

The Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights

KIRBY SIMON SUMMER HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIPS SUPPORTED BY THE ROBINA FOUNDATION

The Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights provides Kirby Simon Fellowships to enable students to spend all or part of the summer doing international human rights work abroad or in the United States. The Fellowship allows Yale students with an interest in human rights to gain practical experience in the field, undertake independent research on human rights topics, or have an intensive learning experience on a human rights issue of interest to them. At the same time, Summer Fellows contribute – through advocacy or scholarship – to the work and development of the international human rights movement.

Summer Fellows must work **at least six weeks** for an organization or on an independent project dedicated to promoting human rights. Students may split the summer, but the six-week minimum generally applies to each location. Summer Fellowships will, with few exceptions, cover travel to one work location only.

Note that the 2021 Kirby Simon Summer Fellowships must abide fully by all Yale travel restrictions and thus, unless the University's travel policy changes in the coming months, Fellowships will be conducted remotely.

Summer Fellows participate in a brief orientation session in the spring before their fellowship begins. After completion of their summer, Fellows submit a written report and attend a gathering to share their experiences with each other. Returned Summer Fellows also participate in a number of events that allow them to discuss with the Yale community the issues raised by and the insights gained from their fellowship experiences.

All Yale students are eligible to apply for a Kirby Simon Summer Fellowship. However, in 2021, due to current restrictions on travel funding, we are unlikely to be able to offer Kirby Simon Fellowships to students eligible only for travel funding.

- First- and second-year law students and undergraduates in the Multidisciplinary Academic Program for Human Rights (MAPHR) are eligible for funding to cover both living and travel expenses. This single application to the Schell Center covers both types of funding.
- **Law students who wish to receive both the travel grant and living expenses must submit Part I of the SPIF application (confirming SPIF eligibility) but DO NOT need to submit Part II of the SPIF application.** The Kirby Simon application replaces SPIF Part II. The Financial Aid Office will provide information about SPIF during the fall semester.
- Please note that **law students may receive no more than a total of 12 weeks' summer living support from all law school sources.** You may split the summer between human rights work and domestic public interest work, and you may participate in the South American Linkage program, but you will be able to receive only 12 weeks of support in total for these activities.
- **Law students receiving Kirby Simon Fellowships may earn a maximum of \$8,000 from all summer activities.** This total includes all sources of funding for the proposed internship or project *and* any income earned or funding awarded for other internships or jobs.
- Graduating law students may be eligible for the travel grants but are not eligible for the living stipend.

- Non-law students who are not part of MAPHR are eligible for funding to cover travel expenses only, not for the living stipend.
- First- and second-year law students who have not previously received Summer Fellowships have priority in funding decisions.
- Law students not eligible for SPIF may be eligible for the travel grant.
- **New requirement as of summer 2021:** To receive funding, students must have their host organizations certify compliance with Yale Law School's nondiscrimination policy. [See instructions on confirming organization compliance.](#)

Applications for summer 2021 are **accepted on a rolling basis until Friday, March 12, 2021**. You are encouraged to submit your application as soon as you are able. Students may amend their applications after the final deadline but should keep in mind that funding will likely be delayed as a result.

See the Schell Center website for the application form. **Before submitting your application, you must meet** with Jim Silk or Hope Metcalf. Please use the office hours application on the Inside Page to schedule appointments. If you cannot meet during their scheduled hours, please email barbara.mianzo@yale.edu to arrange another time.

You must submit an application to humanrightsfellows@yale.edu by Friday, March 12. If you have not confirmed your summer plans by this date, please submit an application providing tentative information about the plans you think are most likely (or that you are most interested in). We need everyone considering a Kirby Simon Summer Fellowship to provide this information so that we have an estimate of the funding we will need. You may amend your application up to the end of classes on April 30. If you are unable to finalize your plans by that date, please contact the Schell Center.

Funding Information

Travel: Yale Law School currently prohibits travel funding, so we do not anticipate awarding travel grants this year. Should travel be permitted, your travel grant will be based on the region of your destination. The amount for each region should be adequate to cover your round-trip travel from New York to your fellowship site. It is not designed to include internal travel within the country during the period of your fellowship. If the cost of traveling to and from your fellowship site significantly exceeds the amount set for your region, you may request consideration of an adjustment to your grant.

Travel-Related Medications/Inoculations and Visas: In the event that travel is permitted, you will receive separate reimbursement for all required inoculations, preventative medications (does not include regular medication unrelated to preventative requirements for your fellowship site) and visas. You must determine whether you need a visa for your destination or destinations. The following State Department link is a good starting point for information about visa requirements: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>.

All receipts should be submitted before you leave for your fellowship and must show the type of medication or inoculation received. The Schell Center will cover a maximum of \$750 for required preventative inoculations, medications and visas.

Living Stipend (SPIF): The living stipend portion of the Kirby Simon Fellowship is the equivalent of the SPIF weekly stipend. Grants for living expenses will be \$666.66 per week for a maximum of 12 weeks.