



2013-14 California Senate Fellows

Who Can Apply?

Mid-career and recent graduates of all academic disciplines, backgrounds and levels of experience are encouraged to apply.

All applicants must:

- » Be at least 20 years of age by September 1st of the fellowship year.
- » Have a bachelor's degree by September 1st of the fellowship year and a demonstrated interest in state government and public policy.
- » Be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program.

Timeline

February	Applications due*
Last week of April	Sacramento interviews**
First week of May	Los Angeles interviews**
May	Candidates notified
October	Fellowship begins
September	Fellowship ends

* Applications and specific dates and deadlines can be found online at csus.edu/calst/senate

** All interviews must be conducted in person.

For more information, contact:

David Pacheco, Senate Fellows Program Director
 California State University, Sacramento
 Center for California Studies
 6000 J Street
 Sacramento, CA 95819-6081
 (916) 278-5408; david.pacheco@sen.ca.gov

CSUS.EDU/CALST/SENATE

CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS



SACRAMENTO
STATE



SACRAMENTO
STATE



CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

Established in 1973, the California Senate Fellows Program is one of the oldest and most distinguished service learning programs in the country. The program grew out of a desire to provide people with insight into the legislative process through experiential learning. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months. The program is jointly sponsored by the California State Senate and the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento.

The **Center for California Studies** is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento, devoted to promoting the understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984, and located on the capital campus of the California State University system, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government.



2012-13 Senate fellows during a mock hearing at the Capitol.

2013-14 SENATE FELLOWS

Nwadiuto Amajoyi
Rancho Cucamonga, CA
UC Santa Cruz
B.A. Psychology
Placement: Senator
Holly Mitchell

Viviana Becerra
Sacramento, CA
UC Santa Barbara
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator
Loni Hancock

Briana Calleros
Placencia, CA
Wellesley College
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Marty
Block

Rogelio Caudillo
Earlimart, CA
CSU Bakersfield
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Andy
Vidak

Tempestt Edward
Salinas, CA
UCLA
B.A. Communication &
Political Science
Placement: Senator Mark
DeSaulnier

Justin Freitas
Fair Oaks, CA
Sacramento State
B.A. Government &
Philosophy
Placement: Senator Jean
Fuller

Toni Gomez
Susanville, CA
Mills College
B.A. Public Policy
Placement: Senator Carol
Liu

Jazmine Gordon
Rialto, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Lois
Wolk

Christina Hulick
Yorba Linda, CA
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Anthony
Cannella

Shawn Lewis
Fair Oaks, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Jim
Nielsen

Amy Li
Chicago, Illinois
Pomona College
B.A. Biology & Politics
Placement: Public Safety
Committee

Hannah Marrs
Sacramento, CA
Azusa Pacific
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Mimi
Walters

Teodoro Martinez
San Diego, CA
CSU Monterey Bay
B.A. Communication
Placement: Senator Ricardo
Lara

Mark Mendoza
Carson, CA
Georgetown University
B.A. Government
Placement: Senator Ted Lieu

Yaroslav Pavlov
Palmdale, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science &
History
Placement: Senator
Norma Torres

Jose Torres
Moreno Valley, CA
CSU Fullerton
B.A. Philosophy & Political
Science
Placement: Senator Alex
Padilla

Maritza Urquiza
Santa Ana, CA
Stanford
B.A. History
Placement: Government &
Finance Committee

Phillip Vander Klay
Sacramento, CA
Calvin College
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Lou
Correa

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee, composed of two university and seven Senate representatives, selects the most qualified applicants for the program based on a written application and subsequent interview.

Committee members look for:

- » Genuine interest in California politics and public policy
- » Effective written and oral communication skills
- » Interpersonal skills and bipartisan collaboration
- » Characteristics for collaborative learning and problem-solving including flexibility, initiative, adaptability and maturity
- » Academic and professional achievement
- » Interest in and knowledge of the California legislative branch
- » Demonstrated track record of civic engagement

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following by the February deadline:

- » *Completed application*
Complete your application at www.csus.edu/calst/senate
- » *College transcripts*
Submit a transcript of record from each college or university attended.
- » *Letters of recommendation*
Submit three letters of recommendation. At least two of the letters must be from persons who are not present members or employees of the California legislature. It is strongly suggested that at least one of the three recommendations be provided by a faculty member familiar with your work.
- » *Personal statement*
Submit a personal statement, not to exceed three pages. A policy statement is not required to apply for the Senate Fellows Program.

The Work of a Senate Fellow

Fellows are assigned to the offices of a senator or policy committee and work as part of the public policy staff team in the Capitol. Responsibilities for fellows assigned to the offices of senators include helping develop legislative proposals, researching and analyzing bills, responding to constituent inquiries, and writing press releases and speeches among other things. Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee. Additional committee staff responsibilities include research assignments and assisting the chairperson with committee related legislation moving through the legislature. Many of the California Senate Fellows participants continue their post-fellowship careers as staff to the California Senate.

Experience and Insight

The California Senate Fellows program is a highly competitive, graduate level, full-time paid fellowship that introduces individuals to the legislative process by providing research and other professional staff assistance to the Senate. Fellows are placed with top-ranking policy makers, providing firsthand experience in the development and advancement of public policy and legislation. Fellows participate in weekly seminars and earn six units of graduate credit for the academic portion of the program. The experience gained through the Senate Fellows Program allows fellows the opportunity to pursue very successful careers in academia, public service and the private sector.

Senate fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the legislature and others hold high-level positions in the executive branch. Some former fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the legislature or the United States Congress. Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.



Amy Li
2013-14 Senate Fellow

"My early interest in public service and policy was informed by a strong passion for social and economic justice. But, it was only through the California Senate Fellows that I gained the critical exposure to mentorship and skills to realize how best to contribute my personal strengths and promote good policy making."



Senate mentors meet to plan fellows placements.

The Academic Component

Fellows are registered as Sacramento State graduate students during the Spring semester and earn six units of graduate credit paid for by the program. Fellows attend weekly seminars held at the Capitol and are required to do oral presentations and written assignments. The seminars provide an academic perspective to complement the experience gained through the office placements.

Compensation and Benefits

The California State University system provides the fellows with a unique position of having dual status as a CSU employee and graduate student. This combined status offers a unique combination of benefits.

- » Monthly stipend of \$2,550
- » Health, dental and vision benefits
- » Paid university enrollment and student fees
- » Student loan deferment
- » Six graduate units
- » Student and staff campus privileges

Participation in the Senate Fellows Program has highlighted new perspectives and challenged my preconceived notions. While working in an intrinsically partisan environment, I have come to appreciate the areas in which both parties can agree, thereby realizing that collaboration is possible. Furthermore the fellowship has exposed me to regions and issues of California that I had never before considered, adding complexity to my political awareness. When people ask me if the fellowship is everything that I thought it would be, I tell them, "It's more!"



*Briana Calleros
2013-14 Senate Fellow*



*Justin Freitas
2013-14 Senate Fellow*

"The Senate Fellowship allowed me a chance to actively participate in all aspects of California's legislative process. My experience as a fellow provided me with a stronger personal understanding of public policy complemented with professional development that cannot be learned in a classroom. I was challenged on a daily basis to critically examine and provide possible solutions to the issues facing California. Due to the academic component of the fellowship my communication and writing skills have sharpened. Most importantly, my experience as a Senate Fellow has allowed me to become a more confident professional and individual."

"The fellowship is a life changing opportunity that provides invaluable insight of the inter-workings of state government. I've had the chance to contribute to the diligent work that goes into serving 40 million California residents. At the same time, the fellowship has allowed me to further my education in a high-caliber graduate level seminar. Overall, the experience contributes to a heightened understanding of the California community and strengthened my sense of personal responsibility to continue a career in public service. The opportunities that the fellowship has offered me, both personally and professionally, are countless and unique."



*Teodoro Martinez
2013-14 Senate Fellow*