Public Finance Fellowship

Deadline: March 19, 2021

The Center for State and Local Finance (CSLF) established the CSLF Public Finance Fellowship program to recognize and support students who have an interest in innovative, non-partisan state and local public finance research. The fellowships are awarded annually to incoming or current graduate students in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies who are pursuing an MPA, MPP, or master’s degree in economics.

The Public Finance Fellowship offers students an opportunity to work on emerging state and local finance issues in tandem with nationally-ranked AYSPS faculty and CSLF senior research associates. Fellows will perform research, draft briefs and reports, participate in technical assistance projects, work with statistical programs, and complete other duties as assigned. Research areas include tax policy and reform, budgeting and financial management, education finance, and economic development and urban policy. The fellows’ research may be published through CSLF and may be presented at local or national conferences.

CSLF Public Finance Fellows receive a graduate research assistantship through their home department, which includes a full tuition waiver. Additionally, students receive a stipend of $5,280 per fall and spring semester, and fellows who work during the summer semester receive an additional $2,640. The Fellowship includes sixteen (16) trainings designed to develop fellows’ skills and subject matter knowledge. Trainings focus on research techniques (Tableau, SAS, Stata, data management, etc.) and public finance topics (public budgeting, incorporation studies, fiscal notes, etc.).

The fellowship is a one-year commitment with the option of extending through the summer semester or renewing for an additional year, depending on performance, and it fulfills the three-credit hour MPA/MPP internship requirement. The students selected for this fellowship are expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 and work at CSLF 20 hours a week. Fellowships are awarded once a year, and fellows begin work during the first week of the fall semester.

Application Process:

For applying/incoming students: Complete the general application for fall admission, indicating that you want to apply for a Graduate Research Assistantship, and complete this form by March 19.

For current students: Complete this form by March 19.

Selected applicants will be contacted for interviews. The criteria used to select the fellows include high academic achievement and, where possible, experience or knowledge of public finance policy issues and strong research skills. Fellows must demonstrate excellent writing and analytic capabilities.

Minimum Requirements:

- Incoming or current full-time student in AYSPS’s MPA, MPP, or MA ECON program
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite
- Excellent writing and analysis skills
- Knowledge of, or aptitude for understanding, general budgeting and tax concepts and terms

Preferred Qualifications:

- Concentration, classes, or experience in public finance
- Statistical programming experience in Stata, SAS, or R
- GIS experience and strong MS Excel skills