



Announcing the Riecker Michigan Delegation Fellowship in Senator Debbie Stabenow's (D-MI) Washington, DC office

In the winter of 2016, the Ford School will pilot an exciting new fellowship: the Riecker Michigan Delegation Fellowship. Named for Margaret (Ranny) Riecker, a longtime friend and generous benefactor of our school, this fellowship will send one competitively selected graduate student to Washington, DC each winter to complete a six-month assignment with a senator or representative from the State of Michigan.

The first fellowship will be hosted by the Office of Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), senior member of the Michigan delegation, and will take place from January 4 to June 30 during the winter legislative session. The fellow will work under the direction of Senator Stabenow's chief of staff and the legislative assistant who is leading the policy portfolio to which he/she has been assigned.

THE EXPERIENCE

For the selected student, the Riecker Michigan Delegation Fellowship will provide an opportunity to engage with timely and important issues in a high-impact office in the center of our nation's capital. Fellows will receive a powerful firsthand introduction to the political and policymaking process while learning about:

- The legislative process by researching and analyzing legislation for assigned issue areas, attending and monitoring progress and developments in committees, and drafting briefings to inform the senator's floor and committee work.
- The myriad organizations and actors engaged in shaping U.S. policy at the state and federal level, including advocacy groups, unions, political action committees, private foundations, etc.
- The budget and appropriations process, which defines annual programs and priorities for federal executive departments and independent agencies alike.
- The key constituent concerns of Michigan citizens—who communicate with Senator Stabenow to share their knowledge, experience, concerns, and aspirations.

ELIGIBILITY

The fellowship is open to all MPP students in good standing—domestic and international—who have completed the first year of Ford School coursework, including the summer internship. Competitive applicants will be able to conduct independent, non-partisan research; to analyze issues thoroughly and thoughtfully; and to provide clear and concise written and oral briefings. The senator seeks an effective communicator and team player who can represent her office well with constituents, advocates, stakeholders, and other legislative staff.

POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Senator Debbie Stabenow, who sits on four committees and five subcommittees, is well positioned to offer a variety of interesting assignments for the selected fellow. For a sense of her interests and responsibilities, visit the senator's web site (link above) and the following committee and subcommittee descriptions:

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (Senator Stabenow is the ranking member);
- Senate Budget Committee;
- Senate Finance Committee, Subcommittee on Health Care (Senator Stabenow is the ranking

member), Subcommittee on International Trade and Global Competitiveness; and

- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Subcommittee on Energy, Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Work constraints. The selected fellow will be subject to all code of conduct rules for Senate staff and will be required to attend an ethics training session to review these requirements in early January. In addition, students will be unable to work on any issues in which U-M holds a legislative interest. This includes, but is not limited to, higher education policy issues (such as student financial aid, research funding, and student visas). Finally, international fellows will be unable to work on projects that would enable them to influence United States policy in a way that benefits their home country. We will discuss these limitations in more detail, including the range of U-M legislative interests, and how this will be managed by the fellow's supervisor at the upcoming information session.

INFORMATION, APPLICATIONS, AND DEADLINES

Information sessions. Interested students should attend one of two information sessions hosted by Graduate Career Services in September. At these sessions, we will review the scope of the fellowship (expectations, benefits, eligibility, etc.) discuss the application process, and answer questions.

Application deadline. Applications must be received by Wednesday, September 30, at 11:59 p.m. (EST).

Application instructions. Apply via FordCareers by submitting 1) a resume, 2) a U-M transcript, and 3) a 500-word essay identifying the top portfolio(s) or policy issues of interest to you, how your academic and professional experience supports this work, and what you hope to learn from the fellowship experience. (Note that the senator's website identifies her committee roles and current legislative priorities, however you are not limited in identifying areas of interest to you.)

Interview process. First round interviews will be conducted by a committee of faculty and staff. Second round interviews will be conducted by the senator's staff (location TBD).

Selection deadline. An offer will be made by the end of October, 2015—prior to the GSI application process and winter course selection. The selected student will be asked to respond to the offer within five business days.

Assignment timetable. In the winter of 2016, the fellow will begin his/her assignment on the Hill. This assignment will run from January 4, 2016 through June 30, 2016. In the fall of 2016, the selected fellow will return to campus to complete his/her studies. The fellow will be expected to share fellowship experiences with the Ford School community, including donors, and through Ford School communications.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDING

Fellows will receive a modest living stipend of \$3,000 per month to cover housing, food, and transportation expenses during the six-month assignment (\$18,000); a professional development grant of up to \$500 to attend one seminar or conference (\$500); a small travel grant to assist with relocation (\$500); in-state tuition support or equivalent amount for the semester immediately following the DC assignment; and health care insurance for the six-month assignment and the subsequent semester.

Please note that existing Ford School fellowship funding may be impacted by the receipt of the Riecker fellowship. Additional criteria and other applicable funding requirements can be found at www.fordschool.umich.edu/riecker-fellowship. Should you have any questions regarding your funding, please contact our fellowships manager, Mim Jones (mimjones@umich.edu).

QUESTIONS

Additional information on the Riecker fellowship can be found at www.fordschool.umich.edu/riecker-fellowship. Please do not contact Senator Stabenow's office to discuss this opportunity. The Ford School has been asked to manage the promotion and initial selection process. Questions should be directed to Jennifer Niggemeier, director of Graduate Career Services and Alumni Relations (jennig@umich.edu), or to Mim Jones, fellowships manager (mimjones@umich.edu).