2027–2028 GLOS Great Lakes Communications Fellowship

The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) is seeking one Communications Fellow to join our small, mission-driven team for a hands-on, mentored fellowship experience at the intersection of coastal ocean and Great Lakes science, community engagement, and public service. This fellowship is designed as an extension of a student's graduate education: an opportunity to grow into new skills, focusing on strategic communications, science communication, and public awareness of binational Great Lakes data and information.

The GLOS Great Lakes Communications Fellowship will begin January 4, 2027 and will end January 3, 2028, with the possibility of extension to a second year based on performance and continued funding. Students who have recently completed or are within one academic term of completing a graduate degree or professional program at an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution are eligible for the fellowship. Applicants must demonstrate interest in science communication, public outreach, and the binational policy decisions affecting Great Lakes resources.

About the Fellowship Experience

Working with mentors from the GLOS communications team and the IOOS Association's national Service Delivery and Communications initiative, Great Lakes Communications Fellows help build greater public awareness of the data, tools, and services that support safety and decision-making on the Great Lakes. The fellow will contribute to the next phase of GLOS's strategic communications work, including a multimedia library of b-roll, short thematic videos, and web content that helps the public and partner organizations understand and apply Great Lakes observing data.

This one-year fellowship will help shape how GLOS and the IOOS network communicate about the Great Lakes, through development of training videos and other digital content that explain day-to-day applications of GLOS data, such as mobile apps for boating, beach safety, and hazard forecasting, and through targeted outreach to communicators who relay this information to the public, including broadcast meteorologists and emergency responders. As a binational fellowship, the Fellow will also help strengthen coordinated public communication and outreach between Great Lakes agencies and organizations in both Canada and the United States. This fellowship provides support for a student's efforts and enhances academic and professional development opportunities.

Working with members of the Great Lakes science, communications, and information/education communities, the Fellow will contribute to and benefit from content development, media relations, and audience research activities.

Fellows will receive training and help support GLOS programs related to strategic communications and public engagement with water resource science and policy. Our fellowship program is one way GLOS seeks to help meet the region's science-communications workforce needs, support a pipeline of professionals ready to translate complex environmental information for the public, and contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the Great Lakes' water resources.

A. Application and Submission Information

Required Elements

Failure to follow these requirements will result in applications being rejected without review.

Application package must include:

- Two signed letters of recommendation, including one from the student's major professor; if no major professor exists, a faculty member who knows the applicant's academic work best may be substituted;
- A personal education and career goal statement emphasizing the applicant's abilities and what the applicant expects to gain from the fellowship experience in the way of career development, including any interest in science communication, public outreach, or media relations (1,000 words or less);
- Curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages);
- Clear, scanned copies of all official undergraduate and graduate transcripts;
- A communications writing sample or portfolio of up to three short pieces (e.g., a press release, social media content, blog post, video script, or explainer graphic) demonstrating the applicant's ability to translate technical or scientific information for a general audience; and
- IF not included in transcripts, listing of classes completed and/or planned for the two academic terms preceding the fellowship start date (not to exceed one page).

B. Submission Dates and Times

Applicants must submit materials by 5 p.m. Eastern **November 13, 2026** to the GLOS email **recruit@glos.org**. Please indicate that you are applying for the GLOS Great Lakes Communications Fellowship.

C. Funding

The fellowship will provide a total package of $56,000 in stipend, benefits, and travel.

The Fellow will receive $48,000 as a stipend to cover living expenses. Of the remaining funds, GLOS provides up to $5,000 to cover health insurance and relocation expenses; any remaining balance shall be used first to satisfy academic degree-related activities, and second for fellowship-related activities. Up to $3,000 of the total package can be used to cover travel related to professional development activities during the year.

During the fellowship, GLOS may provide supplemental funds for work-related travel by the Fellow, such as attendance at Great Lakes science or policy conferences.

Indirect costs are not allowable from fellowship funds, either for the fellowship itself or for any costs associated with it.

D. Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria – The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

- **Recommendations and/or endorsements of the student (15% total):** Content of the letter from the applicant's major professor, and the second letter of recommendation.
- **Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives (45% total):** Quality of the applicant's personal education and career goal statement (30%); strength of academic performance (15%).

- **Additional relevant experience (40% total)** in writing and editing, multimedia or video production, social media or campaign management, and audience or media relations, as well as:
- Diversity of education
- Extra-curricular activities
- Honors and awards
- Interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills.

E. Review and Selection Process

GLOS will form a panel to interview and individually discuss each application based on the evaluation criteria listed in the previous section. Following this discussion, an individual score will be provided by each panel member. Once all applications have been discussed and scored, an average score will be computed for each application. The three (3) top-scoring applicants will be interviewed by the GLOS panel.

F. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The competitive selection process is anticipated to be completed by December 11, 2026. The award is anticipated to start on January 4, 2027 and run for one year (12 months).

G. Award Notification

GLOS will notify each successful and unsuccessful applicant by e-mail, along with a written summary of the review panel comments. Applications that are not ultimately selected for funding will be destroyed one year after the submission date.

H. Reporting

An annual performance report (summary of accomplishments and activities) is to be submitted to the GLOS Strategic Initiatives Manager.

I. Fellowship Questions

E-mail: **recruit@glos.org** — please indicate that you are applying for the GLOS Great Lakes Communications Fellowship.

About the Great Lakes Observing System

GLOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 2005, that collects, manages, and shares data about the Great Lakes. GLOS is a certified Regional Association within NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Our mission is to make real-time and historical data available to the public to help advance science, policy, management, and industry across the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes, with a focus on coastal resilience, ecosystem and food web dynamics, protection of public health, and navigation safety and efficiency. Please visit our website for more information at glos.org.