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

New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship 2027

The Excelsior Service Fellowship Program, launched in 2013, is an initiative to bring highly talented recent graduates of law, graduate, and professional schools into government service. Excelsior Fellows bring diverse backgrounds and new perspectives to a host of policy and operational positions in New York State government. Excelsior Fellows start each year in early September and are placed within the Executive Chamber, a government agency, or an authority for a two-year fellowship.

Fellows work full-time alongside senior members of the administration and play a policy-influencing role, with the opportunity to focus on the most pressing issues of the day. Although the program is two years, exceptional fellows may continue to serve after their fellowship, at the discretion of the agency.

Under the program, New York State has cultivated partnerships with universities across the state. As a participating university, Columbia Law School is granted a predetermined number of fellowships for the J.D. Class of 2027 and helps identify qualified applicants to be considered for the fellowship.

How much does the Excelsior Service Fellowship pay?
The 2027 Excelsior Fellowship salary structure has not been announced. The 2026 salary structure was:

- $70,000 for graduates with a master's degree and less than three years of post-undergraduate professional work experience
- $75,000 for graduates with a master's degree and three or more years of post-undergraduate professional work experience
- $80,000 for graduates with a Ph.D. or J.D. degree (only applicable to J.D. graduates pursuing a legal fellowship placement)

Fellows receive a comprehensive benefits package that includes paid leave, health, dental, vision, and other benefits. Fellows are also eligible for any annual salary increases provided for in the current negotiated Management/Confidential labor agreement.

Where and how are fellows placed?
Fellows can be placed in any number of executive-branch agencies and authorities across state government. Views sample placements. Placements may be in Albany, New York City, or elsewhere in the state. Do not let geographic placement prevent you from applying. If a specific location is important to you, discuss this with Alex Hogan, director of government programs, as geographic priorities can often be accommodated. The state Center for Recruitment and Public Service works with fellows to determine their ideal placement based on their professional experience, goals, and interests. Available positions vary from year to year based on budget considerations, agency needs, and the Governor's policy priorities. The Center for Recruitment and Public Service matches nominated fellows with appropriate agency placements based on all of these factors.

Application and Selection Process
There is no direct application process to the fellowship. Prospective fellows from Columbia Law School must be nominated by the Columbia Law School Excelsior Selection Committee, which will include staff members from the Offices of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers and of Private Sector

Careers, as well as a faculty member. After the committee selects candidates for nomination, Columbia Law School will forward their applications to the New York State Center for Recruitment and Public Service. An interview with center staff determines whether a nominee is selected; once selected, a candidate will be considered a fellow pending acceptance of their placement and completion of a required background investigation.

The New York State Center for Recruitment and Public Service will notify nominees of their selection as a fellow by early April. By mid-May, placements will be finalized.

If you are considering applying, please be sure to review the Excelsior Program website.

How to Apply
To be considered for nomination, you must complete a two-step process. First, you must **submit an application by January 24, 2027, at 11:59 p.m**. Instructions are included on the next page of this document. Next, you must **meet with Alex Hogan, director of government programs at the Office of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers, by February 12, 2027**. This conversation will include a discussion of your potential placement. The appointment must be made in advance on Symplicity.

Finalists will be interviewed by the Columbia Law School Excelsior Selection Committee.

Fellowship Contacts

Alex Hogan* (Contact for substantive questions about the fellowship and your application)
Director of Government Programs
ajh2149@columbia.edu

Rebecca Hinde (Contact for administrative questions about the application process ONLY)
Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships
rh2523@columbia.edu

*Appointments should be made through Symplicity.

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Columbia Law School
Application Materials

To apply, please upload the following documents at cglink.me/2it/s81817. Applications are due on January 24, 2027, at 11:59 p.m.

1. Your resume
2. A statement of interest (two double-spaced pages maximum). PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON EACH PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT.
3. An UNOFFICIAL copy of your Columbia Law School transcript. DO NOT UPLOAD AN OFFICIAL COPY.
4. Two recommendation letters. Recommenders may email their letters to rh2523@columbia.edu directly if they prefer. (They should still be submitted by the deadline.)
5. Identification of two *additional* persons who could serve as references and their contact information. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON THIS DOCUMENT.