Since 1979, the National Sea Grant College Program has administered one of the nation’s most prestigious marine policy fellowship programs. The Knauss fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and policy decisions affecting those resources. The program matches fellows with “hosts” in the legislative and executive branches of government for a one-year paid immersive policy experience in the Washington, D.C. area.

1,351 fellows since 1979
50% of alumni work for the federal government*

The John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship offers direct experience working on the latest issues in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes management and research.

“The Knauss Fellowship provided me with the opportunity to build and diversify my professional skill set with flexibility and greater autonomy than a conventional job typically offers.”

Amanda Laverty, 2017 Executive Fellow

“The Knauss Fellowship is the best decision I have made in my career...it gave me the tools to make my technical science background more meaningful by teaching me to put [it] in the context of both politics and policy.”

Erica Towle, 2016 Legislative Fellow

*Numbers are approximate and based on available data
How to apply to the Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship

Before the application process begins:
1. Visit our website to learn more about the Knauss fellowship program.
   seagrant.noaa.gov/Knauss

2. Start thinking about your application package. While you won’t be able to apply until the application process opens, you can start drafting your personal statement and think about who you might ask for recommendation letters.

3. Register for the Sea Grant e-newsletter and/or follow Sea Grant on social media to receive updates about fellowship opportunities.
   seagrant.noaa.gov/News/social
   Twitter: @SeaGrant   Instagram: @SeaGrant_NOAA   Facebook: @NOAA.SeaGrant

4. Prior to or during open “Federal Funding Opportunities” for fellowships, connect with your local Sea Grant program. Call or email them to let them know you are interested in applying. They will have advice for navigating the process. A list of Sea Grant programs and contact information can be found on the Sea Grant website.
   seagrant.noaa.gov

Once you see that a funding/fellowship opportunity is open:
1. Find the announcement on www.grants.gov. Sea Grant includes links on its website.

2. Once on the grants.gov Grants Opportunity page, click the blue “Related Documents” tab and download the “Full Announcement” pdf. This is the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). It contains all project details and instructions for applying.

3. Read and follow all instructions outlined in the FFO.

4. Contact your state Sea Grant program and inform them you want to apply for the Knauss Fellowship. They will have additional information for you and advice about navigating the process. Applications must be submitted through a state Sea Grant program, not directly to grants.gov! See the “Program Locations” dropdown on http://seagrant.noaa.gov/ for a list of state programs and contact information.

Note: if you attend school in a state which does not have a Sea Grant program, contact the National Sea Grant Office at oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov. The National Office will direct you to a program through which you can apply.

You may also contact the National Sea Grant Office via email (OAR.SG.Fellows@noaa.gov) or phone (301-734-1085).