

Presidential Management Fellowship

The Presidential Management Fellowship is a 2-year paid fellowship within the federal government for graduate students. Practically every agency hires Fellows although the number of positions within the agency may vary depending on their budgets for the year. However, all background interests (health, international, trade, energy, etc.) should apply. Recently, there have been many energy/environmental positions within the Department of Energy and the Department of Interior.

The Fellowship is designed to “face track” individuals into executive leadership positions within the government. Hiring agencies are required to provide 80 hours of classroom training each year. In addition, the Fellow and his hiring agency work together to develop an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for the two years. The IDP should include several rotations within his agency, a different agency, or even within another branch of the government. The IDP should be designed so that at the end of the fellowship, the Fellow is qualified to convert into a specified permanent target position within his agency.

Fellows are hired at a GS-9, GS-11 or GS-12 level (a law degree generally qualifies for GS-11). Typically, the Fellow will be promoted one grade level during his fellowship and the target position he will assume upon conversion will be 2 to 3 grade levels higher than his starting level. (e.g. Fellow is hired at GS-11, promoted after his first year to GS-12, and then converts at the end of his fellowship to a GS-13 permanent position).

The hiring process involves 3 rounds. In the first round, the applicant submits a resume to UH career services and a UH committee determines who will go on to the next round. During the second round, the applicant takes about a 4-hour exam administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The exam has 3 sections: a logical thinking section, a personality section, and a grammar/writing composition section. Based on how well he scores on this exam, the applicant becomes a finalist and is eligible to apply for PMF government positions. OPM holds a job fair in DC which the finalist can attend. In addition, the finalist may apply to any PMF position offered for up to one year following his selection as a finalist.

One thing to note is that positions within this fellowship are not official legal/attorney positions. They are generally analyst positions and are more policy oriented. So, your law degree will be put to good use.

If interested in applying, please inquire with the UH career services to determine when the application is due.
