and analysis and aiding in legislative drafting;
- preparing documents such as analytical reports, briefing materials, and other written materials related to area(s) of assignment;
- monitoring developments within assigned public policy portfolio, congressional committees, and on the chamber floor;
- forming and advancing legislative proposals;
- drafting, analyzing, and tracking amendments and legislation on the chamber floors;
- developing recommendations for votes and co-sponsorship of bills;
- preparing the host Member of Congress for hearings and meetings by writing background reports and memoranda, briefing them on current issues or legislation, and staffing them at committee hearings and executive sessions;
- writing talking points, floor statements, and remarks;
- representing the host Member of Congress in meetings with constituents, external stakeholders in the private and public sector, and relevant congressional staff; and
- liaising with committee and agency staff;

Note that Fellows will receive training on these tasks during orientation.

Primary contact for questions about the position:

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