



Applications are now being accepted for New York Sea Grant (NYSG)'s 2025 Community Engaged (CEI) Fellowship Program. Deadline for submission is **March 13, 2025, by 11:59 PM EDT**. **Questions?** Contact Stacy Furgal at SLF85@cornell.edu, visit our website at nyseagrant.org/ceiinternship or use the QR code supplied.

Apply here: <https://nyseagrant.info/applyfor2025cei>

Fellowship Summary:

- 10-week duration, beginning in early June
- \$6,000 stipend
- Weekly professional development through the CEI program and NYSG
- Must be a current undergraduate from a New York college or university (recent graduates are not eligible)
- **Proof of Health Insurance will be required after acceptance. A letter from the school, insurance company or ID card will be accepted.**

Background

The overarching goal of this fellowship program is to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers and citizens. The program will do so by recruiting, retaining, and engaging undergraduate students in place-based research, extension, education and/or communication that respects and integrates local methods.

Freshwater Mussel Research & Education

Location: Buffalo, NY

This community engaged fellow will participate in an ongoing scientific research project and assist in the planning and implementation of an educator professional development opportunity focused on native freshwater mussels in western New York. Firstly, the fellow will assist researchers at the University at Buffalo's Krabbenhoft Aquatic Ecology Lab and the Porto-Hannes Mussel Lab with: sampling rivers and tributaries for freshwater mussels, aquatic salamanders, and laboratory work related to care and propagation of mussels, and placement of mussels in silos (protective chamber) in tributaries. The fellow will also work with New York Sea Grant's Great Lakes Literacy Specialist to plan and facilitate a professional development opportunity for K-12 and informal educators. This project is funded through the National Sea Grant CEI program, and will include a mandatory, all expense paid, in-person field experience from July 20th to 24th in North Carolina.

Workforce, Marketing, & Resource Development

Location: Hart's Hatchery (Sayville) and Stony Brook Office

This project will immerse the fellow into New York's Aquaculture industry and allow the individual to contribute to it and gain experience from three different angles: 1) learn oyster cultivation protocols while working at a shellfish hatchery (3 days/week); 2) work with the Long Island Oyster Growers Association (LIOGA) to develop and improve the association's online marketing and social media presence to increase consumer awareness and foster new business (1 to 2 days/week); and 3) assist with NYSG's Aquaculture Development website (1 to 2 days/week). This project is funded through the National Sea Grant CEI program, and will include a mandatory, all expense paid, in-person field experience from July 20th to 24th in North Carolina.



Fen Stanczyk studied freshwater mussels in Great Lakes tributaries alongside researchers from the University at Buffalo. Credit: Fen Stanczyk

Microplastics Pollution Research & Education on the Hudson River

Location: Norrie Point Environmental Center, Staatsburg, NY

This fellowship will focus on microplastics pollution research and education at the Norrie Point Environmental Center. The fellow will assist with a variety of summer environmental education programs about the Hudson River with a focus on marine debris and microplastics pollution. The fellow will also participate in field sampling and microscopy analysis with High School and college students with The Education And Microplastics Science Community River Assessment Project (TEAM SCRAP). Upon completion, the fellow will prepare an outreach document or project synthesizing TEAM SCRAP findings and using best practices in science communication.

Lake Ontario Recreation & Tourism Exhibit • Location: Oswego, NY

The student will work at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum (HLWMM) to create an exhibit covering recreation and tourism Lake Ontario. With guidance from HLWMM and NYSG, the fellow will create an exhibit that shares their experiences recreating along Lake Ontario with the community. The selected student will also help the HLWMM with events and daily duties during the summer. These duties may include but are not limited to providing tours of the HLWMM facilities and lighthouse, Oswego Paddlefest planning, and greeting guests. One day per week, the fellow will work directly with NYSG on professional training and skills development.

Wetlands Field Data Collection • Location: Bronx, NY

Monitoring of Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF) involves collecting data from wetlands to compare the impact of natural shoreline protections with conventional approaches. In the Long Island Sound watershed, the NNBF team surveys shoreline slopes, uses quadrants for plant identification and diversity assessments, evaluates substrates, and documents changes through ArcGIS. Additionally, the team conducts social science evaluations via park visitor and patron surveys. The collected data is reported to the Department of State to support state-level decision-making and policy development and helping local communities protect their coastlines. This project helps to develop field research skills, communications skills, and mapping skills for participating students.

Leading a Course About Microplastic Pollution • Location: NYC

Eco Ambassador is a program offered to middle and high school youth through Columbia University. This partnership that brings New York and New Jersey Sea Grant with the Center for Sustainable Development equips youth participants with scientific knowledge to develop solutions for mitigating plastic use and establish sustainable solutions for management and stewardship of plastic waste within their communities. The CEI Fellow will be working to develop and present effective marine debris curricula and expand environmental literacy outreach to school districts in various communities in and around New York City. The student will learn how to organize a course, develop a curriculum, build ArcGIS story maps, run virtual and in-person courses at the Lamont Doherty Laboratory, and conduct microplastic research.

Great Lakes Fish: Contaminates & Communication

Location: Syracuse (ESF), Ithaca (Cornell), or Oswego (SUNY Oswego)

Join an innovative research team working on topics related to contaminants in Great Lakes fish and how the risks and health benefits of eating Great Lakes fish are communicated to non-traditional anglers. Learn lab techniques, get outdoors collecting samples, and participate in planning and implementing a workshop. This fellowship will provide support for several projects and will provide an excellent opportunity to network with other students, faculty, and agencies around the state. The selected student will have the opportunity to develop an individualized project that will be used to communicate contaminate research to Great Lakes angler communities, which will be determined by the student's interests. This could include products such as: a story map, a presentation at a community center, tabling at a community event, brochures, graphics, etc. This project is ideal for students interested in gaining experience related to public health, ecotoxicology, fish biology, and science communication.

Fashion & Microplastic Pollution

Location: NYC In-person meetings, public transportation accessible events, most work done remotely.

The fellow will develop outreach materials on microplastic pollution for academic and public audiences, including fashion students and faculty and followers of environmental organizations on social media. Through this experience, the fellow will build skills in science communication, digital outreach, networking, and literature review. Project deliverables may include a creative and informative display for a sustainability in fashion event in fall 2025 and engaging social media content highlighting key elements of the display.