Call for applications: 2021-2022 EPS Public Outreach/DEI Graduate Fellowships

The Yale Earth and Planetary Sciences department is pleased to announce a new initiative that will offer semester-long Public Outreach/DEI Fellowships for students in our graduate program. The fellowship program will enable Fellows to allocate a substantial fraction of their work time to projects that are centered on public outreach and/or diversity, equity, and inclusion. The fellowship is open to all post-candidacy graduate students in EPS (that is, students who have passed their qualifying exams; students who are taking exams in Spring 2021 are eligible to apply). Participating Fellows will have a portion of their usual stipend covered by the Department to enable their participation in 8-10 hours per week of outreach/DEI activities. For students whose funding situation comes with a Teaching Fellowship (TF) obligation, the Public Outreach/DEI Fellowship would replace a TF10 assignment. For students supported on grants or outside fellowships, assignment as a Public Outreach/DEI Fellow would mean a reallocation of some portion of time typically devoted to research or other scholarly work (8-10 hours per week on average) to outreach/DEI activities.

The Department anticipates supporting 1-2 Fellows per semester for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are currently soliciting applications for the 2021-2022 program (both the fall and spring semester; please specify any preference for timing in the application), with applications due on April 30, 2021. Applications should be brief (~1-2 pages) and should include the following elements:

- Explanation of the applicant’s motivation to undertake the fellowship
- A project description, including proposed organizational partner(s) and/or supervisor(s)
- A justification for the proposed activities
- A proposed timeline explaining the frequency and duration of activities
- A description of expected outcomes and/or products
- A plan for evaluating the success of the project
- An informal letter of support (email is fine) from a potential project partner and/or supervisor

Proposed projects should be of a scope that is appropriate for the time commitment expected (8-10 hours per week throughout the semester, comparable to a TF10 assignment). Potential activities could include teaching or leading events through the Yale Peabody Museum, development or implementation of inclusive teaching practices, tutoring through local schools or through the IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) tutoring program, course development or other activities through the Yale Pathways to Science program, projects aimed at communicating or popularizing science to a broad audience, or projects that involve partnering with social scientists to contribute to discipline-based education research or other research on DEI-related topics. A list of potential partner organizations is at the end of this document. The committee welcomes proposals for activities beyond this suggested list, as long as the project is well-motivated and a clear project plan is provided. Proposals for projects that include activities taking place over the summer (instead of during the semester) will be considered, as long as the time commitment is appropriate and commensurate with a TF10 assignment; in these cases the student would hold the fellowship during the summer.

EPS Public Outreach/DEI Fellows will be expected to work on their projects throughout their tenure, and to produce brief (1-2 pages) mid-term and final reports that will be submitted to the DGS and to the IDEA committee. These reports will include documentation (on a weekly basis) of time spent on
project activities, a description of project outcomes and products, and discussion of any challenges overcome or lessons learned. Final reports from Fellows will be archived on the IDEA committee website. We anticipate several training and/or networking events throughout the 2021-2022 academic year for the cohort of EPS Fellows and for participants in a similar pilot program in the Yale Physics department. We plan for the EPS Fellows, along with their colleagues in Physics, to present their projects at an event open to members of both departments at the end of the academic year.

Applications for the fellowships will be evaluated by an ad hoc committee that includes the non-student members of the IDEA committee, the DGS, and one additional faculty member. Criteria for selection will include the feasibility and likely impact of proposed projects. We anticipate supporting a range of types of projects each year. We will give preference to students who are close to graduation and who may not have a chance to apply again in future years. Applicants for the 2021-2022 fellowships will be notified in June 2021.

Students who have questions, who are unsure how to go about crafting a project plan, or who would like to get feedback on a project idea are encouraged to contact the DGS or the IDEA committee for advice, discussion, or ideas – feel free to get in touch with the chair any member of the committee.

Please send completed applications and project partner support letters via email to Maureen Long (maureen.long@yale.edu), IDEA committee chair, by Friday, April 30, 2021.

List of potential partner organizations (this is a set of suggestions, not a comprehensive or prescriptive list):

Yale Peabody Museum (including community engagement, K-12 engagement, Evolutions and SciCorps programs, exhibition development and community co-curation projects, environmental justice initiatives, and DEI-oriented research projects)
Yale Pathways to Science
Yale Office of New Haven Affairs (including School Partnerships & Community Partnerships)
Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning
Yale Women’s Center
Yale Science Communication
Yale Science Diplomats
Yale Synapse
Open Labs at Yale
New Haven Science Fair
Girls’ Science Investigations
Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services
New Haven Reads
Poetic Haven
Connecticut Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
Pathfinder Hopkins School
Science on Saturdays
Code Haven
SheCode at Yale