



**Stanford**  
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INSTITUTE *for the*  
ENVIRONMENT

## **The Rising Environmental Leaders Program**

**(REL<sup>P</sup>)** equips early career scholars with the knowledge and networks to connect research to action. This interdisciplinary and highly competitive professional development program attracts graduate students and postdoctoral scholars with the potential to become environmental leaders in their respective fields. RELP fellows demonstrate strong leadership skills, exceptional research capabilities and a keen interest in linking their findings to policy and decision-making. The RELP program provides professional development and networking opportunities including: career-related workshops, seminars, meetings with cross-sector leaders, and an intensive, Washington, D.C., Boot Camp. More than 100 scholars from all seven schools at Stanford have participated in the year-round program since its inception in 2010.

## **Program Priorities**

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- Complement students' formal education with hands-on, experiential learning;
- Introduce opportunities for maximizing research impact;
- Build a network of peers and partners; and
- Provide exposure to career tracks outside academia.





## Rising Environmental Leaders Program Washington, D.C., Boot Camp

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Environmental leaders need specialized skills, knowledge, and networks to connect research to action and support informed decision-making. RELP fellows get an insider's view of how government functions and policies are made at an intensive, weeklong D.C. Boot Camp held in partnership with the Bing Stanford in Washington Program. This signature program in the nation's capital gives RELP participants a unique opportunity to become familiar with policy development, build strategic partnerships and explore public service careers at the source.

### Learn

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Boot Camp attendees learn about the mechanics of policy design and implementation directly from D.C. decision-makers and opinion leaders who work in the trenches of the nation's capital. In addition to valuable advice and perspective into the way Washington works and the role science plays in this process, participants learn how to connect research to policy and people. Each day's agenda is filled with interactive meetings, panels and events moderated by a broad range of speakers. "It was a thousand times the best Stanford program I've participated in," said Subhan Ali, a 2013 RELP participant.

### Engage

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Participants directly engage key decision-makers from government, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, business and multilateral organizations on topics ranging from "Turning Science into Policy-Making" to "Congress 101." Sebastien Tilmans, PhD, Civil and Environmental Engineering and RELP Cohort 2014, said he "learned more about how the government really works in one week at RELP than I did in all my years growing up in the D.C. area. I'm far more optimistic about the government than I was previously."

### Connect

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Community-building and exploring careers outside academia is another major benefit of the D.C. Boot Camp. Networking opportunities abound and participants are coached in how to connect and engage with leaders in their field(s) of interest. Cohort members also make life-long connections with each other as well as with other RELP and Stanford alumni working in the private and public sectors. "This week has been a game changer," said Jennifer Hartle, postdoctoral scholar, RELP 2015. "Coming here changed my perspective about how to solve problems, and helped me see where my environmental health work fits into the overall environmental puzzle."

### For more information:

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[woods.stanford.edu/educating-leaders/leadership-programs/rising-environmental-leaders-program](https://woods.stanford.edu/educating-leaders/leadership-programs/rising-environmental-leaders-program)

Lea Rosenbohm, External Affairs Advisor  
202.328.5093  
[lrosenboh@stanford.edu](mailto:lrosenboh@stanford.edu)

