Geoscience Policy Internship, Fellowship and Secondment Opportunities

Students or academic professionals who are considering a career in policy, are interested in learning more about effective science-policy communication or the science-policy interface can apply for a science-policy internship, fellowship or secondment. These programmes are becoming increasingly popular and now exist throughout the world. The EGU has assembled a relatively short list of globally available, science-policy placements. While the programmes on this list target researchers, similar science-policy programmes directed toward policy professionals also exist (such as the CSaP Policy Fellowships Programme and the Mercator Science-Policy Fellowship).

The individual countries listed below do not reflect the required nationalities for applications, but the country in which the internship is based. This list is far from complete. If you know of additional science-policy placement schemes that should be added then please email policy@egu.eu. A general description of internship, fellowship and secondment programmes can be found on the Geolog policy placement blog.

Intergovernmental placements

European Commission
The European Commission offers five-month graduate or early career traineeships with 1300 placements available annually. The European Commission also has a Secondment Programme for national experts. These experts are typically seconded from the civil services, universities and research institutes within EU countries. EU Commission secondments are for a period of six months to two years with the potential to return for a second placement.

European Parliament
While the European Parliament offers a number of different traineeships, the Robert Schuman Traineeship for university graduates is the most applicable for geoscience researchers. It involves a five-month paid placement with 600 placements available annually. It is open European graduates and early career professionals.

European Council
The European Council offers two different, 10-month traineeships at their General Secretariat. One traineeship is paid and open to European graduates or early career professionals and the second is an unpaid traineeship for students in their third, fourth or fifth year of university who must undertake a compulsory training period as part of their degree.

Committee of the Regions
The European Commission's Committee of the Regions (CoR) offers two different placements: Standard Traineeships (five months) and Short-Term Study Visits (30 days to six months) that may be applicable to some early career geoscientists based in Europe.

The MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme
The MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) provides scientific experts with the opportunity to participate in a MEP-Scientist Pairing Scheme. Selected scientists are invited to Brussels to
gain a better understanding of MEP activities and encouraged to collaborate with their MEP part-
ner in organising an event on a topic of their choice.

**Joint Research Centre**
The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) offers two types of Traineeship Schemes: one for early career professionals and another for students undertaking a thesis for their university degree. The duration of the Traineeships is between three and five months.

**European Economic and Social Committee**
The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) also has two traineeships that may interest students, European geoscience graduates or early career professionals. Although perhaps less relevant than the placements above, some geoscientists may find policy work within the Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment or Information Society Consultative Commission on Industrial Change divisions in line with their previous research or education.

**European Institute of Innovation & Technology**
Based in Budapest, the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) offers a number of different, three to five-month traineeships. Placements within the Policy and Communications Unit are likely to be the most relevant to geoscientists who are interested in the science-policy interface.

**The European Food Safety Authority**
The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) hosts six-month traineeships for graduates and early career professionals. Placements within the Chemical Contaminants, Cross-cutting Science and Pesticides departments are likely to be the most relevant to geoscientists.

**The European Maritime Safety Agency**
The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) hosts three to six-month traineeships that focus on safety legislation, response to pollution at sea and cooperation among member states.

**United Nations**
The United Nations Internship Scheme covers all areas of policy, not just science. Most of these internships are currently unpaid.

**UNESCO**
UNESCO has a Loans and Secondment Scheme as part of their overall Partnerships Strategy. This Scheme enables UNESCO to use specific expertise for a specific period of time while also providing the seconded member with knowledge about working in a politically-sensitive international organisation.

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) offers unpaid internships to students in a range of different divisions. The OECD also has a two year Young Professionals Programme. These placements are not specifically aimed at academic researchers but have a large number of thematic areas and can provide an insight into how a politically orientated, international organisation function.
Country specific placements

Australia
Australian Academy of Science Policy
The [Australian Academy of Science Policy](https://www.aaas.org/) offers a three-month Science Policy Internship to applicants who have completed, or are close to completing, a higher degree with a substantial research component at an Australian university.

Brussels
Centre for European Policy Studies
The [Centre for European Policy Studies](https://www.ceps.be/) (CEPS) offers internship positions three times per year. During this internship participants undertake policy-orientated research to be used to steer upcoming EU decisions.

JPI Oceans
JPI Oceans hosts three to six-month internships for early career professionals. These internships are advertised sporadically through JPI Ocean’s social media sites.

Canada
The Council of Canadian Academies
The [Council of Canadian Academies](https://www.cca.ca/) (CCA) offers graduate students and post-doctoral fellows with an internship opportunity in the area of science and technology policy.

Denmark
Teknologirådet - The Danish Board of Technology Foundation
[Teknologirådet](https://www.teknologiradet.dk/) offers five-month unpaid internships for students with the possibility of continuing work with the organisation as a student assistant after the internship period has ended.

Germany
German Council for Foreign Relations - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik e.V.
The [German Council for Foreign Relations](https://www.gfzp.de/) offers a number of unpaid internships to students in a diverse range of areas. The internships are advertised in German and for a period of up to six months.

UK
Research Council Policy
The [Research Council Policy](https://www.ukri.org/) hosts an Internship Scheme which provides PhD students funded by one of the seven Research Councils with the opportunity undertake a three-month internship within a parliamentary, governmental or non-governmental division.

Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology
The [Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology](https://www.post.parliament.uk/) (POST) runs several science-policy placement schemes through which academics are sponsored to spend time working in the UK Parliament. Two types of fellowships are available, including: fellowships open to PhD students and fellowships open to academics with PhDs. These fellowships are held within various departments within POST.
Natural Environment Research Council
The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) offers a Policy Placement Fellowship Scheme that allows researchers to work closely with policymakers in the UK. The placement is jointly funded by NERC and the public-sector partner organisation, generally on a 50:50 basis. During the placement, the fellow will remain employed by their institution. Nerc also offers a policy internship for students.

Royal Society
The Royal Society has a science-policy Pairing Scheme which pairs 30 research scientists with UK parliamentarians and civil servants. During this time the pair learns about each other’s work by spending time together in Westminster and the researcher’s institution.

The Royal Society also offers University Research Fellows and Dorothy Hodgkin Fellows the opportunity to participate in their Policy Secondment Programme that offers researchers a three-month policy secondment on a full-time basis or a nine-month policy secondment on a part-time basis as a Policy Associate within a Government department, National Academy or research organisation.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) provides the opportunities for academic professionals to undertake a Public Policy Secondment. The selected participant will work with BEIS to maximise the benefit of the UK Government funding for science to the UK economy and society.

US
A large number of science-policy internships can be found through Beyond Sputnik, which lists 47 different internships and fellowships, and Science, Technology and Public Policy Program (STPP), which lists 79 internships, fellowships and scholarships. Below is a selection of some of the most popular internships and fellowships listed on these sites.

American Association for the Advancement of Science
The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) hosts a Science & Technology Policy Fellowship programme which offers experienced academic professionals the opportunity to work with the federal government in a range of disciplines for a full year.

UC Washington Center
The UC Washington Center (UCDC) is hosting a Science Policy Internship Program (SPIP) for all students enrolled in a science, engineering or mathematics degree at any UC campus. The Internships can be undertaken at a number of different US policy-orientated organisations and agencies.

American Chemistry Society
The American Chemistry Society (ACS) has two types of Public Policy Fellowship Programmes: the Science Policy Fellowship and the Congressional Fellowship. Both allow entry-level PhDs and experienced professionals from academia or industry to gain experience in the policy sector for a duration of up to two years.

The American Geological Institute
The American Geological Institute (AGI) offers geological related policy internships and fellowships for both students and early career professionals.

Association of Public & Land-grant Universities
Although not on either list outlined above, the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities (APLGU) offers upaid Governmental Affairs Internships to students.

Last update: July 2017