

New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship 2024

[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.

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

Under the program, New York State has cultivated partnerships with colleges and universities across the State. As a participating university, Columbia Law School is granted a predetermined number of fellowships for the J.D. Class of 2024 and helps identify qualified applicants to be considered for the fellowship.

How much does the Excelsior Service Fellowship pay?

Fellows with less than three years of post-collegiate work experience are paid \$65,000 annually. Fellows with three or more years of post-collegiate work experience are paid \$70,000 annually. Additionally, all 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. [Visit the Excelsior Service Fellowship Program website for 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 geographic location is important to you, then be sure to discuss this issue with Alex Hogan, Columbia Law School's director of government programs—as geographic priorities can often be accommodated. The New York State Center for Recruitment and Public Service works with fellows to determine their ideal placement based on their professional experiences, career goals, and areas of interest. 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 Services 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 30, 2024, 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 5.** This conversation will include a discussion of your potential placement. The appointment must be made in advance on [Symlicity](#).

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 Symlicity.

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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 30, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

1. Your resume
2. A statement of interest (two double-spaced pages maximum). Please include your name on this document.
3. An unofficial copy of your Columbia Law School transcript
4. Two recommendation letters. Recommenders may email their letters to rh2523@columbia.edu directly if they prefer.
5. Identification of two *additional* persons who could serve as references and their contact information. Please include your name on this document.