

New York Coastal Resilience Law and Policy Program Summer Fellowship 2026

Why apply for this fellowship?

Spend the summer serving New York's coastal communities with your law and policy knowledge in collaboration with New York Sea Grant! This fellowship will provide one student from each partner institution (City University of New York School of Law (CUNY); Pace University School of Law (Pace); and University at Buffalo School of Law (UB)) with an opportunity to collaborate with New York Sea Grant and interact with local communities. You must still be a student at the time of the fellowship to participate.

New York Sea Grant is looking for law students who are interested in applying their legal skills to real-world problems to benefit local communities and governments. Projects will address:

- Development of a guidance document or digital tool to help the seafood industry understand exemptions and modified requirements under the new Food Traceability Rule.
- Research of federal, state, and local laws regarding dam ownership across New York State.
- Build on prior fellowships and research the existence of codes and ordinances to develop model code for Long Island municipalities to incentivize stormwater mitigation on private residential properties.
- Successful applicants are excellent writers and problem-solvers who can work independently and meet deadlines. An interest in coastal law is encouraged but not necessary.

Our program's summer fellows gain experience:

- interacting with communities/governments in need of the legal research and tools;
- researching existing legal regimes and administrative practices;
- assessing efficacy of the practices and making recommendations for improvement;
- drafting public facing documents to report research findings to present to affected communities and decision-makers;

- preparing community toolkits/guides to translate legal knowledge;
- building community capacity to understand policies and participate in decision-making; AND
- working with and creating knowledge alongside expert lawyers and other professionals.

Fellowship locations will be remote with options for offices at:

- Stony Brook University
- SUNY Oswego

The full-time fellowships will run from **June 1 to August 7, 2026**.

Fellows will participate in weekly webinars with NYSG staff. A \$6,000 stipend will be provided, and limited travel funds MAY be available for fellows to present their work at a regional or national conference for nine months post-fellowship. The stipend is expected to cover minimal travel to field sites. Qualified applicants must have access to reliable transportation to and from the office and throughout the day for fieldwork.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, 2 to 3 page statement of interest in the project and work location, and transcript (need not be an official transcript) to Norma Gunn, administrator, at nlg43@cornell.edu. For full consideration, application materials should be received by 5pm EST on **Feb. 20, 2026**. Successful applicants will be notified by early March 2026. Proof of health insurance will be required after acceptance.

For more information about New York Sea Grant and the New York Coastal Resilience Law and Policy Program, visit nyseagrant.org/lawfellowships or contact Kathy Bunting-Howarth, Associate Director, at keb264@cornell.edu.



NYSG is a partnership program of the State University of New York, Cornell University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that delivers science-based solutions for environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and resilience across New York's marine and Great Lakes regions. Sea Grant is funded in New York through SUNY and Cornell University and federally through NOAA.