

2007
Mass Media Science
and Engineering Fellows
Program



THE PURPOSE

Increasing public understanding of science and technology is one of the principal goals of AAAS. The association has improved coverage of science and technology in mass media for more than 30 years through the **Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program**. This highly competitive program strengthens the connections between scientists and journalists by placing advanced science, mathematics and engineering students in newsrooms across the country. The AAAS Fellows use their academic training in the sciences as they research, write, and report today's headlines, sharpening their abilities to communicate complex scientific and technical issues to non-specialists.

THE PROGRAM

The AAAS **Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows** work for 10 weeks during the summer as reporters, researchers, and production assistants in mass media organizations nationwide. Fellows collaborate with media professionals at radio and television stations, newspapers, and magazines. The student-scientists and their host-journalists strive to make science news clear and readily understandable for the public.

The fellowship program is designed to enhance coverage of science-related issues in the media in order to improve public understanding and appreciation of science and technology. Fellows have the opportunity to observe and participate in the process by which events and ideas become news, improve their communication skills by learning to describe complex technical subjects in a manner understandable to the lay public, and increase their understanding of editorial decision making and the way in which information is effectively disseminated. Now in its 33rd year, the program has supported more than 500 Fellows.

THE CRITERIA

Applicants must be enrolled as college or university students (in their senior year, or in any graduate or post graduate level) in the natural, physical, health, engineering, computer, or social sciences or mathematics in order to apply. Applicants must apply for the summer fellowship within one year after graduation or defense of their thesis. Students enrolled in English, journalism, science journalism, or other non-technical fields are not eligible for these fellowships. Successful applicants will attend an orientation at AAAS headquarters at the start of the summer and a wrap-up session at the end of the summer. They will prepare reports on the progress of their fellowships throughout the summer.

THE AWARD

AAAS selects approximately 20 **Mass Media Fellows** each summer. Fellows are provided a weekly stipend of \$450 as well as travel expenses to and from AAAS and their sites.

THE RESULTS

The program's impact extends beyond the 10 weeks Fellows spend at their summer sites. Some program alumni have been encouraged by their fellowship experiences to pursue careers related to science journalism. Others, working as scientists or engineers, become more adept at describing scientific concepts to reporters who contact their institutions for information. Some hire on as freelancers or have otherwise incorporated new activities related to public understanding of science into their academic or professional work in science and engineering.

2006 HOST SITES

Chicago Tribune
KUNC-FM
Los Angeles Times
Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel
National Public Radio
Oregonian
Philadelphia Inquirer
Richmond Times-Dispatch
Sacramento Bee
Scientific American
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
US News & World Report
Voice of America
WOSU-AM

2006 FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

AAAS+
American Geophysical Union*
American Mathematical Society*
American Physical Society* +
American Physiological Society*
American Psychological Association*
American Society of Plant Biologists*
Burroughs Wellcome Fund+
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA* +
Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics*

* AAAS Affiliate

+ Funded or Sponsored
Multiple Fellows

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

An application for the Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program, is enclosed. To receive an additional application form or more information please contact:

AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program
1200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 326-6441; FAX (202) 371-9849
The application is available online at:
<http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/>

A complete application packet consists of:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume (please include any honors, awards, and relevant activities).
3. Brief sample(s) of your writing (2 to 3 pages, not samples, total on any subject written in terms appropriate for the general public—no technical papers, please).
4. Journal news story coverage (See application).
5. Three letters of recommendation (to be mailed directly to the program). At least two of these letters should be from faculty members.
6. Transcripts of your undergraduate and graduate work (to be mailed directly to the program).

DO NOT STAPLE MATERIALS.

The applicants are responsible for obtaining the necessary transcripts and letters of recommendation and seeing that all materials are sent directly to the program. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of experts in the sciences, education and the media. The committee will make recommendations to the AAAS staff who are responsible for the final decisions and for negotiations between the candidates and the media hosts. A telephone interview will be conducted with semi-finalists in early March. Candidates will receive final notification of the status of their applications by April 15, 2007.

The deadline for receipt of applications is January 15, 2007.

AAAS announces the
2007 Mass Media Science and Engineering
Fellows Program
APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ School/Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Education:

Undergraduate Institution: _____

Address: _____

Field: _____ Year of Graduation/Degree: _____

Graduate Institution: _____

Address: _____

Field: _____ Year of Graduation/Degree: _____

Are you a member of any professional societies or associations? If so, please list them:

List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the three people from whom you have requested letters of recommendation. At least two of the letters should be from faculty members who can comment on your academic work.

Faculty References (2):

1. Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numbers/Home: _____ Office: _____

Email: _____

2. Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numbers/Home: _____ Office: _____

Email: _____

Reference:

3. Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numbers/Home: _____ Office: _____

Email: _____



About AAAS

Founded in 1848, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest federation of scientific and engineering societies, with some 262 societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. AAAS individual members include more than 138,000 scientists, engineers, science educators, policymakers, and interested citizens.

The Association's goals include:

- Fostering communication among scientists, engineers and the public;
- Enhancing international cooperation in science and its applications;
- Promoting the responsible conduct and use of science and technology;
- Fostering education in science and technology for everyone;
- Enhancing the science and technology workforce and infrastructure;
- Increasing the public understanding and appreciation of science and technology; and
- Strengthening support for the science and technology enterprise.

AAAS also is the publisher of *SCIENCE* magazine.

Education and Human Resources Programs (EHR) seeks to:

- Improve education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Foster equal access to these fields for racial/ethnic minorities, women, and people with disabilities.
- Enhance the public understanding of science and technology.

EHR's many initiatives and projects include:

- School reform in science, mathematics and technology.
- Educational research on schools, colleges, universities, and human resources.
- Informal science and mathematics education with community-based organizations.
- Libraries, science museums, and technology centers. EHR projects and activities include a children's science and mathematics online club, science media fellowships, science and technology summer internships in government and business for students with disabilities, and a science radio show.



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY