



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LAW SCHOOL

2019 HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Human Rights Center offers competitive Human Rights Fellowships for law students to pursue summer placements in human rights and international law. A cornerstone of the Center for 29 years, the Human Rights Fellowships Program enable students to gain the legal training and professional experience necessary to pursue careers in human rights while making meaningful contributions to high-impact organizations.

Since 1989, more than \$1.5 million dollars has been awarded to more than 600 Human Rights Fellows working in approximately 370 human rights organizations across 90 countries.

The Human Rights Center is grateful for the continued support of those who have made these opportunities possible for our students: Professor Laura Cooper and Mr. Benjamin Cooper; Mr. William Drake ('63); Mr. & Mrs. Alfred & Ingrid Lenz Harrison; Amb. & Mrs. Samuel Heins ('72) & Stacey Mills; Mr. Kraig Larson (1991 Human Rights Fellow); the funders of the George Ludcke/Class of '78 Fellowship; the Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation; Ms. Holly Newman; Mr. & Mrs. Allen & Linda Saeks; and the Law School Career Center Public Interest Program.

BENEFITS AND EXPECTATIONS

Fellows benefit from:

- Stipend (\$4000 for 1Ls and \$5000 for 2Ls);
- Recognition as 2019 Human Rights Fellows;
- HRC faculty and staff support for substantive work and logistics before and throughout the summer.

As part of the Program, Fellows are expected to:

- Participate in orientation in April 2019;
- Complete a total of 400 hours of work in support of an organization;
- Provide social media content throughout the summer, 1-2 thank-you notes to donors, and a short assessment of the experience at conclusion;
- Participate in September 2019 debrief.
- Present on a topic related to summer work in October 2019 public forum.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- HRC-arranged ECCC and OHCHR placements – **Deadline: November 14, 2018, 5pm**
- Other HRC-arranged placements (TBC) – **Deadline: February 21, 2019, 5pm**
- Find your own internship and apply for a Human Rights Fellowship –
Early consideration: February 21, 2019, 5pm: Final deadline: March 29, 2019, 5pm.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your complete application in a single PDF to Sarah Thune at humanrts@umn.edu. Only completed applications submitted by 5pm on the relevant deadline will be considered. For HRC-arranged placements, see specific applications instructions included in the internship description.

Completed applications include:

1. Application form (available at law.umn.edu/human-rights-center/fellowship-program)
2. Cover letter (1000 words max) describing:
 - Your experience in the field of human rights and your interest in a human-rights related career
 - Significance of the proposed placement for your academic or professional training
 - Relationship of the fellowship to your future goals
 - Description of the human rights issue the sponsoring organization addresses
 - How the host organization will benefit from your summer work
3. Resume (2-page maximum)
4. Law school & undergraduate transcripts (unofficial ok)
5. Letter of reference (optional)
6. Written confirmation of placement from host organization (if seeking funding for a position you found on your own)

For more information about the Program, see FAQ below and visit law.umn.edu/human-rights-center. We welcome questions and inquiries from students who are considering Human Rights Fellowships! Reach out as you search for placements and prepare your application.

FAQ

Who is eligible to apply?

The majority of fellowship awards are available for University of Minnesota Law Students that are in their first or second year of study. Limited funding may be available for other UMN Law students or undergraduate or graduate students from other disciplines. Please contact the Human Rights Center if you would like to discuss your eligibility.

How much is each award?

This year 2Ls will receive a stipend of \$5,000 and 1Ls will receive \$4,000.

What counts as a “human rights placement”?

The Human Rights Center aims to support internship experiences that will contribute to preparing future lawyers with the commitment and skills to defend human rights in the course of their professional trajectory. Past Fellows have worked at local, national and international organizations and have engaged in a wide range of human-rights related work, including work with: UN bodies, with national and sub-national courts and governmental agencies in the US and other countries, legal and advocacy support to grassroots organizations and campaigns, applied research with academic institutions, positions with US or foreign human-rights NGOs working at the national and international levels, and clerkships with organizations focused on client-based services as well as those doing strategic litigation aimed at impact for systemic change.

The Fellowship Program has supported students and organizations working on a broad range of issues—prisons, immigration and asylum, poverty, environment, indigenous peoples’ rights, rights of women, transitional justice, rights of children, food and water, housing, torture, corporate accountability, rights of LGBTI persons, and much more.

What are the selection criteria?

Priority will be given to positions in which students will gain experience that they could not through school-year positions with local organizations. The selection committee will look for positions in which Human Rights Fellows will engage in meaningful, substantive legal work related to the enjoyment of human rights, and will develop commitment and practical skills necessary to be effective human rights advocates.

Are there any special considerations for international posts?

All Human Rights Fellowship awards for international travel are contingent on compliance with the University of Minnesota's [health insurance requirements](#). You are responsible for coordinating with your host organization to ensure that you comply with all necessary immigration and visa requirements of the country.

If you are a University of Minnesota student traveling to a country on the State Department's [travel warning list](#), your award will be contingent on your receiving [permission to travel](#) from the University of Minnesota. Please do not apply for permission until you have received confirmation of your award.