CHRISTINE MIRZAYAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCES ITS 2011 SESSIONS AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This Graduate Fellowship Program of the National Academies—consisting of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council—is designed to engage its Fellows in the analytical process that informs U.S. science and technology policy. Fellows develop basic skills essential to working or participating in science policy at the federal, state, or local levels.

Eligibility
Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars and those who have completed graduate studies or postdoctoral research in any social/behavioral science, medical/health discipline, physical or biological science, any field of engineering, law/business/public administration or any relevant interdisciplinary field within the last five years are eligible to apply.

The program takes place in Washington, D.C. and is open to all U.S. and non-U.S. citizens who meet the criteria. However, non-U.S. citizens must be currently enrolled in a U.S. university and have proof of holding valid J-1 or F-1 status.

Session Dates
Winter/Spring: January 24-April 15, 2011
Fall: August 29 through November 18, 2011

Apply
Please visit <www.national-academies.org/policyfellows> for details on criteria, application instructions, and access to the online application and reference forms. Please note the requirement for submission of an online reference from a mentor/adviser.

Application Deadline Dates
Winter/spring program: OCTOBER 15, 2010
Fall program: MAY 1, 2011
(Candidates may apply to both sessions concurrently.)

Stipend
A stipend grant award of $8,240 will be provided for the 12-week session to offset expenses.

Questions should be directed to: policyfellows@nas.edu.

Below are former Fellows’ comments about the program's impact:

"This is an important career building opportunity for people interested in the scientific community outside academia. Even if you plan to pursue a traditional academic track, seeing science from a policy perspective is very enlightening. There is something valuable in this experience for first year grad students to recent PhD’s. Come with an open mind and expect to learn more than you...imagined."

"This program will open your mind to a world rarely envisioned from the confines of laboratory bench work. I learned an immeasurable amount about the policy and politics behind science and after the fellowship opens your mind, it opens career doors."

“In just weeks in the DC S&T policy world, I substantially broadened my perspective on how I can use my engineering background to positively impact our society. I return to graduate school recharged about the value of advanced education, and more confident about my decisions to pursue studies that blend the boundaries of engineering and the humanities. By seeing the connections between your academic field and the public policy arena, you will find many new opportunities for future studies or careers. You will be enriched as a person, as a public citizen, and as a member of an academic community.”

“A really great experience for those from the “soft sciences” who have an interest in S&T policy or if you’re trying to figure out what else you might want to do outside of academia. This was a great opportunity to bridge the gap and gain a new understanding and appreciation for how it all works, the people involved, and the profound difference it can make in the end (and all long the way).”