

2026 Fellowship Application

Applicant Information:

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Email: _____

Applicant Phone: _____

University or College: _____

Department or Field of Study: _____

Program (e.g., MS, PhD, postdoc): _____

Year in program and anticipated completion date: _____

Qualified candidates are selected based on diverse backgrounds, areas of expertise, career stages, and career interests. VASEM is committed to providing historically excluded communities equitable access to the COVES Fellowship program. The working definition of historically excluded communities for the COVES Fellowship Program includes, but is not limited to,

1. Individuals whose racial or ethnic makeup is from one of the following: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous People or Native American or First Nation, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and two or more races, when one or more are from the preceding racial and ethnic categories in this list.
2. Individuals with disabilities as defined by the [American Disability Act of 1990](#).
3. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as first-generation students or those from a rural area, the foster care system, a low socioeconomic background, or who are/have been homeless.
4. Individuals from marginalized gender or sexual identities, such as women, nonbinary people, or those in the LGBTQ+ community.

Additional Attachments:

- 1) **Resume or CV**, 3 pages maximum.
- 2) **References**: Please provide contact information (name, email, phone number) for 2 professional references. These can be from academia, industry, or other professional experiences.
- 3) **Advisor Letter of Support**: A signed letter of support for the applicant's participation in the COVES Fellowship from the applicant's faculty advisor using the attached template.
- 4) **Personal Statement**: In 1 page or less, please address the following points:
 - Why are you interested in state-level science policy?
 - How do your personal experiences influence your interest in science policy?
 - How do you hope the COVES Fellowship will contribute to your career goals?
 - What unique skills and experiences would you bring to COVES?
 - Any additional points you would like the selection committee to consider.
- 5) **Science Policy in Virginia**: In 1 page or less, please write a summary of a science policy issue of your choice and the implications for the Commonwealth of Virginia. This should be written as a policy brief for a non-technical audience, and it should include cited references.
- 6) **Placement Interest**: In 1 page or less, describe a potential host office(s) you are interested in and project(s) you can envision yourself working on. COVES fellows are placed in Virginia legislative offices, executive agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Additional Instructions:

Please combine application and attachments into one PDF.

Submissions should be emailed to covesfellowapp@wm.edu.

The deadline for submission is **Monday, December 8, 2025**.

**Advisor Letter of Support for the
Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellowship**
Hosted by the Virginia Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Applicant Name: _____

Program Summary: The Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellowship is a 12-week fellowship program of the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM). The goal of the COVES Fellowship program is to strengthen ties between the scientific community and state government in the Commonwealth of Virginia while encouraging and equipping early-career scientists and engineers to enter public service. Graduate student and postdoctoral Fellows will serve as science advisors in legislative offices, executive agencies, or prominent companies and nonprofits in the state of Virginia where they will gain experience in the creation and translation of state policies related to science and engineering.

The Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering & Medicine (VASEM): VASEM is a resource for independent expertise to inform and assist with science and technology policy matters facing Virginia. VASEM is comprised of elected members of one of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and other key individuals that reside and work throughout Virginia. Its nonpartisan network of experts provides rigorous analytical and scientific support to inform policy decisions that are critical to the future of the Commonwealth.

COVES Graduate Policy Fellowship: The COVES Fellowship is a 12-week program that places Fellows in a legislative office, executive agency, or policy office in a company or nonprofit in Virginia. COVES Fellows will be current graduate students or postdoctoral researchers from universities across the Commonwealth of Virginia, selected based on career interests, desire to learn, and scientific integrity. Fellows will be matched to host offices based on mutual interest and placement availability. Prior to the Fellowship, Fellows will attend science communication training and orientation that will provide an introduction to governance and policymaking in the Commonwealth. In addition to their work in policy offices, COVES Fellows will be paired with a mentor from VASEM and will participate in VASEM briefings, committee meetings, and the annual summit.

Fellowship Commitment: The COVES Fellowship is a full-time, in-person commitment (40 hrs/week) that requires Fellows to work in offices outside their institution. Fellows' actual schedule and duties will be determined by the Host Office, and Fellows should not have significant obligations to their lab or institution during their time in the Fellowship (May-August 2025). Relocation may be necessary for the duration of the fellowship. A stipend is provided to cover Fellows' living expenses during their Fellowship to offset costs associated with this level of training.

As the Applicant's advisor, I agree to the terms of the COVES Fellowship listed above.

Advisor Signature: _____

Printed Name and Date: _____