

HRW Fellowships in International Human Rights - FAQs



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Q: How many fellowships does HRW offer?

A: Human Rights Watch currently offers three fellowships:

- [Alan R. and Barbara D. Finberg Fellowship](#) – a one-year fellowship open to candidates who hold an advanced (graduate) degree from any institution;
- [The Leonard H. Sandler Fellowship](#) – a one-year fellowship only open to candidates who hold a J.D. from Columbia Law School; and
- [The NYU School of Law Fellowship at HRW](#) – a one-year fellowship only open to candidates who hold a JD from New York University School of Law.
- [The Aryeh Neier Fellowship](#) – a two-year fellowship (one year with HRW, one year with the ACLU) open to candidates who hold a J.D. from US law schools or applicants who will have a J.D. degree from a US law school by June 2019.

Q: Do you accept non-US nationals to be considered for HRW fellowships?

A: Yes. The fellowships are open to citizens of all nationalities who meets the eligibility criteria. Human Rights Watch will assist prospective fellows in obtaining the necessary work authorization.

Q: Can I speak to someone from the Fellowship Committee?

A: You can send inquiries by email for the Finberg, Sandler, NYU, and Aryeh Neier Fellowships to fellowships@hrw.org. Please do not call Human Rights Watch with questions about individual applications.

Q: Are there possibilities of full-time employment at Human Rights Watch at the end of the fellowship year?

A: There is no guarantee of future employment with HRW. Some fellows have been hired as researchers with HRW, it is not the general rule. Fellows often find employment with other human rights organizations, international organizations, or academic institutions, depending on their qualifications.

Q: What are the chances of getting a fellowship?

A: The Human Rights Watch fellowships are highly competitive. Last year, we received roughly 1,400 applications for the Finberg Fellowship alone. Every year, the number of applications increases.

Q: May I apply for more than one fellowship?

A: You may apply for more than one Human Rights Watch fellowship in any given fellowship year. You should submit separate, complete applications for each fellowship for which you intend to apply (the application materials may be identical).

Q: What degree is required to be eligible for the fellowships?

A: For the Sandler Fellowship, prospective fellows must hold a JD from Columbia Law School or have a degree granted by June 2019. (LL.M.s are **not** eligible).

For the NYU Fellowship, prospective fellows must hold a JD from NYU Law School or have a degree granted by June 2019(LL.M.s are **not** eligible).

For the Finberg Fellowship, applicants must hold an advanced (graduate) degree in the fields of law, journalism, international relations or other relevant studies at the Master's level or have a degree granted by June 2019. LL.M.s are also eligible. Graduates with LL.B. degrees or advanced degrees in other relevant disciplines may also be considered.

For the Aryeh Neier Fellowship, applicants must hold a JD from a US law school or have a J.D. degree from a US law school by June 2019.

Q: What counts as experience conducting interviews?

A: All applicants for the Human Rights Watch fellowships must have direct experience interviewing victims of human rights abuses. Interviewing experience may take different forms, including (but not limited to) the following: interviewing victims of human rights abuses for human rights reporting; interviewing victim for news articles; interviewing clients through legal aid clinics or similar settings; conducting interviews as part of a refugee status determination process; or conducting interview-based academic research or other research.

Q: To whom should I address my cover letter?

A: Applicants may address their cover letter to the Human Rights Watch Fellowships Committee.

Q: Should I propose a specific project/area of interest in my application?

A: Your application should describe your areas of experience, expertise, interest, and your qualifications for the fellowship. If you are selected as a fellow, Human Rights Watch will assign you to a regional or thematic division based on institutional needs, taking into account your area(s) or expertise and language skills as appropriate.

Q: Are there any guidelines on the content or form of the writing sample?

A: Applicants should submit only one unedited writing sample. The writing sample should be no longer than 10 pages. The writing sample may be an excerpt from a longer work. Your writing sample should reflect your commitment and experience in the field of human rights (no legal briefs, please). While it may be useful to include citations, it is not strictly necessary, depending on the content of the brief.

If you wish to submit a document which has been published, for example in a law review or magazine, you must submit your original version, i.e. the article prior to editing by others.

Q: When do I submit the letters of recommendation?

A: Only shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit two letters of recommendation. A letter of recommendation is a letter written by someone who knows you in a professional or academic capacity testifying to your qualifications and suitability for a fellowship position.

Q: When do I submit my school transcripts?

A: Only shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit transcripts. Official transcripts are stamped or signed documents from your university confirming your grades/marks and your degree(s). Please do not include copies of diplomas or degree certificates. If an official transcript(s) of your graduate work is not yet available, you should include an official transcript of your undergraduate work and an official letter from your graduate program confirming your enrollment (applicants currently in one-year graduate

programs should supply an undergraduate transcript with a list of their graduate school courses). If the transcript is not in English, please provide the original and a certified translation.

Q: What happens if I am invited for an interview?

A: Human Rights Watch will make the necessary arrangements and cover reasonable travel costs (including meals and lodging) for you to attend an interview in New York City.

Q: When will I hear the results of my application?

A: Interviews will be held in late November to mid-December for the Finberg, Sandler, NYU, and Aryeh Neier Fellowships. Final decisions will be announced in early to mid-January 2019. Please note that short-listed candidates will be contacted directly by phone or e-mail.

Q: If I receive a fellowship, will Human Rights Watch pay for relocation and work authorization costs?

A: Yes. Human Rights Watch will assist with and pay for obtaining work authorization. If an employee is asked to relocate by the organization, Human Rights Watch may pay certain relocation expenses upon prior approval of the Director of Global Human Resources, such as:

- Economy travel to the new location
- The cost of shipping personal belongings and business files to the new location
- Temporary, short-term accommodations at the new location