Columbia Law School | PI/PS *Office of Public Interest/ Public Service Law and Careers*

Global Public Service Fellowship 2027

Columbia Law School is pleased to announce the 2027 Global Public Service Fellowship for J.D. and LL.M. students or graduates beginning or advancing their careers in public interest and public service law. The fellowship will allow graduates to gain the experience, skills, and professional networks necessary for careers as legal practitioners specializing in public interest work in academia or nongovernmental, intergovernmental, or governmental organizations or agencies. In addition, the fellowship will enable public interest organizations confronting great demand and diminished resources to benefit from the services of talented lawyers.

The fellowship will enable a Columbia Law School graduate to spend one year working in public interest law in the U.S. or abroad. Applications are due on February 21, 2027.

Terms of the Fellowship

The Global Public Service Fellowship will be awarded for a one-year term to selected students or graduates who obtain positions at qualified host organizations in the U.S. or abroad. The proposed host organization and role must require the fellow to make use of their legal education.

Preference will be given to organizations based in Asia that are engaged in the practice of international law and possess expertise in issues of global consequence, such as climate change, human rights, migration, and security. Applications involving environmental work in Asia will be given special consideration.

Fellows must make a commitment to work at their host organization full-time, which is at least 35 hours per week, for 12 consecutive months. Fellows who secure and begin a full-time paid position before the end of the fellowship period or leave the fellowship position early for any reason must notify the PI/PS Office as soon as possible. The fellow will not receive additional fellowship payments after their last day of work with their host organization.

The fellowship carries a stipend of $65,000 a year and must begin within five months of graduation or of the award date, whichever is later. Fellows are not considered employees of Columbia University or Columbia Law School. The university cannot pay for health insurance or other benefits for fellows. Further details will be supplied to students who are granted a fellowship.

Qualifying Placements

To be considered for this fellowship, an applicant must obtain a placement with a public interest organization or intergovernmental or governmental agency in the U.S. or abroad. In special circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, the fellowship selection committee may accept a proposal for

work as a foreign law clerk with a national supreme court or at a regional or international court or tribunal.

As mentioned above, preference will be given to organizations based in Asia that are engaged in the practice of international law and possess expertise in issues of global consequence, such as climate change, human rights, migration, and security. Applications involving environmental work in Asia will be given special consideration.

Fellows must be supervised by a lawyer at the host organization or intergovernmental or governmental agency.

Columbia University, Columbia Law School, and other university faculty members or affiliated institutions are *not* qualifying hosts.

Given the array of possible host organizations and agencies as well as varying definitions of "lawyer" throughout the world, it is advisable to meet with Kristi Ueda, the associate director of human rights and public international law, to ensure both the proposed host and supervisor qualify for this fellowship.

Eligibility

The fellowship is available to:

- J.D. and LL.M. students of Columbia Law School Class of 2027, including those who will graduate in October 2026 or February or May 2027, or
- J.D. and LL.M. graduates of Columbia Law School Classes of 2025 or 2026.

Applicants must not have a full-time job or another fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work during the time for which the fellowship is sought.

Please note that priority for the fellowship will be given to applicants who:

- Exhibit a substantial commitment to pursue a career in public interest law (including those who are transitioning from the private sector).
- Demonstrate preparation for a career in public interest law.
- Will endeavor to work in public interest law immediately after the fellowship concludes.

Application and Selection Procedure

1. **Meet with Kristi Ueda, associate director of human rights and public international law.**
   Please request an advising appointment with Kristi Ueda on Symplicity during the fall semester to discuss your career goals and indicate your intention to apply.

   At any time, you may also contact Rebecca Hinde, coordinator for postgraduate fellowships for questions on the application and payment process. Please note that she is unable to provide advice on substantive questions, such as whether a particular host would be a good match or how to write a compelling personal statement.

2. **Apply to hosts.**
   Apply directly to qualifying placements to secure a host employer.
3. **Submit a fellowship application by February 21, 2027, at 11:59 p.m.**
   Follow the instructions at the end of this document.
4. **Applications are reviewed by a fellowship selection committee of Columbia Law School faculty, administrators, and human rights practitioners.**
   Fellows will be selected by the end of March 2027.

Stipend and Payment Process

Unless a fellow's host organization asks to have the stipend transferred to the organization, fellows are paid by Columbia Law School in monthly installments. Funds are not available before fellows commence work. Stipends are subject to U.S. taxes.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If either of the following circumstances apply to you, please follow the instructions below **PRIOR TO APPLYING:**

- **You plan to start your fellowship prior to July 1, 2027:** Please reach out to Rebecca Hinde to discuss the payment schedule.
- **Your proposed host organization is an intergovernmental agency such as the United Nations or World Bank, you plan to serve your fellowship within the United States, and you will need a visa to work in the United States:** Please reach out to Rebecca Hinde immediately as there are restrictions on paying fellowship stipends to holders of certain visa types. If you do not receive proper guidance, you may not be eligible to receive a fellowship, so it is very important that you speak to Rebecca Hinde as soon as possible and well before applying.

Fellowship Contacts

Kristi Ueda, associate director of human rights and public international law: ku2215@columbia.edu
Rebecca Hinde, coordinator for postgraduate fellowships: rh2523@columbia.edu

Application Instructions

Please visit cglink.me/2it/s78703 to upload the following documents **by February 21, 2027, at 11:59 p.m.**

1. Resume.
2. Personal statement (1,000 words maximum) about your relevant experience, interest, and future aspirations with respect to public service legal work. The statement should include a discussion of the fellowship's place in your career plans. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND THE FELLOWSHIP NAME ON THE DOCUMENT.
3. Description of the work (2 pages maximum) that includes a description of the proposed host organization and its work, a description of your proposed work and its relation to the work of the

proposed host organization, and an estimated budget (to demonstrate feasibility). PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND THE FELLOWSHIP NAME ON THE DOCUMENT.

4. UNOFFICIAL Columbia Law School transcript.
5. Commitment letter from the proposed host organization that demonstrates that it is a qualified employer for purposes of this fellowship and describes the work, training, and supervision that you will receive if the application is successful. If you are a J.D. student, the commitment letter MUST also state[1]:
    a. The term of the fellowship as a full-time one-year position.
    b. That Columbia Law School will provide funding of $65,000 per year.
    c. If the host will supplement the stipend with its own funds, the amount the host will pay you.
6. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Columbia Law School faculty member or a supervisor at a relevant organization. If the recommender would prefer, they may email the letter directly to Rebecca Hinde by the application deadline.
7. List of two ADDITIONAL people who could serve as references and their contact information, including their email addresses and phone numbers. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THE DOCUMENT.
8. If you are a joint degree candidate, certification from the institution conferring the joint degree that all requirements will be completed in time for you to receive both degrees in May 2027.

[1] The American Bar Association requires Columbia Law School to report on any fellowships the Law School awards to its graduating J.D. class. For each fellow, the report must include a host letter that acknowledges the fellowship duration and stipend amount and specifies that the stipend is being provided by Columbia Law School. If the host is supplementing the stipend with its own funds, the letter must state this, with the supplement amount included in the letter. We require applicants to ensure that their proposed host organization's commitment letter includes this information.