



2025 EMERGING PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD

GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERS SOUGHT TO SHAPE SCIENCE POLICY



Application deadline: January 15, 2025

<https://io.aibs.org/eppla>

APPLY FOR THE AIBS EMERGING PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Each year, the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) recognizes graduate students in the biological sciences who are demonstrating an interest and aptitude for working at the intersection of science and policy.

Recipients of the AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award receive:

- A trip to Washington, DC, to participate in the AIBS Congressional Visits Day, an annual event where scientists meet with lawmakers to advocate for federal investment in the biological sciences, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation. The event will be held over three days in the spring of 2025 (likely in April). Domestic travel and hotel expenses are paid for the winners.
- Policy and communications training, including information on the legislative process, trends in federal science funding, and how to engage with policymakers and the news media.
- Meetings with congressional policymakers to discuss the importance of federal investment in the biological sciences.
- A one-year online subscription to the journal *BioScience*.



Scientists meet with Senator Van Hollen

2025 EPPLA

APPLICATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

The 2025 award is open to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents enrolled in a graduate degree program in the biological sciences, science education, or a closely allied field. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to science policy and/or science education policy. Prior recipients are not eligible for the award.

To apply, send a cover letter, statement, resume, and letter of reference to jpandey@aibs.org no later than 05:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. The subject line of the e-mail must include “EPPLA 2025” and the applicant’s name. All documents should be included as an attachment(s), with each file named as applicant_name_document (e.g., Sarah_Smith_Resume.pdf). A single PDF document is preferred. Please note: the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to develop application materials is prohibited.

Cover Letter

Describe your interest in science policy and how participation in the Congressional Visits Day will further your career goals. Confirm your ability to participate in the communications and policy training and Congressional Visits Day to be held in Washington, DC in the spring of 2025 . The dates for the event will be announced in January. Include the congressional district(s) in which you live, work, and/or vote. Note if you are a member of an AIBS member society or organization ([view the current list here](#)).

Statement

In 500 words or less, articulate the importance of federal investments in the biological sciences, such as those supported by the National Science Foundation. A successful statement will communicate to a non-scientist the benefits of biological research to the United States and also draw upon the applicant's experiences and research. The statement may reference local issues and concerns of interest to your congressional delegation.

Resume (1 page maximum)

The resume should emphasize leadership, policy, and communication experience—this may include graduate, undergraduate, or non-academic activities; relevant education; work experience; honors and awards; and scientific society memberships. Conference presentations and scientific manuscripts will not be considered in the evaluation of the application.

Letter of Reference

A reference letter should be provided by an individual who can attest to your leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills, and who is familiar with your interest in and experience with science policy. Applicants are limited to one letter of reference. If preferred, the letter may be sent directly to jpandey@aibs.org by the letter provider.



Recipients of the 2024 EPPLA Award and Honorable Mention in Washington, DC

Finalists may be interviewed virtually or over the phone. All applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection panel by Friday, February 21, 2025.

Information about past EPPLA recipients is available at
<https://www.aibs.org/policy/eppla.html#recipients>.

Please direct any questions to jpandey@aibs.org.

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