

# 2021 Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) Fellowship Program Application

**FOR PREVIEW PURPOSES ONLY**

*The Columbia Law School Leadership Experience Admission Deferral (LEAD) Fellowship Program is a special deferred admissions program pursuant to which qualified applicants are admitted to Columbia Law School following their junior or senior year of college with the understanding that they will defer matriculation for two years after graduating from college.*

*It is further understood that during this two-year deferral period, applicants admitted via the LEAD Fellowship Program will be meaningfully employed on a full-time basis or will engage in a venture, partnership, fellowship, or graduate studies.*

*In certain instances, some successful applicants who pursue a venture or project during the mandatory deferral period may be eligible to receive a funding grant to enable them to advance the undertaking.*



**Columbia  
Law School**

Please note that applications to Columbia Law School must be submitted electronically through LSAC.org. Paper applications will not be accepted. Accordingly, all applicants are required to register with LSAC (i.e., the Law School Admissions Council) and to enroll in LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS).

To avoid any confusion or delay in the processing of your application, please ensure that you: (1) consistently use your proper name while also indicating your preferred name in the designated space; (2) keep us informed of any mailing address, telephone number, or email address changes during the application process; and (3) write your LSAC account number on all correspondence with the Office of Admissions.

## Required Admission Test

All applicants are required to submit scores from the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to be considered for admission to Columbia Law School.

The LSAT and the GRE are administered in many locations throughout the world. Your application will not be considered without the results of the LSAT or GRE. For additional information about the LSAT, contact LSAC at 215-968-1001 or visit [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org). For additional information about the GRE, contact Educational Testing Services (ETS) at 866-473-4373 or visit [www.ETS.org](http://www.ETS.org).

Candidates who submit scores from more than one LSAT administration and/or GRE administration are strongly encouraged to provide a brief addendum that explains their testing history.

### LSAT

Candidates applying for the LEAD Fellowship Program in 2021 may submit LSAT scores earned on or after the June 2016 administration but no later than the June 12, 2021 administration. All LSAT scores from administrations within the last five years will automatically be forwarded with a candidate's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) Report.

### GRE

Candidates applying for admission and planning to submit GRE scores are required to have sent from ETS all GRE scores from exams taken within the last five years using Columbia Law School's ETS code 4046. Candidates applying for LEAD Fellowship in 2020 may submit GRE scores from tests taken between June 15, 2016 and June 15, 2021.

Note: As per the American Bar Association, you must submit any and all LSAT test scores, even if you also plan to submit one or more GRE test scores. Candidates with multiple GRE scores, applying on the basis of the GRE, must submit all GRE scores on file from test administrations within the last five years.

## Credential Assembly Service (CAS)

All applicants are required to be currently enrolled in LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS) for the processing of transcripts and other application materials, even if they (a) took the LSAT in a prior year or (b) took the GRE in lieu of the LSAT. For more information about the CAS, please call 215-968-1001 or visit [LSAC.org](http://LSAC.org).

## Transcripts

### U.S. Transcripts

Applicants must request that the Registrar of each college attended send an official transcript to the CAS for processing. If you have participated in summer sessions or studied abroad, you must send these transcripts directly to the CAS, unless such courses and corresponding grades are also included on the other college transcripts being forwarded to the CAS. Please forward updates of your transcripts to the Office of Admissions as soon as they become available. In particular, candidates must arrange to have their 2021 spring semester grades sent to the Office of Admissions as soon as they become available. Unofficial transcript copies that include spring 2021 grades may be submitted to [admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu).

### International Transcripts

Applicants who have completed one year or more of post-secondary work outside the United States and Canada are required to submit such transcripts to the CAS for processing. Such transcripts must be submitted in their original language with an official English translation, if the original language is not English. Please forward updates of your transcripts to the Office of Admissions as soon as they become available.

Candidates who studied abroad for less than one academic year are strongly encouraged to submit official copies of their transcripts if the grades do not appear on the home institution's transcript. If candidates run into difficulty having these transcripts sent from institutions abroad, then an unofficial copy of the transcript (PDF format preferred) may be uploaded in the "Addendum" section of the application.

## Letters of Recommendation

### Requirements

Columbia requires two letters of recommendation to complete your application. We require applicants to submit two academic letters from faculty who can provide insight about their candidacy. Letters must come from individuals who have taught applicants in the classroom or have evaluated applicants in a significant academic capacity (e.g., an independent study project or thesis advisor). Additionally, candidates may submit one additional letter that is non-academic in nature. Kindly note that your application will be deemed complete after we have received two academic letters unless we are notified otherwise in question 9.2.

### Suggested Content

Recommenders should address matters of significance that speak to leadership skills, as well as the ability of the applicant to thrive in an intellectually stimulating academic environment. For example, recommenders may address the strength of the applicant's overall intelligence, analytical skills, independence of thought, problem-solving skills, effectiveness of oral and written communication, motivation, self-confidence, concern for others, emotional maturity, personal initiative, judgment, leadership ability, and organizational skills.

### Submission of Letters of Recommendation

Columbia Law School strongly prefers that letters of recommendation be sent through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service. LSAC sends Columbia letters of recommendation once a week; therefore, your letters of recommendation will essentially be forwarded to us as they become available. Please do not send duplicate letters directly to Columbia Law School.

If absolutely necessary, recommenders may, themselves, send letters of recommendation directly to Columbia Law School in a sealed envelope with their signature across the envelope seal. We do not accept letters of recommendation via fax or email.

## Supporting Documents

Applicants must submit electronically through LSAC the following documents:

- **Application Form:** Applicants are required to complete and submit the application for admission.
- **Required Essays:** All applicants must submit essays that address each of the following questions:

**1.) Why Law/Why LEAD?** Applicants must tell us about why they wish to earn a law degree and why they wish to do so via the LEAD Fellowship Program. Their essay may include, for example, (i) their career aspirations and how the LEAD Program will help them achieve those aspirations, (ii) why the LEAD Program appeals to them, and (iii) what they may be able to contribute as a LEAD Fellow. This essay should be no more than 1-2 double-spaced pages in length.

**2.) What Makes You a Leader?** Applicants must tell us about their leadership experiences to date. This essay may include examples of leadership roles they have undertaken in the past and why the qualities they possess are those they believe leaders should exemplify. For example, they may describe a situation that allowed them to influence or motivate others for the greater good or to bring about meaningful enhancements to the lives of others, an institution, organization, or circumstance. This essay likewise should be no more than 1-2 double-spaced pages in length and, depending on your response to the Why Law/Why LEAD essay, may need not be more than a paragraph or two in length.

**3.) What is Your Deferral Plan?** Applicants are required to tell us what they plan to do during their two-year mandatory deferral period. It is expected that they will engage in significant and meaningful employment, participate in a structured internship program, pursue graduate studies, advance a mission through organizations such as Teach for America, the Peace Corps, or a religious entity, or otherwise undertake an endeavor that requires ownership of and accountability for their duties and responsibilities.

**4.) Optional Essay: What is Your Project Plan?** Some individuals may be interested in deferred, assured admission to Columbia Law School via the LEAD Fellowship Program because they intend to take advantage of the opportunity and security afforded by the Program to launch and pursue a venture or enterprise of some sort, be it commercial, philanthropic, or public interest/public service related. In certain instances, we may assist in the funding of their proposed venture by awarding them a funding grant in an amount up to \$10,000. Only applicants who wish to be considered for the possible award of a LEAD Funding Grant need submit a Project Plan. The requirements for the Project Plan are set forth at the end of this application.

- **Résumé:** Applicants must submit a résumé, detailing significant employment positions they have held. This may include internships, summer employment, and community service. In addition, the résumé should include a summary of written scholarship, presentations, principal extracurricular activities,

and any honors or awards received. It must be electronically submitted at the time of the initial application. Applicants may submit résumés longer than one page in length but should exercise discretion when determining résumé length.

- **Dean's Letter, if applicable:** If you answered yes to question 8.1 and/or 8.2, please have the dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident to the Office of Admissions at [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu). Should you receive an offer of admission and ultimately matriculate at Columbia Law School, you are also required to complete the Dean's Certification Form, which will be made available to you by the Office of Admissions at a later date.
- **Application Fee:** The application fee of \$85 is waived for LEAD applicants.

## Candidate Interviews

Some candidates may receive an invitation to participate in an interview with a member of the Admissions Committee by video conference. We understand that many of our applicants will want to interview, and we appreciate their enthusiasm, but interviews are by invitation only.

## JD Program Information

Please refer to the Columbia Law School Admissions website for a full description and exploration of the JD program. You may also access an electronic copy of the Viewbook or contact the Office of Admissions to request a copy.

## Admission to the JD Program

The Admissions program at Columbia Law School is designed to identify and select individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests. We aim to compose a student body that shares a discernible commitment to excellence, has demonstrated unusual promise for distinguished performance at the Law School, and possesses potential for high service to the legal profession and the community.

## Notice to All Applicants

An application is considered complete when all required application materials have been received by the Office of Admissions, including receipt of the candidate's LSAC Law School Report. In taking steps to ensure that one's application to Columbia is completed before the appropriate deadline, an applicant should factor into their planning the few weeks that it will take the Law School Admission Council to produce the LSAC Law School Report.

## Submission of Additional Materials

Applicants are expected to be diligent in providing all necessary information for review of their candidacy prior to the completion of their applications. Once an application is complete, please do not submit additional materials unless they convey essential information, as there is no guarantee such materials will be placed in your application prior to the evaluation and may potentially slow down the review of your candidacy. Applicants may submit address changes through our online upload portal ([www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply/upload](http://www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/apply/upload)). Notification of events that are responsive to questions 8.1-8.6 must be emailed to [admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu).

## Checking on the Status of Applications

Applicants are expected to monitor the completion and submission of all application requirements and are encouraged to do so by utilizing our online status checker. In the event that the status check mechanism appears to be unduly delayed, applicants may submit written requests of such status checks by email ([admissions@law.columbia.edu](mailto:admissions@law.columbia.edu)) to the Office of Admissions.

Please note that once an applicant receives an “Application Complete” designation, no further updates are communicated via the status checker.

## Selection Criteria

Evaluation of an applicant for admission to Columbia Law School includes a determination of the candidate’s intellectual and academic qualifications, aptitude for legal study as measured by the LSAT or GRE, and assessment of whether or not the candidate has demonstrated personal qualities considered requisite to scholastic success, professional distinction, and public service. In addition, the Admissions Committee examines the applicant’s required essays and letters of recommendation, as well as the course selection, special honors and awards, fellowship opportunities, publications, extracurricular involvement, community service, political activity, professional contributions, and other work experience. For LEAD applicants in particular, the Admissions Committee evaluates their aptitude for leadership including skills in innovation and creativity, ability to inspire others, and commitment, among other qualities.

## Preparation for Law School

Columbia Law School concurs with the approach and perspective set forth in the provisions of the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar relating to pre-law preparation. In particular, we subscribe to the view that “[t]here is no single path that will prepare you for a legal education. Students who are successful in law school, and who become accomplished professionals, come from many walks of life and educational backgrounds&hellip;. Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline.... A [Columbia] legal education will build upon and further refine the skills, values, and knowledge that you already possess.”

## Selectivity

As a general matter, competition for admission to Columbia Law School is exceptionally keen. In recent years, approximately 7,000 applicants have applied for nearly 370 spaces in each year’s entering class. And, in any given year, the majority of applicants to Columbia are highly qualified academically. In addition, admissibility to Columbia is difficult to predict because, as previously described, personal accomplishments, leadership qualities, professional achievements, and other nonquantifiable factors that serve to enrich the student body, affect an applicant’s chance of admission. Thus, although Columbia is among a handful of the most highly selective law schools in the country (as measured by grade point averages and LSAT statistics), it is not possible to predict with precision the probability of admission using those numerical indices alone.

## Committee Decisions

Candidates should understand that the formal, official Admissions Committee decisions may be communicated to the applicant only in writing.

Columbia Law School reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission if an applicant: (1) shows a significant decline in academic performance or fails to graduate (a) in the case of applicants who are currently in their senior year, by end of June 2021 or (b) in the case of applicants who are currently in their junior year, by end of June 2022; (2) misrepresents any matter in dealing with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid Office, or any other representative of Columbia Law School; (3) behaves in a manner that indicates a serious lack of judgment, sincerity, or integrity; (4) reserves a place in our entering class and simultaneously commits to enroll at another law school or submits a deposit to another law school; or (5) fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the LEAD Program Contract signed and submitted by the applicant at the time the applicant accepts his or her offer of admission to the Law School as a LEAD Program Fellow. Columbia Law School further reserves the right to make the continuing validity of an offer of admission contingent upon an applicant providing further information or authorizing the release of information from other parties in connection with any matter relevant to the foregoing.

## Dean’s Certification

A Dean’s Certification Form (as distinct from the Dean’s letter referred to in the application) or an equivalent certification of good standing will be required from all students after admission and prior to matriculation at Columbia Law School.

This Form will be mandatory from each educational institution where you are currently enrolled in a degree program; from which you have already earned a degree; and at which you were matriculated toward a degree (regardless of whether a degree was conferred). Please note that it is not necessary that the dean or other administrator responsible for such certification know you personally. He or she may complete the Dean’s Certification Form (or equivalent certification) on the basis of official records. Please note that for the Dean’s Certification to be deemed complete, all questions on the form must be answered. The completed form must be emailed from your school’s dean or administrator to [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu).

## Accepting an Offer of Admission

An admitted student who wishes to accept Columbia Law School’s offer of admission as a LEAD Fellow may secure his or her seat by submitting (a) a signed copy of the LEAD Program Contract and (b) a \$600 seat deposit, by the date specified in the admitted student’s admission decision letter. The deposit may be paid either electronically through the Admitted Student Website (the easiest and strongly preferred method) or manually by check.

## Deferred Admission

The LEAD Fellowship Program is a deferred admission program pursuant to which all successful LEAD applicants are required to defer their matriculation at the Law School until the completion of a two-year mandatory gap period that will be deemed to have commenced on or around August 15 of the year in which the applicant graduated from college. Under no circumstances may the LEAD gap period meaningfully exceed two years and, accordingly, LEAD Fellows are not eligible to apply for further deferrals or otherwise extend the two-year deferral period. Further, applicants who are applying and admitted in their Junior Year in 2021 must commence their studies at the Law School in 2024. Applicants applying and admitted in their Senior Year in 2021 must commence their studies at the Law School in 2023.

## Tuition

Because successful LEAD applicants are required to defer matriculation for, in the case of applicants who apply at the end of their senior year, two years and, in the case of applicants who apply at the end of their junior year, three years, following their graduation from college, it is not possible to state or predict with certainty what tuition and fees will be for the year in which they matriculate. For planning purposes only, applicants are advised to consider current rates and to anticipate that their actual costs will be higher.

The following information for the current academic year (2020-2021) can provide you with a guideline for tuition, fees, and related expenses. Please keep in mind that an increase to these charges is anticipated.

Tuition for 2020-2021 is \$72,352. There are additional mandatory fees for health services, student activities, and University services and support, which will be \$2,538 for 2020-2021. Insurance for hospital care and standard medical coverage is also required (\$3,676) unless U.S. students can show proof of comparable coverage. To help ensure that international students have access to the highest quality of care on- and off-campus, Columbia University requires all international students to enroll in the Columbia Student Health Insurance Plan. For details regarding this requirement, please visit the Health Services website. The total budget for the nine month academic year, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, and personal expenses is \$104,420. Expenses are adjusted annually. The total budget for the nine month academic year, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, and personal expenses is \$97,850. Expenses are adjusted annually.

## Financial Aid

Admission decisions at Columbia Law School are made without regard to an applicant's financial need. Therefore, grant applications are reviewed separately from admissions decisions. Kindly note that deferred students must complete the required application(s) for financial aid by the June 15 deadline in the application year and May of the year matriculating. Barring any significant changes to your financial profile during the deferral period, the package you received in the year of admission should serve as an estimate of the aid package you are likely to receive upon matriculation. We endeavor to release a LEAD applicant's financial aid award estimate concurrently with their offer of admission.

The Law School awards grant assistance primarily on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Each year a portion of the entering class receives a Law School grant, which is in the form of a partial tuition waiver. However, by far the largest form of financial aid for all law students is educational loans, with most students borrowing to finance a part, or all, of their educational expenses. To assist JD graduates pursuing public interest and public service careers manage what might be a significant educational loan burden, the Law School provides continuing financial support through its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens may be eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Currently, the annual limit is \$20,500 for this program. In addition, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan program as well as several private educational loan programs are available to provide financing for law students. Since these programs require applicants to be creditworthy, you are strongly advised to obtain a copy of your credit report to determine if there are any problems that might make you ineligible for such loans. If you have an adverse credit history,

and are unable to correct it, you may not have access to important sources of loan funds. If this is the case, you will need to have others borrow on your behalf or find other means to finance your education. Law School funds will not be available to replace unavailable credit-based loans.

International students (not U.S. citizens and not those holding a U.S. permanent resident visa) are eligible to apply for Law School grants and for loans from private educational loan programs. They are not eligible for federally guaranteed assistance programs. In addition, they typically need to provide a U.S. cosigner in order to apply for private educational loan programs. Please visit our website for additional loan information. Since there are no fully funded fellowships for law students in Columbia's JD degree program, international students needing to finance their education may need to arrange for cosigners for each of the three years of law school.

### How to Apply for Financial Aid for 2021-2022

The following is a summary of application procedures for the various types of financial aid. For detailed information on financial aid policies and procedures, costs, budgets, and various loan programs, please review the financial aid website.

Before completing any financial aid forms, it is important first to decide which types of aid you are seeking: (1) loans and Columbia Law School grants or (2) loans only.

#### (1) Grants

Submit the following by June 15 to ensure timely consideration for a Law School grant. Do not wait to receive an offer of admission before filing the FAFSA and CSS Profile Applications:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor (U.S. Students)
- CSS Profile application to The College Board
- Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the FAO (admitted students only)
- 2019 Federal income tax forms for student, spouse, and parents to the College Board using the Institutional Documentation (IDOC) Service
- Loan application(s) to the FAO (to be submitted immediately prior to matriculation--preferably by mid-June)

#### (2) Loans Only

Submit the following by June 15 to ensure timely processing:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor (U.S. Students)
- Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire to the Financial Aid Office (FAO) (admitted students only)
- Loan application(s) to the FAO (to be submitted immediately prior to matriculation--preferably by mid-June)

Deciding the type of aid will determine which forms you will need to submit, and when. If you are uncertain about whether you should apply for a Law School grant, please refer to the section entitled "Scholarship Grants" within the section "How to Apply for Financial Aid" on the financial aid website.

## Financial Aid Deadlines

- Loans and Columbia Law School Grants—June 15, 2021
- Loans Only—June 15, 2021

## Financial Aid Forms

- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** Completed by all U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens applying for financial aid and submitted to the federal processor to establish eligibility for federal student aid. Apply online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- **CSS Profile Application:** Required of all applicants who are seeking consideration for Columbia Law School grants. Financial information must be submitted for the applicant, both of the applicant's parents, and, if applicable, the applicant's spouse. Apply online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>. For questions, call 844.202.0524.
- **Columbia Law School Financial Aid Questionnaire:** Admitted students receive this form shortly after their offer of admission. Admitted students applying for ANY type of financial aid must send the completed form to the Financial Aid Office.
- **2019 Federal income tax forms:** Admitted students applying for a Law School grant must submit complete copies of federal income tax forms for the applicant, both of the applicant's parents\*, and, if applicable, the applicant's spouse to the College Board using the Institutional Documentation (IDOC) Service
- **Loan Application(s):** Admitted students intending to enroll at the Law School should submit complete loan applications to the Financial Aid Office, preferably by May 15 in order to ensure timely processing.

\* Columbia requires financial information from both parents to be submitted when you are requesting financial aid. Exceptions to our policy are made on an individual basis—usually when there is only one parent in your life. In situations where both parents are living, an appeal for a waiver must be made, in writing, to the Assistant Director of Financial Aid and accompanied by a written statement from a third-party (e.g., an attorney, clergy person, employer, social worker, or counselor) or court documents, detailing the nature of the relationship.

## The Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Columbia Law School's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) supports Columbia JD graduates who pursue public interest and public service careers by providing them with financial assistance to service the educational debt they assumed while at the Law School. In addition to the traditional LRAP, participants may elect to participate in both the Columbia Law School LRAP and the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Finally, several fellowships for public interest have been established, and fellowship recipients may receive assistance for all loan payments on their Law School debt. A full description of our LRAP can be found on the financial aid website, or may be requested from the Financial Aid Office.

## Housing

Housing accommodations for Columbia Law students are excellent in terms of availability, quality, variety, convenience and, relative to other New York City law schools, expense. All LEAD Fellows who apply for housing by the annual May housing application deadline in the year in which they will be matriculating, are guaranteed some type of University housing for all three years of law school. All Law School student housing are apartments owned and managed by the University, and most are located within blocks of the Law School. Rents are typically lower than New York City market rates, because our housing is subsidized by the University.

Detailed descriptions of the University housing programs are provided to prospective law students at the time of admission. General housing information is also available at the Columbia Residential website (<https://residential.columbia.edu/>).

## Biographical

Prefix	_____	Date of birth	_____
First (given) name	_____	Place of birth: City	_____
Middle name/initial	_____	Place of birth: Country	_____
Last (family) name	_____	Place of birth: State/Province	_____
Suffix	_____	Gender:	_____
Previous (other) name	_____	SSN/SIN	_____
Preferred first name	_____	LSAC account number	_____

## Demographics

### Citizenship

Citizenship:       Non-Resident Alien       US Citizen       US Permanent Resident

Country of citizenship	_____	Permanent city	_____
Visa type	_____	Permanent state/province	_____
Visa/SEVIS number	_____	Permanent country	_____
Permanent resident number	_____	Native language	_____

### Race/Ethnicity

The information below is optional. Please respond to questions 3.2 and 3.3 for Department of Education record-keeping and reporting requirements.       I acknowledge this statement.

Are you Hispanic or Latino (person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race)?       Yes       No

What is your race? Select one or more of the following five categories:

- |   |  |                                |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American           | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |                                |

Additional information: This section will allow you to tell us more about your background as identified above. Self-identification is voluntary. Please check the most appropriate box.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> White            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American/Chicano/a    | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                         | <input type="checkbox"/> South Asian            | <input type="checkbox"/> South East Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Hispanic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern   |

If you checked Other Hispanic or Other, please specify your affiliation below. If you checked American Indian/Alaska Native, please specify your affiliation and Tribal Enrollment Number, if applicable:

## Contact Information

### Current Address

Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/province \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip/postal code \_\_\_\_\_  
Current mailing address good until date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Permanent Address

Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address–line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/province \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip/postal code \_\_\_\_\_  
Current permanent address good until date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Contact Information

Primary e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Columbia University School of Law can send text messages to my mobile phone:  Yes  No

## Education

### List ALL educational institutions attended.

Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_



## Education continued

Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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Institution type:  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Start date \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ End date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Date degree granted \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

## Education continued

Has your education in college, university, or professional school been interrupted for one term or more for any reason?

Yes

No

If your education was interrupted, please explain.

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## LSAT/GRE

Candidates using the GRE as a basis for admission must submit all GRE test scores from exams administered within the last five years, in addition to any LSAT test scores from exam administrations within the last 5 years. Candidates may submit LSAT test scores as the sole basis for consideration, even if they have taken the GRE. Please note that files of applicants who list GRE scores below will not be rendered complete until we receive the official reported scores from ETS. Thus, if you are applying with an LSAT test score(s) and would not like your GRE scores to be considered, please do not list them below.

I will submit all LSAT and/or GRE scores

LSAT Test Date:      Month: \_\_\_\_\_      Year: \_\_\_\_\_      LSAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_

LSAT Test Date:      Month: \_\_\_\_\_      Year: \_\_\_\_\_      LSAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Test Date:      Month: \_\_\_\_\_      Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Verbal Reasoning Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Quantitative Reasoning Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Analytical Writing Score: \_\_\_\_\_

GRE Test Date:      Month: \_\_\_\_\_      Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Verbal Reasoning Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Quantitative Reasoning Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRE Analytical Writing Score: \_\_\_\_\_

## CLS Program Information

Have you previously applied to this law school?       Yes       No

Were you offered admission? If “yes,” you must provide an explanation regarding your decision not to matriculate in the “Attachments” section of the application.       Yes       No

Have you applied or are you applying to another deferred admit program during the 2020–2021 application cycle?       Yes       No

## CLS Program Information continued

Do you intend to apply for a need-based financial aid grant? If you answer “Yes,” you must complete the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) and the C.S.S. Profile Application to the College Board ([student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aidprofile](http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aidprofile)). Your financial aid application components should be submitted no later than June 15, 2021 if you wish to receive a financial aid decision at the time of your admission decision.

Yes       No

If you wish to identify as LGBTQ+, please check the box below.

I wish to identify as LGBTQ+.

If you checked affirmatively in response to the previous question, please indicate whether or not you are amenable to being contacted (by phone, email, or post) by OutLaws or QTPOC.

Yes       No

If neither of your parents completed a 4-year undergraduate degree (or its equivalent), please check the box below:

The statement above applies to me.

Optional: In the space below, feel free to share any “fun facts” about yourself (hobbies, interests, special talents, and accomplishments, etc.) that the Admissions Committee may not be able to glean otherwise from your application. Please note that whether you choose to answer the question or not, there will be no impact on your admissions decision.

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In the space below, please list any languages with which you are familiar and the corresponding level of fluency (intermediate, professional, fluent, native, etc.).

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## Character & Fitness

If you answer “Yes” to questions 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, or 8.6 in the “Character and Fitness” section, you must attach a detailed, complete, and truthful written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application. Please answer honestly, irrespective of any advice you may have received to the contrary. Should you have questions about whether or not to report an infraction, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Office of Admissions for clarification.

Have you ever been on academic probation or subjected to disciplinary action for scholastic or other reasons by any college, university, graduate school, or professional school you have attended? This should include matters that have been expunged. In addition to attaching a written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application, kindly have the Dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident to the Office of Admissions at [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu).

Yes  No

Are there any disciplinary charges pending or expected to be brought against you? In addition to attaching a written explanation in the “Attachments” section of the application, kindly have the Dean or administrative officer in charge of student records forward a detailed explanation of the incident to the Office of Admissions at [deanscerts@law.columbia.edu](mailto:deanscerts@law.columbia.edu).

Yes  No

Have you ever, either as an adult or a juvenile, been cited, arrested, charged with, indicted, convicted or tried for, or pleaded guilty to, the commission of any felony or misdemeanor or the violation of any law, except minor parking violations, or been the subject of any juvenile delinquency or youthful offender proceeding? This should include matters that may have been expunged from the records or subject to a diversionary program. Please note that you should have available and be prepared to submit or exhibit copies of police and court records regarding any matter you disclose in reply to this question. If you answered “Yes,” you must attach a detailed, complete, and truthful explanation, including a statement of the charge(s), the disposition thereof and the underlying facts. Please answer honestly, irrespective of any advice you may have received to the contrary.

Yes  No

Are there any criminal charges pending or expected to be brought against you?

Yes  No

Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by a professional organization?

Yes  No

If you are currently a senior, will you be enrolled in an undergraduate program on or after August 1, 2021? If you are currently a junior, will you be enrolled in an undergraduate program on or after August 1, 2022?

Yes  No

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

I acknowledge the above statement.  Yes

## Letters of Recommendation

Do you intend to provide more than two letters of recommendation?

Yes       No

If you answered “Yes,” please indicate if you would like us to delay the completion of your file until all letters of recommendation are received by our office. If you answered “No,” we will complete your application upon receipt of the first two letters of recommendation.

Yes       No

List the names of all recommenders:

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## Family Information

**Parent/Guardian 1**       please check before continuing

Parent/Guardian’s Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased:       Yes       No

Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

US Citizen:       Yes       No

Employment information (occupation; employer; retired). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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College information (college; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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Professional or graduate school information (university; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

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## Family Information

**Parent/Guardian 2**  please check before continuing

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased:  Yes  No

Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

US Citizen:  Yes  No

Employment information (occupation; employer; retired). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

College information (college; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

Professional or graduate school information (university; degree; year of graduation). Enter N/A if not applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Military

Have you served or are you now serving on full-time, active US military duty?  Yes  No

Date of entrance (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Expected military reserve or National Guard status during law school \_\_\_\_\_

Date of discharge (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Discharge type \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been separated from any branch of the US armed forces under less than honorable conditions?  Yes  No

If you have been separated from any branch of the US armed forces under less than honorable conditions, explain the circumstances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Résumé

Please upload a résumé of up to two pages detailing significant full- or part-time employment positions held. This may include internships, summer employment, and community service. In addition, the résumé should include a summary of written scholarships, presentations, awards and honors, and extracurricular activities.

I confirm that I have uploaded my résumé:  Yes  No

## Required Essays

Please submit your answers to the following three questions in the form of brief essays.

Please note – we anticipate that depending on your response to Question 1, your responses to Questions 2 and 3 should only require a paragraph or two. Bear in mind that, in addition to answering our questions, these essays also serve as examples of your writing. Accordingly, you should strive for relevance, cogency, succinctness, and redundancy avoidance.

### 1. Why Law/Why LEAD?

Tell us about why you wish to earn a law degree and why you wish to do so via the LEAD Fellowship Program. Your essay may include, for example, (i) your career aspirations and how the LEAD Program will help you achieve those aspirations, (ii) why the LEAD Program appeals to you, and (iii) what you may be able to contribute as a LEAD Fellow. Your essay should be no more than 1-2 double-spaced pages in length.

### 2. What Makes You A Leader?

Tell us about your leadership experiences to date. Your essay may include brief descriptions of leadership roles you have undertaken or explain why the qualities you possess are those you believe leaders should exemplify. For example, you may describe a situation that allowed you to influence others for the greater good or to bring about meaningful enhancements to the lives of others or to an institution, organization, or circumstance. This essay likewise should be no more than 1-2 doublespaced pages in length and, depending on your response to the Why Law/Why LEAD essay, may need not be more than a paragraph or two in length.

### 3. What is Your Deferral Plan?

Tell us what you plan to do during your two-year mandatory deferral period. It is expected that you will engage in significant and meaningful full-time employment, participate in a structured internship program, pursue graduate studies, advance a mission through organizations such as Teach for America, the Peace Corps, or a religious entity, or otherwise undertake an endeavor that requires ownership of and accountability for your duties and responsibilities.

I confirm that I have uploaded the above three required essays.  Yes  No

## Project Plan and Funding

### LEAD Funding Grant and

We recognize that some individuals may be interested in deferred, assured admission to Columbia Law School via the LEAD Fellowship Program because they intend to take advantage of the opportunity and security afforded by the Program to launch and pursue a venture or enterprise of some sort, be it commercial, philanthropic, or public interest/public service oriented. We are happy to encourage such initiative and, in some instances, we may assist in the funding of your proposed venture by awarding you a LEAD Funding Grant.

Do you wish to be considered for a LEAD Funding Grant?  Yes  No

## Project Plan and Funding continued

### Project Plan

If you answered “Yes” to the above question, please note that you must submit a Project Plan, in which case your response to Question 3 above may be limited to “Please see Project Plan.” Your Project Plan must include the following:

- A description of your proposed venture or undertaking, i.e., your LEAD Project
- How you intend to pursue and realize the objectives of your LEAD Project;
- How you intend to utilize any funds awarded to you via the LEAD Funding Grant; and
- A brief description of any employment or graduate study plans to be undertaken alongside your LEAD Project.

Although we anticipate a document of approximately 2-3 pages in length, you may submit a document of whatever length you feel is necessary or appropriate in order to comply with the foregoing guidelines.

If applicable – I confirm that I have uploaded my Project Plan.  Yes  No

### Certification

Please be aware that this application and the materials filed in support, including your answers and any information included in the Character and Fitness section, will be retained by Columbia Law School and made available to the committee of character and fitness of the state(s) in which you intend to practice. Admission to any state bar depends on adequate academic performance, satisfactory completion of the bar examination, and proof of good character as required by the particular jurisdiction. Honesty in the law school application and admission process is essential in satisfying the requirements of good character required by state bars. Please be sure to consult the bar admission authorities in the state(s) in which you intend to practice for all the requirements necessary for admission to that jurisdiction.

By submitting this application, I certify that I submitted all materials directly, not through an agent or third-party vendor, with the exceptions pertaining to letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and dean’s certifications set forth in the application instructions.

I further certify that I have reviewed all materials submitted to Columbia University and/or LSAC as part of this application and confirm that all are accurate, authentic, true, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I shall promptly amend the foregoing application should there be a change in any of the facts therein and shall notify the Office of Admissions of such changes as they occur.

I agree and understand that any misrepresentation due to misdirected, inaccurate, or omitted information, false statements or falsified documents will be grounds for an examination of misconduct in the admissions process, rejection of my application, rescission of admission offer, disciplinary action, including cancellation of academic credit, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of degree if discovered at a later date.

I further agree and understand that Columbia Law School reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission if I: (1) show a significant decline in academic performance or fail to graduate (a) in the case of applicants who are currently in their senior year, by end of June 2021 or (b) in the case of applicants who are currently in their junior year, by end of June 2022; (2) misrepresent any matter in dealing with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid Office, or any other representative of Columbia Law School; (3) behave in a manner that indicates a serious lack of judgment, sincerity, or integrity; (4) reserve a place in Columbia Law School’s entering class and simultaneously commit to enroll at another law school or submit a deposit to another law school; (5) fail to comply with the terms and conditions of my LEAD Fellowship Program Contract. I also agree and understand that Columbia Law School further reserves the right to make the continuing validity of an offer of admission contingent upon my providing further information or authorizing the release of information from other parties in connection with any matter relevant to the foregoing.

I furthermore attest that I have read the LEAD Fellowship Program Contract and understand the stated policies and practices that govern the Columbia Law School LEAD Fellowship Program. I wish to be considered as a LEAD Fellow candidate. If I receive and decide to accept an offer of admission under LEAD Fellowship Program, I will do so by timely returning a signed copy of the LEAD Contract to the Columbia Law School Office of Admissions and submit my \$600 seat deposit.

Applicant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_