

The Parker School LL.M. Public Interest and Government Fellowships for Oct 2021 / Feb 2022 Graduates

Columbia Law School is pleased to offer The Parker School LL.M. Public Interest and Government Fellowships ("Parker Fellowship") for LL.M.s graduating in October 2021 and February 2022 who are interested in beginning their careers in public interest law, including human rights, or in government service. The goal of the Parker Fellowship is to enable October and February LL.M. graduates to gain experience, skills, and professional networks that may lead to permanent paid positions in their fields. In addition, the Parker Fellowship allows public interest organizations and government agencies confronting great demand and diminished resources to benefit from the services of talented lawyers.

Priority will be given to students who demonstrate a substantial commitment to and preparation for careers as public interest or government lawyers.

Fellowships will be awarded to selected October 2021 and February 2022 LL.M. graduates who obtain positions at qualified host organizations. The position must require the fellow to make use of their legal education. To accommodate different student needs and use limited fellowship funds efficiently, there is great flexibility regarding the length of fellowships for which applicants may apply. Applicants may request grants for several time periods, detailing their different options for each. (For example, "A fellowship of ten weeks would allow me to..." "A fellowship of six months would allow me to..."). A maximum of one fellowship will be awarded to any applicant. Fellowships must begin within 90 days from the fellowship award date.

To be considered for this fellowship, an applicant must obtain a public interest organization or government agency host; however, students need not have the placement at time of application. Social Justice Initiatives (SJI) advisers will be available on a limited basis to work with applicants to identify organizations that may be a good match.

Fellows must commit to work at the host organization full-time, which is at least 35 hours per week. 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 will not receive stipend payments after their departure date.

Fellows are not employees of Columbia Law School. The Law School cannot pay for health insurance or other benefits. (In some cases, fellows are able to arrange to receive benefits through their host.)

This packet contains information about eligibility requirements and application and selection procedures, including deadlines. **Please read carefully.**

Eligibility

Parker Fellowships are available to LL.M. October 2021 and February 2022 graduates who:

- Have completed the requirements for their LL.M. degree
- Obtain a position at a qualified host that will make direct use of their legal education

- Are unemployed and do not have a fellowship, stipend, or other source of funding to work during the time period for which a grant is sought

A “qualified host” is a public interest organization or government agency (federal, state, local, multinational, or international) that commits, contingent upon the applicant receiving the fellowship, to provide the applicant with:

- A position that will utilize the recipient’s legal education
- Appropriate training and supervision during the fellowship period

Columbia Law School faculty members and Columbia Law School Centers are *not* qualifying 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 or government service (including those who are transitioning from the private sector)
- Demonstrate preparation for a career in public interest law or government service
- Will endeavor to work in the public interest or government sector immediately following the fellowship’s conclusion

Application and Selection Procedure

1. **Email your fellowship application to Nick Pozek at npozek@law.columbia.edu by November 8, 2021.** See the last page for instructions.
2. **Meet with an SJI Adviser.** Applicants may meet with an SJI adviser but it is not necessary to meet with one prior to submitting your application. For those interested in international and human rights positions, please make an appointment with [Kerry McLean](#). For those interested in domestic positions, please make an appointment with [Solmaz Firoz](#). Among other things, advisers can help applicants identify hosts that match their interests and will benefit from their service. Appointments should be made through [Symplicity](#).
3. **Apply to hosts.** Apply directly to organizations or agencies of interest with a cover letter, resume, and additional materials, if appropriate. Applicants can begin doing this before submitting an application (preferred) or after.

Applicants will be notified of the selection committee’s decision by November 15, 2021.

Fellowship Contacts

For questions about substantive issues such as fellowship criteria, your statement, or the appropriateness of a reference or prospective host, please contact an [SJI adviser](#) as indicated above. You can make an appointment on Symplicity.

For questions about submitting your materials, the application timeline, and fellowship payments, please contact Nick Pozek, Assistant Director, Parker School of Foreign & Comparative Law, at npozek@law.columbia.edu.

Note that it will take at least a month after accepting a fellowship to begin receiving fellowship funding.

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Application Instructions

Please email the following documents to npozek@law.columbia, using the subject line "Parker School LL.M. Fellowship Application," followed by your last name and first name. **The documents should be submitted as one PDF and organized in the order they are listed below.** The committee will also review your Law School transcript, but you should NOT email it. We will add it to your packet after submission. **Applications are due November 8, 2021.**

1. Your resume.
2. An essay explaining how a position with a host employer will help you begin a career in your chosen field (no more than one page). If you do not have a host employer yet then please write about one with whom you would like to work.
3. A letter of recommendation, preferably from a Columbia Law School faculty member. If the recommender would prefer, s/he may email the letter to npozek@law.columbia no later than the deadline for the rest of the application.
4. If you have a host employer already, a copy of the commitment letter from your host that demonstrates its qualifications for purposes of this fellowship and describes the work you will be assigned and the training and supervision you will receive if your application is successful. (You can submit this later if you have not yet secured a host organization).

In the body of your email, please provide the following information:

- Proposed host organization;
- Proposed fellowship start date (please estimate if you are not sure); and
- If your recommendation letter is not included in your PDF, please provide your recommender's name, email address, and date by which the letter will be submitted.