

## The New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship 2020

[The Excelsior Service Fellowship Program](#), launched by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo 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 (CLS) is granted a predetermined number of fellowships for the J.D. Class of 2020 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 \$55,000 annually. Fellows with three or more years of post-collegiate work experience are paid \$60,000 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; however, the majority of placements are in the Capital Region and nominated Fellows MUST be willing to move to Albany. 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 Fellowship Selection Committee, which will include staff members from Social Justice Initiatives and the Office of Career Services, 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 April 1. By June 10, 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 meet with [Rachel Pauley](#), Director of Government Programs, Social Justice Initiatives, **BEFORE Thursday, January 30**. This conversation will include a discussion of your potential placement. The second step is to submit an application **by Thursday, January 30**. Instructions are included on the next page of this document.

Finalists will be interviewed by the CLS Selection Committee.

### **Fellowship Contacts**

**Rachel Pauley\*** (Contact for substantive questions about the fellowship and your application)  
Director of Government Programs, Social Justice Initiatives & Lecturer in Law  
[rachel.pauley@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rachel.pauley@law.columbia.edu)  
(212) 854-7486

**Rebecca Hinde** (Contact for administrative questions about the application process only)  
Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships  
[rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu)  
(212) 854-3535

\*Appointments should be made through Symplicity.

# The New York State Excelsior Service Fellowship 2020 Columbia Law School

## Application Cover Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UNI: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

To apply, please email the following documents **as one PDF** to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu), using the subject line "Excelsior Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. Organize the documents in the order they are listed below.\* Applications are due on **Thursday, January 30**.

1. This official cover sheet
2. A current resume
3. A statement of interest (2 pages maximum)
4. Two recommendation letters. If recommenders prefer, they may email their letters to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu).
5. Identification of two *additional* persons who could serve as references and their contact information (see below)

\*The selection committee will also review each applicant's CLS transcript. **Do not email your transcript with your application.** SJI will add it to your materials upon receipt.

*If you are NOT submitting your letters of recommendation with your application, please complete the following section.*

### Recommender 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter will be submitted to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) by this date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommender 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter will be submitted to [rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu](mailto:rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu) by this date: \_\_\_\_\_