



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](#).

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

[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 partner 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](#) 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](#) (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](#) (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](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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](#) (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. In addition to these two fellowships, POST also runs Competitive Schemes through selected Masters courses that allow Masters students to join POST for one month.

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 unpaid [Governmental Affairs Internships](#) to students.