



Smithsonian
SERIOUSLY AMAZING®

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The James Smithson Fellowship

A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY

The Signature Smithsonian Fellowship

The Smithsonian Institution has a unique role in American life. It is a steward of our nation's treasures, a generator of new knowledge through research, and a convener through public exhibitions, programs and educational resources.

Smithsonian leaders, scientists, curators and staff are experts in their fields. They are public spokespersons, quoted in the media, whose knowledge can shape the world we live in. They are scholars and leaders familiar with the halls of government in Washington, DC, who testify before lawmakers, work with executive branch agencies, or help inform programs and policies of national and global impact.

Started through the generosity of Paul Neely, past chair of the Smithsonian National Board, the James Smithsonian Fellowship Program offers an early career opportunity for scholars interested in gaining experience in both scholarship and policy through a Smithsonian lens. The fellowship provides an immersion experience working with Smithsonian scholars and relevant collections; in addition fellows develop an inside view of how policy is crafted and resource plans designed by participating in a well-planned program offering direct experience internally with Smithsonian leaders, and externally with leaders throughout the Washington, DC network.

The program is designed for a new generation of leaders, who seek a hands-on learning experience found nowhere else. Smithsonian Fellows:

- Conduct scholarly research at the Smithsonian
- Gain an understanding of the interface between research/scholarship and policy
- Gain experience in public policy matters and leadership skills



Science, Humanities, or the Arts?

The James Smithsonian Fellowship Program is open to post-doctoral students in the fields of science, the humanities and the arts. Fellows work in one of the subject areas defined by the Smithsonian strategic plan's four grand challenges: Understanding the American Experience, Valuing World Cultures, Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet, and Unlocking the Mysteries of the Universe. Specific fellowships are tailored to each individual's interests, field and talents. With such broad exposure, James Smithsonian Fellowship Program graduates secure, through personal experience, knowledge and understanding of how their work can contribute to decision-making in a broader context. This program is the Smithsonian's first to combine the best of the Institution's vast scholarship and collections and its unparalleled access to the nation's capital in one year-long learning experience.

Advisors at Hand

- James Smithsonian Fellows have two Smithsonian Advisors:
 - > A scholarly advisor is responsible for oversight of the scholarly plan.
 - > A policy advisor helps guide policy-related opportunities. Fellows are provided opportunities to work closely with Smithsonian leaders and to meet with key

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Smithsonian founder James Smithsonian gave his fortune "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

...at Hand

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administration staff to better understand how scholarship informs policy matters.

- The program provides opportunities for fellows to meet with leaders of all kinds. They may engage with leaders at government agencies; members of Congress; ambassadors; experts at nonprofit organizations and think-tanks, and others.
- Consideration also may be given to training programs and other social (networking) events offered within and outside the Smithsonian.
- The Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships provides administrative support including an orientation to the Smithsonian.

Is the Fellowship right for you?

Candidates are evaluated on four main criteria:

- The innovativeness of the proposed research project;
- How closely their career aspirations relate to the opportunity;
- Potential for leadership as evidenced by past performance
- The quality of their academic record.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and not more than five years beyond receipt of their Ph.D. degree by December 31. Candidates with professional degrees are also eligible to apply.



**OFFICE OF
FELLOWSHIPS
& INTERNSHIPS**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
JANUARY 15**

For full details and application requirements go to

**www.
si.edu/of**