

Ethics Rules for IEEE-USA Government Fellows

Congressional Fellows

Congressional fellows are subject to the ethics rules that apply to all permanent Congressional staff. Information about ethical conduct can be found at the [House Committee on Ethics](https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual) (House Ethics Manual <https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual>) and the [Senate Select Committee on Ethics](https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/senate-ethics-manual) (Senate Ethics Manual <https://www.ethics.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/senate-ethics-manual>).

An IEEE-USA Congressional fellow's sole responsibility is to the congressional office in which they work and to the ethics rules guiding that office. Fellows may not and are not expected to provide special considerations of any kind to their employer – if they have one – or to IEEE. It is important that fellows avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest. Both the fellow and IEEE adhere to House and Senate Ethics Committee rules.

A fellows ethical restrictions include but are not limited to:

- Discontinuing all board or policy committee positions with any organizations that conduct outreach or advocacy to policymakers for the duration of the fellowship. Rules differ by chamber. For example, Senate Ethics guidelines prohibit board, officer, or advisory positions that are in conflict with official duties, and no board positions may be in publicly held companies.
- Severing all work on federally funded grants and other research collaborations or appointments. Fellows may not be party to any federally funded grant applications, either as a PI, co-PI, or subcontractor. If a fellow is already on a federally funded grant, they must stop work on the grant for the duration of the fellowship and may not receive funding from the grant during that time.

Fellows must receive clearance from their office and House/ Senate Ethics Committee before:

- Accepting speaking engagements.
- Publishing anything in which you identify yourself as affiliated with a congressional office, committee, or government agency.
- Accepting Honoraria.

Additional limitations, defined by the House/ Senate Ethics Committees, may apply for a period regarding employment after the fellowship.

Executive Branch Fellowships

Like the restrictions that apply to Congressional fellows, State Department and USAID fellows are required to be free agents who make their own choices of the offices in which they serve, subject to the agreement of the office and the ethics committee rulings of the host agency. Fellows may not provide special considerations of any kind to IEEE or a current employer if they have one.

Additional Resources. More information is available from the [U.S. Office of Government Ethics](https://www.eoethics.gov/).