

Global Public Service Fellowship 2021

Columbia Law School is pleased to announce the 2021 Global Public Service Fellowships for J.D. and LL.M. students or graduates beginning or advancing their careers in public service law.

Through this year of practical training, the fellowships will allow graduates to gain the experience, skills, and professional networks necessary to begin or advance their careers in the field of public interest law, in nongovernmental organizations or agencies, as legal practitioners specializing in public interest work, or in academic life. In addition, the fellowships will enable public interest organizations confronting great demand and diminished resources to benefit from the services of talented lawyers. **Proposals for the fellowship are due on April 5, 2021.**

Terms of the Fellowship

The 2021 Global Public Service Fellowship will be awarded for a one-year term to selected students or graduates who obtain positions at qualified host organizations abroad. The position must require the fellow to make use of their legal education. The fellowship is available to (1) members of the Columbia Law School Class of 2021, including those who will graduate in October 2020 or February 2021, or (2) graduates of the Columbia Law School Class of 2019 or 2020.

To be considered for this fellowship, an applicant must obtain a placement with a public interest organization or intergovernmental agency. 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, security, human rights, and immigration. Applications will also be considered for placement as foreign law clerks with national supreme courts or at international courts or tribunals. Social Justice Initiatives advisers will work with applicants to identify organizations that might be a good match.

Fellows must make a commitment to work at their host organization full-time, which is at least 35 hours per week, for 12 months. Fellows who secure and begin a full-time paid position before the end of the fellowship period or leave the fellowship position for any reason must notify Social Justice Initiatives as soon as possible regarding the last day to be worked. The fellow will not receive additional fellowship payments after that date. Fellows are not considered employees of Columbia University or Columbia Law School. The university cannot pay for health insurance or other benefits. Further details will be supplied by Social Justice Initiatives to students who are granted a fellowship.

The fellowship carries a stipend of \$60,000 a year and must begin within five months of graduation or of the award date, whichever is later. *Note: while fellows may begin their fellowship anytime within this five-month time frame, the Law School will not begin to issue stipend payments until August 1. If you hope to begin your fellowships before August 1, we invite you to contact Rebecca Hinde, Coordinator for Postgraduate Fellowships, for more information.*

This packet contains information about eligibility requirements and application and selection

procedures, including deadlines. **Please read carefully.**

Eligibility

Global Public Service Fellowships are available to Columbia Law School students or graduates who:

- Have completed or will have completed the requirements for their J.D. or LL.M. degree.
- Obtain a position at a qualified host that will make direct use of their legal education.
- Will be unemployed and will not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work during the time period for which the fellowship is sought.

A “qualified host” is a public interest¹ organization, intergovernmental agency, national supreme court, or international court or tribunal that commits, contingent upon the applicant’s receipt of the fellowship, to:

- Provide applicants with a position that will utilize their legal education.
- Provide appropriate training and supervision during the fellowship period.

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

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 immediately after the fellowship concludes.

Application Procedure

1. MEET WITH A SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES ADVISER (MANDATORY).

Applicants must meet with a Social Justice Initiatives career adviser BEFORE submitting an application. Among other things, advisers can help identify public interest organizations that match the applicants’ interests and will benefit from their service. Applicants with multiple interests are encouraged to meet with multiple advisers. Information about the advisers is available [here](#). Appointments should be made through Symplicity.

2. APPLY TO HOSTS.

Apply directly to nonprofit or intergovernmental employers of interest.

¹ A public interest entity is one whose proclaimed purpose is the advancement of a vision of the public good that is broader than the interest of particular clients or one that provides legal services for a specifically defined low-income or other marginalized and underserved population. Such entities will normally be registered nonprofit organizations, international or regional intergovernmental agencies, national supreme courts, or international courts or tribunals. Columbia Law School will determine whether or not a particular employer satisfies this requirement.

3. SUBMIT A FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BY April 5, 2021.

Application instructions can be found on the last page of this document.

Selection

The fellow will be selected by a committee of Columbia Law School faculty, administrators, and public service law practitioners. Fellows will be selected by the end of April 2021.

Fellowship Contacts

For questions about substantive issues such as selection criteria, your statement, or the appropriateness of a reference or prospective placement:

Cassandre Théano*

Assistant Director of Human Rights and Public International Law

cassandre.theano@law.columbia.edu

*Appointments should be made through Symplicity.

For questions about submitting your materials:

Rebecca Hinde

Coordinator for Communications and Postgraduate Fellowships

rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu

**Global Public Service Fellowship 2021
Columbia Law School**

Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Proposed Host Organization: _____

Country in Which You Would Serve Your Fellowship (if known): _____

Please email the following documents **as one PDF** to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu, using the subject line "Global Public Service Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. Organize the documents in the order they are listed below. *** Applications are due on April 5, 2021.**

1. This cover sheet
2. A current resume
3. A personal statement (1,000 words maximum) about the applicant's relevant experience, interest, and future aspirations with respect to public service legal work. The statement should include a discussion of the place of the fellowship in the applicant's career plans.
4. A commitment letter from a host organization that demonstrates that it is a qualified employer for purposes of this fellowship and describes the work, training, and supervision that the fellow will receive if the application is successful.
5. One letter of recommendation, preferably from a Columbia Law School faculty member or a supervisor at a relevant organization. The letter may be emailed separately to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu at the discretion of the letter writer.
6. Identification of two *additional* persons who would serve as references

*The selection committee will also review each applicant's Columbia Law School transcript. **Do not email your transcript with your application.** SJL will add it to your materials upon receipt.

Please complete the following only if your recommendation letter is *not* included in this PDF.

Recommender Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Letter will be submitted to rebecca.hinde@law.columbia.edu by this date: _____