

Public Interest Fellowships Handout

What is a Public Interest Fellowship?

Postgraduate public interest fellowships enable recent graduates to secure entry-level positions with nonprofit organizations, government entities, and educational institutions. A small number of traditional law firms offer public interest fellowships as well. Fellowships usually only last one to two years, as they are designed to give a recent law graduate or junior attorney experience in public interest practice and to help launch their career. Generally fellowships are either **organization-based**, funded by the organization for which the fellow is working, or **project-based**, funded by a third-party organization, allowing the fellow to work with a host organization, usually on a specifically designed project. These types of fellowships are a great way to get in the door at a public interest organization and help you build a network of public interest practitioners! Clinical teaching fellowships are another type, which are great options for students interested in public-interest lawyering and clinical teaching.

What are Some of the Most Popular Fellowships?

- The Skadden Arps Fellowship is a project-based fellowship. The application, which includes responses to three essays, is always due the first week of October 2015. Applicants must secure a potential position with a sponsoring public interest organization before applying for a Fellowship. Visit <http://www.skaddenfellowships.org/application> for more info.
- The Equal Justice Works Fellowship is another project-based fellowship. The application is usually due the 3rd week of September. Applicants must secure a potential position with a sponsoring public interest organization before applying for a Fellowship. Visit <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/equal-justice-works-fellowships/apply> for up-to-date info.
- Please note these are just *two* of the countless fellowships available to you!

Are These Fellowships Hard to Obtain?

- Yes, they are. And, they take a lot of careful diligence and time to complete. But, if you are willing to put in some hard work ahead of time, you put yourself in a good position to obtain a fellowship.
- Your GPA and grades matter for some fellowships, but not for all.
- What does matter is your commitment to the issue and the organization!

Where Can I Get More Information?

1. Visit PSJD's fellowship section at [http://www.psjd.org/Postgraduate Fellowships](http://www.psjd.org/Postgraduate_Fellowships) for more detailed information and search for fellowship jobs on PSJD's database, <http://www.psjd.org/search>. This is likely the most comprehensive listing of all fellowships.
2. Make an appointment with Andrea Montague (amontague@law.du.edu), CDO's Public Sector Career Advisor & talk with Alexi Freeman (afreeman@law.du.edu), Director of Public Interest, to discuss opportunities that might be good for you.
3. Comb through PSJD's book about fellowships in the CDO's office.
4. View PSJD's fellowship calendar, which includes deadlines for most fellowships available across the country: http://www.psjd.org/deadlines_calendar.