

# 2008 Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program



## THE PURPOSE

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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

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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 34th year, the program has supported more than 500 Fellows.

## THE CRITERIA

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To apply candidates must be either:

- Undergraduates in their senior year;
- Graduate or post graduate students;
- Within one year of graduation or defense of their thesis

A candidate's area of study must be in the natural, physical, health, engineering, computer or social sciences, or mathematics in order to apply. 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

## 2007 HOST SITES

Chicago Tribune  
KPCC Radio  
KUNC-FM  
Los Angeles Times  
Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel  
National Public Radio  
National Public Radio West  
Orange County Register  
Oregonian  
Philadelphia Inquirer  
Sacramento Bee  
Scientific American  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
U.S. News & World Report  
Voice of America  
WOSU-AM

## 2007 FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

AAAS+  
American Geophysical Union\*  
American Mathematical Society\*  
American Physical Society\*+  
American Physiological Society\*  
American Psychological Association\*  
American Society of Plant Biologists\*  
Annenberg Foundation+  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund+  
IEEE-USA\*  
Society for 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://ehrweb.aaas.org/massmedia.htm>

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 total, not samples, 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, 2008.

The deadline for receipt of applications is January 15, 2008.

**AAAS announces the**  
**2008 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

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal, *Science* ([www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)). AAAS was founded in 1848, and serves 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, reaching 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of 1 million. The non-profit AAAS ([www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)) is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy; international programs; science education; and more. For the latest research news, log onto EurekaAlert!, [www.eurekaalert.org](http://www.eurekaalert.org), the premier science-news Web site, a service of AAAS.



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