

2020–2021

PRB U.S. Policy Communication Training Program

The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) is now accepting applications for its 2020-2021 U.S. Policy Communication Training Program.

Please complete the [online application](#) to apply!

Applications close February 17, 2020.

The Opportunity

The U.S. Policy Communication Training Program builds on PRB's 40-year legacy of training researchers to bridge the gap between research findings and the policy development process. While research often has profound practical implications, it must be communicated effectively to a variety of nontechnical audiences to influence policy and programmatic change. The U.S. Policy Communication Training Program prepares researchers to influence policy and practice through effective communication.

Through the U.S. Policy Communication Training Program, participants will:

- Understand the process by which research informs the policy environment.
- Learn various ways to communicate findings to U.S. and international policy audiences.
- Improve their ability to communicate in written and verbal formats.

Core training sessions cover the research to policy gap, communication strategies to link research to policy, writing for policy and nontechnical audiences, and effective content for and delivery of presentations.

This program is made possible by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—National Institutes of Health (NIH) Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Who Should Apply

The training is open to ***U.S. citizens and permanent residents (Green Card holders) pursuing doctoral programs at reputable U.S. academic institutions*** and who are between their ***3rd and 5th year of studies***.

Research Requirements

Applicants may be in any field of study, but ***their research focus must be related to demography, reproductive health, or population health***.

- **Demographic topics** include population dynamics, distribution, growth, and decline; migration; fertility, nuptiality, and family demography; mortality and morbidity; or the causes and consequences of demographic change.
- **Reproductive health studies** of interest are limited to behavioral and social science research.
- **Population health areas** include human health, productivity, and development at the population level. The populations of concern may be U.S. or non-U.S. populations.

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Program Information

The program has two main components:

- **Workshop:** A week-long workshop in Washington, D.C., in June 2020 focuses on the role of research in the policy process, and on techniques for effective communication of research findings to decisionmakers, media, and nontechnical audiences.

During the workshop, participants interact with PRB staff and outside experts active in policy research and communications. Participants will be asked to work with their own research results to identify the policy relevance. Trainees practice distilling policy-relevant messages from their own dissertation or other academic research and communicating this information in nontechnical language. The training will culminate with each participant delivering a 10-minute policy-oriented presentation.

The training program organizers will pay participant expenses including: travel to and from Washington, D.C.; hotel; food; and related expenses during the week-long, in-person training period.

- **Practicum:** During the 2020-2021 academic year, participants will apply the lessons learned at the Washington, D.C., workshop in their preparation of policy communication materials (for example, policy briefs, blogs, or op-eds) based on their dissertations or related research topics. During the year, participants will receive feedback from PRB staff on their work. Upon completion of the policy communication assignments, participants become eligible to apply for a travel stipend to present at a policy-oriented meeting or conference.

Application Information

The deadline for applying is 11:59 PM ET on Feb. 17, 2020. The training program awards will be announced in early April 2020.

Applicants must submit the following to PRB:

- A completed [application form](#).
- An up-to-date resume with a full list of educational and other professional activities.
- Two letters of reference sent directly from the person writing the reference.

To apply, please complete the [online application](#) and submit all required information and documents. Letters of reference must be emailed directly to USPolicyTraining@prb.org. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have questions or need assistance completing the application, please contact Alfred Hylton-Dei at USPolicyTraining@prb.org.

POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU

The Population Reference Bureau **INFORMS** people around the world about population, health, and the environment, and **EMPOWERS** them to use that information to **ADVANCE** the well-being of current and future generations.

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