Eagleton Institute of Politics

SCIENCE AND POLITICS PROGRAM

The Eagleton Science and Politics Program at the Eagleton Institute of Politics in partnership with the Rita Allen Foundation is accepting applications for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Legislation Researcher/Civic Science Fellow as part of the Program's goal of bridging science with politics. The Civic Science Fellow will produce a set of guidelines and best practices on AI regulation for state-level legislators.

About the Civic Science Fellowship

The Civic Science Fellow will be a part of the Rita Allen program aimed at building a network of leaders committed to ensuring that all people shape and benefit from science, technology, and innovation. The program brings together scientists, scholars, community leaders, journalists, educators, media producers, public-interest organizations, and funders to seed new collaborations between science, diverse communities, and civil society. Fellows and partners engage as part of a network of learning and action that spans organizations, disciplines, and communities—a growing effort to catalyze civic science culture change.

About Eagleton Institute of Politics

The position is based at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Institute studies state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. Institute's latest initiative, the Eagleton Science and Politics Program explores how science, technology, and American politics intersect; the political systems that connect them; and how deeper understanding and clearer communication within and across these disciplines can benefit policymakers, scientists, and the larger public.

About the Role

Reporting to Anna Dulencin, director of the Eagleton Science and Politics Program, the Civic Science Fellow will explore the multidisciplinary field of AI and produce a set of guidelines for state-level AI regulation. This study will require input from a variety of disciplines and will engage stakeholders from diverse fields. To name just a few examples, the Civic Science Fellow should consider findings on deepfake forms of AI and how they contribute to the exponential spread of misinformation and erode trust in the civic process, public health and science. Similarly, the project should incorporate advances in AI in neuroscience and how neurodiverse individuals can benefit from, interact with, or can be harmed by various forms of AI; and how AI's current and future capabilities and possible self-governance of AI enterprise could affect the relationship between politics, science and society.

The ultimate purpose of the guidelines is to provide a resource for state-level policymakers with multiple avenues how to navigate and regulate the complexity, challenges, and benefits of AI in a matrix of transience of the current technological landscape and a rapidly evolving innovation.

This is a full-time 18-month position based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, with a start date in March, 2024.

Requirements

- PhD in any discipline
- A minimum of 2 years of research experience investigating a multidimensional and/or interdisciplinary project or emergent, anticipatory issues in science and technology with social, ethical, and/or economic import
- Experience with artificial intelligence or machine learning as a focus of a research or work project
- Exceptional thoughtfulness, curiosity and creativity towards the intersectional and interdisciplinary perspectives on the effects of AI on equity and society in general and on individual level
- Awareness and insight into the distinct and varied positions and needs of state-level legislators, including partisanship, geographic areas, and their communities
- Ability to effectively communicate and empathize with diverse audiences – from policymakers and their staff, to academic researchers, industry leaders, business entrepreneurs, community organizers and other stakeholder groups who might be positively and negatively affected by various forms of AI and AI regulation
- Strategic discernment of the very likely converging or competing interests of various stakeholders in AI regulation and the integrity to perform unbiased research and present multiple avenues to regulators
- Ingenuity and vision to design a user-friendly tool which will be made available to state legislators nationwide

Compensation and Benefits

The Civic Science Fellow will receive a stipend of $85,000 per year. Health, vision, and dental insurance for the Civic Science Fellow are part of the benefits package provided by the Institute. Additional coverage for spouses and dependents is available for purchase. Civic Science Fellow will receive 23 flex days during the 18-month term to use for vacations, sick days, or personal development in addition to University closings for holidays.

Research Support

Although the Civic Science Fellow is expected to lead the project and progress independently, the Eagleton Science and Politics Program will provide close collaboration and research support throughout the duration of the Fellowship. Civic Science Fellow will have a dedicated office space in the historic home of the Institute and will be provided with University and Institute resources including library access, a personal laptop, and access to a powerful legislative and public affairs database.

The Fellow will be part of the Rita Allen Foundation's 2024/2025 Civic Science Fellows Cohort, engaging in a core 12-month cohort learning period, and dedicating 6 months to finalizing the Fellowship project. During the core 12-month cohort learning period, Fellows will spend approximately 75 percent of their

time (~30 hours/week) on carrying out the project and 25 percent of their time (~10 hours/week) on shared learning and networking activities outside of their direct work with the Institute, including periodic convenings.

Application

Applications are accepted until February 19th, 2024.

Interested candidates are asked to email their CV, cover letter, and a research statement on how they would approach the project in no more than 6,000 characters (including spaces) to science@eagleton.rutgers.edu by 11.59PM ET on February 19, 2024. Two recommendation letters are also required and should be sent by the candidate' references to science@eagleton.rutgers.edu by the same deadline.

If candidates are interested in sharing additional documents or projects with particular relevance to this position, they may attach up to two files to their application.