

APAICS Fellowship FAQ

What is the selection process for APAICS Fellows?

For 2016 applicants: All applications must be submitted online by April 29, 2016. Applicants who have been selected for the first round of interviews will be notified by May 31, 2016. Skype interviews will be conducted within the first two weeks of June. Applications of those that make our final applicant pool will be submitted to potential office placements for consideration. Offices may hold a separate Skype/telephone interview. Fellows will be notified of their acceptance in July.

How many fellows are selected and how are placements determined?

APAICS identifies office placements. The number of fellows depends on program funding. APAICS identifies offices to place fellows.

What do you look for when selecting APAICS Fellows?

There are a variety of factors that come into play during the selection process. Selected Fellows embody APAICS' diversity goals, demonstrate a commitment to public service and possess the ability to succeed in fast-paced environments. Our fellows will be impressive academically, and more importantly, they will be politically aware, socially sensitive, committed to public service, and share a common vision about promoting Asian Pacific American representation in the political process.

What are the academic qualifications?

Applicants must have completed their Bachelor's degree before the start of the program. Applicants for the STEM Graduate Fellowship must have completed a Master's Degree or post-graduate degree in STEM-related fields with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to apply?

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have lawful permanent residence status at the time of application. Individuals who are seeking consideration under the "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA) policy must possess an Employment Authorization Document.

Is prior legislative experience required?

No, our Fellows come from a variety of professional backgrounds.

Is there a waitlist for the APAICS Fellowship?

No, applicants will be notified whether they've been selected for the interview process.

What is the stipend?

The monthly stipend is dependent on program, but the General Fellowship program is \$2,500 a month. Stipend amounts are non-negotiable.

Is house provided?

Housing assistance is not provided.

Are health benefits included?

We provide up to \$200 reimbursement for medical insurance.

What is the typical work-day like?

The typical work-day depends on the office that you are placed in. These are professional jobs and tasks are generally similar to that of a Legislative Assistant.

Does the program include other professional development activities?

There will be some programming for Fellows. We do not have weekly programming as we believe that much of the value of the program comes from the experience of working on the Hill.

Can I be a student during the fellowship?

No, this is a full-time job.

Do you have to be in DC to do the Fellowship?

Yes.

How long is the fellowship?

Fellowships are from 9-months to a year depending on the program. Fellows are expected to fulfill the duration of the fellowship stated in the contract.

I still have some time before I'm eligible to apply for the Fellowship, what can I do until then to strengthen my chances of becoming an APAICS Fellow?

APAICS recommends that you are active in activities that develop your leadership skills and professional achievements, along with volunteering and being involved in the community.

Who should I ask for a letter of recommendation?

You must submit TWO letters of recommendation. We encourage applicants to think about people who can speak authentically about them. The letters of recommendation provide APAICS with a more complete picture of your professional and academic interests and capabilities, so it is best to incorporate a variety of recommenders. Use your best judgment about who you think will provide a solid letter of recommendation.

If I'm not accepted, can I apply again in the future?

Yes. We encourage applicants who have not been accepted to do so.

Is it possible to defer my placement as an APAICS Fellow?

No. If you do not participate in the program for the term in which you were admitted, you must submit a new application to reapply for a different term.

What do Fellows do after the program is over?

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, past fellows have been hired on as full time staff in congressional offices, federal agencies, non-profit organizations. A few are currently serving in elected positions. APAICS does not guarantee automatic employment after completion of fellowship. Check out our website to see list of APAICS Congressional Fellowship Alumni: <http://apaics.org/congressional-fellowship-alumni/>