

Science Policy Fellowship Office Hours – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ document compiles questions discussed during a recent Science Policy Fellowship Office Hours session during the 2026 application cycle. It is intended to support prospective applicants who were unable to attend and to provide additional clarity on the application process, host offices, and fellowship experience.

General Eligibility & Fit

Q: My research focuses on xx, but much of my work is not based in the Gulf region. Would I still be a strong applicant?

Applicants are not required to have research experience exclusively focused on Gulf-based species or systems. What matters most is the relevance of your broader scientific expertise, policy interests, and how your skills can translate to the work of host offices and Gulf-related priorities. Refer to the [Application Guidance document](#) for additional input.

Employment & Availability

Q: What are the employment and availability expectations for fellows?

Fellows are expected to commit full-time to the fellowship for the duration of the appointment. Additional details regarding employment structure, start dates, and appointment terms can be found in the [Agreement template](#) included in our [website](#).

Host Offices & Placement

Q: Will host offices be confirmed before the final application is due?

Tentatively. We have the 2025 host office list available on our website, with many returning back this year as well. The final list will be available prior to the finalists interviews in April and will be shared with those selected for interviews.

Q: Should I reference preferred host offices in my application essays?

It is up to the applicant. This will be most relevant during the interview phase of the fellowship. We encourage you to review the review criteria and make your best judgement around whether listing it may be beneficial, especially if you can clearly articulate why your background and goals are a strong match.

Q: How many fellowship positions are available?

We typically select between 10 – 12 fellows. The number of positions varies by year and depends on host office participation and funding availability.

Application Process

Q: Does the application need to be submitted all at once?

No. Applicants can create an account in the application system and upload materials over time. However, all required components must be submitted by the stated deadline of February 26, 2026, at 5 pm EASTERN.

Session Materials & Follow-Up

Q: Who should I contact with follow-up questions?

Prospective applicants are encouraged to reach out to gulffellowships@nas.edu

Additional Resources

Applicants are encouraged to review the following resources for more information:

- [Science Policy Fellowship Program Website](#)
- [Application Guidance Document](#)
- [Gulf Research Program Overview](#)
- [2025 Host Office Placement Descriptions](#)

These resources provide details on eligibility, host offices, program priorities, and the overall fellowship experience.

This document is intended for informational purposes and reflects questions discussed during a live office hours session. For the most current program details, please refer to the [official fellowship website](#) or email questions to gulffellowships@nas.edu.