

Climate and Health Education Medical Student Fellowship 2026-2027

Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education

Columbia University

[Application Form](#)

Overview:

Climate change is a health issue that affects morbidity, mortality, and society's abilities to deliver healthcare and support healthy living. The effects of climate change are already harming health around the world, and impacts will only intensify in the coming years. Heat waves and rainstorms are becoming more deadly, disease outbreaks last longer and are seen in new regions, wildfire smoke from tinder-dry forests reduces air quality, and food and water security are threatened by extreme weather. There is an imperative for quick action on many fronts: to recognize and respond to climate-health threats; prevent climate change at its source by reducing heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions; support "greener" systems throughout the economy, including healthcare; understand the health co-benefits of adaptation and mitigation; and communicate effectively about these issues for the sake of safeguarding human health.

The Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) envisions that all health professionals throughout the world – doctors, nurses, and public health leaders and practitioners – will be trained to prevent, reduce, and respond to the health impacts of climate change. To achieve this vision, we created the 1-year intensive Climate and Health Education Student Fellowship - to educate and empower the next generation of health professions students to become global climate and health leaders and communicators in their respective fields and within interdisciplinary collaborations.

With close mentorship from the GCCHE secretariat, coordinating committee and working groups, students will become deeply involved with all activities of the GCCHE, contribute to projects as well as lead the student advisory committee.

Fellow Objectives:

- Fellows will gain an understanding of the complex relationships between climate change and health and how the health sector can respond proactively to protect individuals and communities.
- Fellows will demonstrate competence in effective climate and health communication to different audiences.
- Fellows will gain insight to effectively lead health programmatic development within the academic, public, and private sectors.
- Fellows will advocate for and lead programmatic developments for climate and health at institutional level.

Fellow Activities (subject to change based on student interest and needs):

- **Leadership**

- Lead the growth of the global and interdisciplinary GCCHE Student Advisory Committee.
 - One-on-one mentorship with GCCHE Faculty to work on leadership strategies and opportunities for growth.
 - Work with students and professionals from various health backgrounds to start climate and health education programs
 - Liaise with interested students/institutions from around the world.
 - Mentor GCCHE interns or rotating students.
 - Lead the development of student policy statements on climate change and health.
 - Give presentations and practice public speaking.
- **Organizing & Advocacy**
 - Oversee the development of a student resource center on the GCCHE web platform
 - Maintain the “student perspectives” section of the website by soliciting writings from student members
 - Maintain internship and fellowship opportunities available to health students
 - Participate in GCCHE program development
- **Education**
 - Assist in the development of programs, writing guides and papers, hosting webinars, and designing and implementing courses that complement the GCCHE’s efforts to connect students engaged in climate and health education globally.
 - Within global networks develop regionally specific climate-health educational resources for students and institutions to use in their health curricula.

Eligibility:

- For this cycle we have only one position open for a **Medical Student**, who ideally should be on a “research/gap” year.
- You must **currently** be a medical student to apply.
- International students are welcome.

Details:

- **Research or Project Proposal**
 - The prospective Fellow will apply with a research or project proposal. This project will be the main focus of the Fellow with the aim of submitting a manuscript for formal publication at the end of the year. Fellows will submit a short proposal with their application. Fellows will receive mentorship and support throughout the year to carry out their proposal.
 - Proposals should be no more than 500 words with the following sections: Introduction/Background, Rationale and Objectives, Proposed Methods, Proposed Outputs.
 - Project examples include developing educational content to educate a wide variety of audiences (e.g. students, patients, leaders, colleagues). Topics from across specialties are welcome and encouraged.

- Project topics must focus on climate and health. At least one of the Project Outputs should be focused on education.
 - The Fellow will also contribute to ongoing GCCHE research projects.
- **Duration:** Fellowships are 12 months long, July 2025 – June 2026.
- Fellows are expected to spend roughly **15 hours** per week working on GCCHE projects and individual fellowship projects. Hours are expected to flex up/down (i.e. launch of critical project on deadline, etc).
- Funding:
 - The Fellowship is free and comes with a \$5,000 stipend + travel support to attend conferences.
- Please note:
 - Health insurance is not covered.
 - Housing is not provided.
 - Students will work virtually with several in-person meetings throughout the year. Travel to in-person meetings will be covered by the GCCHE.

Timeline and Application Process:

- Applications open January 15, 2026
- Applications close March 15, 2026
- Final decisions will be sent by April 15, 2026
- Program starts July 2026

Submission instructions:

- Applicants must submit:
 - **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
 - **Cover letter** describing their interest in and motivation for applying for the fellowship
 - **Research Project Proposal** (500-words max): The Fellow will apply with a research or project proposal. This project will be the main focus of the Fellow with the aim of submitting a manuscript for formal publication at the end of the year. Fellows will submit a short proposal with their application. Fellows will receive mentorship and support throughout the year to carry out their proposal.
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