

Mark Haas Public Interest Fellowships 2026

The [Office of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers](#) (the PI/PS Office) and the [Hong Yen Chang Center for Chinese Legal Studies](#) are pleased to announce the 2026 Mark Haas Public Interest Fellowship. The fellowship will support one to two recent Columbia Law School graduates to pursue public interest legal work in the United States for three to six months. The fellowship will be awarded to graduating LL.M. or J.D. students from China. Fellows will receive between three and six months of funding at approximately \$3,333 per month. One or two fellowships will be awarded this year. It is anticipated that fellowships will begin by August or September 2026. Recipients of the fellowship will be responsible for locating their positions but will be assisted by the staff at the PI/PS Office throughout the spring semester. Fellows will be expected to work full-time at public interest law organizations during the entire term of their fellowships. Please note that this is not a research fellowship.

The deadline to apply is March 4, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Please apply on Symplicity (search for “Mark Haas Public Interest Fellowship 2026”). You will be required to upload the following documents.

- Your resume
- Your unofficial Columbia Law School transcript
- The name of a Columbia faculty member willing to serve as a reference for you (an actual letter of recommendation is not required)
- A one- to two-page statement detailing the reasons for your interest in the fellowship, including the area of law in which you hope to work and the desired duration of the fellowship (three months minimum to six months maximum). This may be uploaded as an “additional document.”

It is anticipated that fellowship recipients will be chosen by the end of March 2026, allowing the remainder of the spring semester to find a public interest work placement.

Please note that Haas Fellows are not employees of Columbia University or Columbia Law School. The university will not provide health insurance or other benefits. Unless their host organizations ask 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:

- If you plan to start your fellowship prior to July 1, 2026, please reach out to Rebecca Hinde (rh2523@columbia.edu) to discuss the payment schedule.
- If your proposed host is an intergovernmental agency such as the United Nations or World Bank and you will need a visa to work in the United States, please reach out to Rebecca Hinde (rh2523@columbia.edu) **IMMEDIATELY**, and definitely before you submit your application.

Please direct other inquiries to one of the following:

- For questions about substantive issues such as fellowship criteria or the appropriateness of a reference: [The PI/PS Office](#) will offer advising on the Haas Fellowship starting in November. You may also contact Assistant Director of Asian Law Programs Nick Pozek (nkp2118@columbia.edu).
- For administrative questions about submitting your materials: Assistant Director of Asian Law Programs Nick Pozek (nkp2118@columbia.edu).
- For questions about the payment process: Coordinator for Communications and Postgraduate Fellowships Rebecca Hinde (rh2523@columbia.edu).