



at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

# The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Journalism Fellowship Program

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is proud to offer a national competition for a 10-month fellowship, which is open to career journalists. For more information, visit [workinglongerstudy.org](http://workinglongerstudy.org)

**Deadline to Apply: April 2, 2018**

## About the Fellowship Program

The AP-NORC fellowship program is designed to address the need for more journalists with the skills required to do research-based enterprise reporting. The 2018-2019 Journalism Fellow will focus on the economics of Americans working longer. As an AP-NORC fellow, you will develop the analytical research skills needed to create a sustained series of news reports that address the economics of the aging workforce. The skill set you develop will be useful throughout your career and can be applied to many different issues. As a fellow, you will:

**Potential Fellows**  
This position is open to career journalists with some experience covering business and economics and with demonstrated interest in reporting on issues around the aging population. Additional criteria are as follows:

- Must be a journalist with at least five years of experience. Journalists working in text, radio, television, and online are eligible to apply.
  - Should have a track record that demonstrates ability to translate economic or academic research into journalism. Formal training or experience in economics or social science research methods would be beneficial, but is not required.
  - Should have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
  - Must be willing to relocate to Chicago. Consideration may be given to a highly qualified fellow who wishes to work in Washington, DC, instead of Chicago.
  - Relocation support is available. NORC will provide office space on the University of Chicago campus.
  - The fellow is expected to begin work and training in September 2018.
- Contribute to and report on an in-depth research project on older Americans' expectations and experiences with work and retirement as they age.
  - Be mentored by a University of Chicago faculty member.
  - Have opportunities to take courses and attend conferences and workshops.
  - Have access to NORC resources, University of Chicago faculty, and special courses.
  - Develop goals for the term of the fellowship in collaboration with senior AP-NORC staff and earn a performance bonus based on successful achievement of these mutually agreed upon goals.
  - Develop and enhance social science, econometric, statistical, and other analytical research skills needed to explore the aging workforce and its economic and policy implications for employers, workers, and government.
  - Work one-on-one with an AP editor. Produce in-depth, research-based enterprise journalism distributed nationally and worldwide by AP.



# Success Stories: The Impact of an AP-NORC Journalism Fellowship

"Matt's, Adam's, and Maria's participation in the fellowship allowed The Associated Press to break news about public attitudes toward aging and work. Many of the stories would not have been written without the fellowship. Their articles, accompanied by photo and video, were exceptionally well received among AP members and clients. We received strong, positive feedback last year, when the results of a months-long data project on fatal workplace accidents among older workers were distributed to AP members and clients, allowing them to localize the story. We continue to draw on the expertise Matt developed during his time with The AP-NORC Center."

– Carole Feldman, News Editor, The Associated Press

## A Unique Fellowship Opportunity to Build Enterprise Reporting Skills

As an AP-NORC Journalism Fellow, you will spend 10 months working for The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, with access to the research and academic resources of NORC at the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago itself, including members of its renowned faculty across the social sciences.

- The fellowship will provide a highly competitive 10-month salary of \$80,000 plus benefits.
- There is a possible performance bonus of up to \$5,000.
- At NORC, you will participate in a highly individualized training program, including a mix of one-on-one tutorials, seminars, and the opportunity to audit selected University of Chicago courses.
- AP will supervise your reporting activities and distribute your work to its global worldwide audience and its thousands of subscribers and customers across all media platforms.
- Relocation support is available. NORC will provide office space on the University of Chicago campus.
- A budget is available for travel, coursework, conferences, access to experts, and short courses at other institutions.
- The fellowship will begin September 2018 for a 10-month fixed term.
- The deadline to apply is April 2, 2018.
- Apply online at [workinglongerstudy.org](http://workinglongerstudy.org).

## About The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research combines the power of objective research and the highest-quality journalism to bring important information and analysis of the key issues of the day to people across the nation and throughout the world.

The Associated Press (AP) is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.

NORC at the University of Chicago is an independent research organization headquartered in downtown Chicago, with additional offices on the University of Chicago campus, the DC Metro area, Atlanta, Boston, and San Francisco. NORC's 75 years of leadership and experience in data collection, analysis, and dissemination—coupled with deep subject matter expertise—provides the foundation for effective solutions to issues confronting society.

Through their unique partnership, the two organizations carry out and analyze independent research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and use the power of journalism to tell the stories the research reveals.

The AP-NORC fellowship has been an incredible learning experience. I had the opportunity not only to take classes at the University of Chicago, but I was also allowed to actively participate in shaping a yearly survey of older workers. I had the time and resources to dive into an under-reported topic: the aging of the worker population. By 2024, older workers will account for 25 percent of the labor market. This is an important population we need to cover with more depth because not all older workers are the same. I was given the flexibility to write an array of stories about this population for one of the most reputable news organizations in the country.

– Maria Zamudio, 2016-2017 AP-NORC Journalism Fellow

Matt Sedensky, the inaugural fellow, chose to focus his training on data analysis, and through the fellowship, was able to attend a University of Michigan short course on the Health and Retirement Study, received one-on-one training from an NORC analyst to use data analysis software, and audited empirical economics courses to develop a foundation in economic theory and its application.

The second fellow, Adam Allington, had a background in broadcast journalism and used his training to develop data-driven text reporting skills through training with the Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference, economic policy coursework at the University of Chicago, and online coursework in data analysis software.

Most recently, Maria Zamudio complemented her investigative journalism background with data analysis training and coursework at the University of Chicago and attended conferences on aging, including taking part in the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Aging Conference at Columbia University and an event on age discrimination in the workplace convened by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The fellows each worked with AP-NORC Center colleagues on surveys of older Americans about their plans for work and retirement. They wrote the AP stories that disseminated the findings, bringing them to the attention of policymakers and the general public.

- 3.1 billion people: The size of the online audience for outlets posting the 2017 Working Longer stories.
- 450 radio stations broadcasting AP Radio News featured the 2013, 2016, and 2017 survey results.
- Articles written by Sedensky, Allington, and Zamudio appeared on the front pages of more than 200 newspapers across the country.
- Huffington Post, CBS News, and Forbes used the poll as a means to discuss problems with retirement savings and government benefits for the elderly.

The fellowship clearly achieved its goal of providing the fellows with in-depth training in the skills of data-driven journalism, which will serve them well throughout their careers. It also gave them the time to produce text and multimedia stories on aging and work that received wide attention in media of all formats.

As a 2018-2019 AP-NORC Journalism Fellow, you will build on this success and continue to move the needle of public understanding on the issue of the economics of the aging workforce.

**AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**  
**NORC at the University of Chicago**  
**55 East Monroe Street, 30th Floor | Chicago, IL 60603**  
**[www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org)**

## How to Apply

- Applications and more information are available online at [workinglongerstudy.org](http://workinglongerstudy.org)
- The deadline to apply is April 2, 2018.
- Candidates need to submit a resume/CV.
- Finalists will be asked to submit a personal statement, a proposal for research, work samples, and three letters of recommendation. One of the letters of recommendation should come from your current supervisor. Freelancers should submit a recommendation from a recent editor.