

The George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs
Congressional Nuclear Security Fellowship

Background

The Nuclear Security Working Group (NSWG) at the George Washington University (GW) is currently considering applicants for its 2018-2019 Fellowship in the U.S. Congress. By placing top scholars and policy practitioners in key House and Senate offices with nuclear security and foreign affairs portfolios, this highly selective Fellowship is designed to provide Congress with broad, nonpartisan expertise in national nuclear security, during the 2018 legislative session.

Program Overview

- Six Fellows will be placed in an equal number of Democratic and Republican offices in the Senate and House, to support core staff and help organize bipartisan outreach events under senior staff direction.
- Fellows will work full-time from January 2018 to January 2019.
- Fellows will be paid an annual stipend ranging from \$45,000 - \$80,000, depending on qualifications.¹
- GW will administer the Fellowship competition and select the finalists.
- Host offices will make final selections and decide office assignments.
- Fellows who accept the position must commit to a full year.

Principal Responsibilities

Fellows are expected to:

- Support the legislative and policy priorities of the host office, under the direction of senior staff members.
- Provide prompt, professional support for general activities, as directed.
- Collaborate with their House and Senate counterparts to organize nonpartisan briefings and events on timely national and nuclear security issues for Members and staff.
- Develop the host office's ties to the broader professional and policy community.

Management and Oversight

- GW will administer the Fellowship competition and all financial arrangements.
- Fellows will be assigned to House/Senate offices based on experience and professional compatibility.
- NSWG will provide support, as needed, for Fellow-initiated programs and/or events and outreach activities.

- Fellowships will be awarded in accordance with all relevant House/Senate ethics rules and contractual requirements.
- Applicants should be U.S. citizens and have no conflicts of interest impeding appointment to a NSWG Fellowship.²

Qualifications/Candidate Profile

Candidates will be selected on the basis of professional and academic experience, special expertise or technical skills, demonstrated interpersonal and communications skills, and references/recommendations.

- Qualified applicants will have several years of experience in a relevant professional field including:
 - International Affairs/Political Science/Security Studies
 - Economics
 - Defense Planning
 - Military Operations
 - An area of the physical sciences with policy relevance.
- Ideal candidates will have an advanced degree with 3-6 years of working experience in the government or policy sectors, command of national and nuclear security issues, strong communication skills, and excellent references.

Application and Selection Process

- Candidates must submit a cover letter, resume/CV, and [application form](#) (collecting basic information and references) to nswg@email.gwu.edu by 5:00 PM (EST) on October 31, 2017, using the subject line “Congressional Nuclear Security Fellowship – FULL NAME”.
- An interdisciplinary committee of GW faculty and Nuclear Security Working Group members will review applications and select a pool of finalists.
- GW staff will contact finalists by November 17, 2017, and work to schedule Hill interviews.
- Host offices will have the final say in the selection of Fellows and the offices in which Fellows are assigned.

Application form:	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdICVbrP-CSo1bEhMDBS33TSUMCfuRg9j2PjJ4J3z0f0uuAWg/viewform
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Building On Previous Successes

The program will build on the success of NSWG’s inaugural Congressional Nuclear Security Fellowship. Selected in 2017, three Fellows currently work with Reps. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE),

Pete Visclosky (D-IN), and Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), leaders of the Congressional Nuclear Security Working Group. The Fellows have supported their respective offices' operations with policy, technical, and organizational expertise, emerging as respected young leaders in the national/nuclear security community.

¹Fellows receive their stipends as independent contractors, and are not eligible for benefits (i.e. health insurance). Additionally, Fellows receive an annual travel allowance to facilitate attendance at professional meetings.

² Fellows may not be Federal employees or full time Federal contractors as of January 1, 2018.

About the NSWG

The Nuclear Security Working Group (NSWG) is a bipartisan group of senior foreign policy experts working behind the scenes to build consensus on pressing nuclear security issues and promote bipartisan discourse about the benefits of nuclear diplomacy.

With membership drawn from a wide variety of professional backgrounds, the NSWG provides a forum for experts in different fields to share their perspectives and learn from one another. Through frequent private meetings, the NSWG enables the nation's leading experts in international security and nuclear issues to share information and encourages collaboration. The group conducts its activities in a not-for-attribution setting, enabling members and participants to freely express thoughts and ideas.

By establishing a knowledge base and access to a network of non-partisan foreign policy professionals, the NSWG serves as a resource for administration officials and members of Congress to utilize when real-time expertise is needed. Members of the group regularly meet with senior administration officials and members of both parties on Capitol Hill to help bridge the partisan divide and contribute to the formation and implementation of a nuclear security policy that serves the national interest of the United States.

Past NSWG Events

Nuclear Security in the 21st Century

Capitol Visitor Center, Feb. 2016

- Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
- Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN)
- Christopher Ford – Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Gary Samore – The White House
- Steve Clemons – The Atlantic

Screening of award winning documentary *Command and Control*

Cosmos Club, Aug. 2016

- Antonia Chayes (fmr. Under Secretary of the Air Force)
- Lt. Gen. Arlen Jameson (ret.) (fmr. Vice. CINC, Strategic Air Command)

Screening of award winning documentary *Command and Control*

Stanford University, Oct. 15, 2016

- Eric Schlosser – Author of *Command and Control*
- Scott Sagan – Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University
- Robert Kenner – Award winning documentary director, recipient of the 2017 Writers Guild Award

Managing Nuclear Operations in the 21st Century

Cosmos Club, Jan. 23, 2017

- Austin Long - Defense Science Board & RAND Corporation

Escalation & Limited Options in a New Strategic Environment

Cosmos Club, Feb. 16, 2017

- Elbridge Colby - Center for a New American Security, now Office of the Secretary of Defense

Nuclear Terrorism Threats and Responses

Rayburn HOB, Mar. 17, 2017

- Bruce Hoffman - Georgetown University
- Joan Rohlfing - Nuclear Threat Initiative
- Joyce Connery – Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

The Role of US Nuclear Forces in the 21st Century

Cosmos Club, May 16, 2017

- Franklin Miller – Scowcroft Group

Exploring the Future of Nuclear Strategy, Security, and Statecraft

The Greenbrier, Sept. 15-17, 2017

- Frank Gavin, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, John Hopkins University
- Vipin Narang – Security Studies Program, MIT

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