

**Position ID**

E17-25

**Position Title**

Congressional Affairs Specialist

**Office Name**

Formulation and Congressional Analysis, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Portfolio Summary**

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Congressional team is a fast-paced, exciting office that provides congressional activity planning, coordination, and strategy development for the research arm of NOAA. OAR, also known as NOAA Research, strengthens the science that underpins NOAA's products and services. Whether improving warning lead times for severe weather events or understanding the response of ecosystems in a rapidly changing ocean environment, NOAA research ultimately enables solutions that prevent loss of human life, improve management of natural resources, build understanding of the Earth-system, and strengthen the economy.

A fellow in this office will have the opportunity to work at the senior level with OAR experts on a range of issues relating to research on oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes; climate; and weather. On a day-to-day basis these activities translate into planning and executing a congressional strategy to support the budget and legislative needs of NOAA Research; preparing for and staffing OAR scientists and senior management at congressional briefings and hearings on Capitol Hill; coordinating, drafting, and editing congressional testimony; preparing answers to congressional inquiries about NOAA Research activities; and tracking and analyzing legislation and congressional action from scientific and policy perspectives. This host office will give the fellow an opportunity to learn about the wide variety of research conducted at NOAA from the experts themselves and to translate that knowledge into forms that directly inform policy and budget decisions by Congress. This position will allow the fellow to gain first hand knowledge about the legislative and federal budget processes, along with learning to interpret congressional action for a scientific audience. The fellow will attend a variety of hearings, briefings and events on Capitol Hill, and travel to OAR laboratories around the country is also encouraged.

**Expertise Desired**

- 1) Strong writing and editing skills to revise scientific information into clear, non-technical text
- 2) Strong communication skills and interpersonal skills
- 3) Ability to work in a team and practice give-and-take as needed with workloads and assignments
- 4) An interest in working at the intersection of science, policy, and budget
- 5) An interest in issues that cut across the fields of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems research, climate research, and weather and air chemistry research - the fellow will frequently work on a number of cross-portfolio issues simultaneously
- 6) A desire to expand his/her background in legislative and budget analysis

**Travel within DC (days per month)**

0-5

**Travel outside DC (days per month)**

0-1

**Accepts Foreign Nationals**

Yes