



2015-16 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.



Fellows confer with Senate pro Tempore Kevin de León

2015-16 SENATE FELLOWS

Nicole Billington

Kingsburg, CA
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
B.S. Agriculture Business
Placement: Business,
Professions & Economic
Development Committee

Aaron Brieno

Hanford, CA
Chapman University
B.A. Organizational
Leadership
J.D. McGeorge Law School
Placement: Senator
Ben Hueso/Energy Comm.

Natalie Cha

San Ramon, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Loni
Hancock

Evita Chavez

Los Angeles, CA
Occidental College
B.A. Urban & Environmental
Policy
Placement: Senator Bob
Wieckowski

Joshua Cohen

Los Altos, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science/
Media Studies
Placement: Senator
Benjamin Allen

Chelsea Davis

Hercules, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science,
African American Studies
Placement: Senator Holly J.
Mitchell

Cameron Demetre

El Dorado Hills, CA
Azusa Pacific
B.A. Global Studies
MSc - London School of
Economics
Placement: Senator Janet
Nguyen

Nhat-Dang Do

San Jose, CA
UC San Diego
B.A. Political Science/
Public Policy, History
Placement: Senator
Marty Block

Buck Ellingson

Sacramento, CA
Sacramento State
B.A. Government
Placement: Senator Mike
McGuire

Christopher Galeano

Palmdale, CA
UC Irvine
B.A. Political Science/ Int'l
Relations/Sociology
Placement: Senator Connie
Leyva

Khlement Hodge

Elk Grove, CA
Sacramento State
B.A. History
Placement: Senator
Ricardo Lara

Alexander Khan

Sacramento State
B.A. Government
J.D. McGeorge Law School
Placement: Senator
Patricia Bates

Molly Lao

Fresno, CA
Brown University
B.A. Political Science/
Sociology
Placement: Public Safety

Matt Macedo

Fremont, CA
Sacramento State
B.A. History
Placement: Senator
Mike Morrell

Bijan Mehryar

Danville, CA
UC San Diego
B.A. Int'l Studies/Political
Science
Placement: Senator
Jeff Stone

Lauren Prichard

Elverta, CA
Regent University
B.A. Government
Placement: Senator Jim
Nielsen

Miranda Shepherd

Philadelphia, PA
Stanford University
B.A. Comparative Studies
in Race and Ethnicity
M.A. Communication
Placement: Senator
Dr. Richard Pan

Korinne Sugawara

San Jose, CA
UC Santa Cruz
B.A. Psychology
Placement: Senator
Hannah-Beth Jackson

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 in length. 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.



2015-16 Senate Fellows tour the California Highway Patrol Academy

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 \$2,627
- » Health, dental and vision benefits
- » Paid university enrollment and student fees
- » Student loan deferment
- » Six graduate units
- » Student and staff campus privileges

"The Senate Fellows program is experiential education at its finest. One year in the California Legislature provides an irreplaceable foundation in which to build any career in public service. The fellowship enables one to participate and make a marked impact through the passage of bills to the provision of key recommendations to policy makers. I did not feel as though I simply had a foot in the door, but rather the fellowship was a fast-track to a seat at the table of policy discussions affecting almost 40 million Californians. Personally, I could not be more grateful for the indelible impact this program has left upon me."



Cameron Demetre
2015-16 Senate Fellow



Molly Lao
2015-16 Senate Fellow

"The Senate Fellows program has provided me with unparalleled experiences where I received a thorough orientation to the State Capitol and developed professionally and personally through continuous hands-on experiences in state policymaking. As a consultant on the Public Safety Committee this year, I found myself at times the youngest person on the dais or in the hearing room, yet given great responsibilities such as briefing the committee chair and helping to ensure the general public understood proposed legislation by writing clear bill analyses. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to pursue my passions in policymaking and social justice, the impact this fellowship will have on my career trajectory and for all the wonderful lifelong relationships with mentors and fellows I have formed this year."

"As a recent law school graduate, I found the Senate Fellowship program offered the valuable practical legislative experience and public policy development insights a law school classroom simply cannot provide. The Senate Fellows program has truly been a transformative life experience. Additionally, the direct access to key California policymakers the Senate Fellows program affords participants is unrivaled. The opportunity to speak intimately with notable California policy makers such as California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León during the fellow's weekly speaker series was a great learning experience and very inspiring."



Aaron Brieno
2015-16 Senate Fellow