

**The International Court of Justice  
The Hague, The Netherlands**

**Judicial Fellowship Programme**

**2025-2026**

The International Court of Justice in The Hague, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has once again invited Yale Law School to submit applications for its Judicial Fellowship Programme. The Programme was established in 1999 to enable recent law graduates to gain professional experience working at the ICJ. The Fellowship Programme aims to improve participants' understanding of public international law and of the Court's procedures by actively involving them in the work of the Court and allowing them to build on their experience under the supervision of a judge.

The Judicial Fellows work on a full-time basis under the supervision of a Member of the Court and alongside the primary legal assistant of the judge. Fellows can expect to attend the Court's public hearings, research and write memoranda on legal questions or factual aspects of the cases pending before the Court, and perform other duties assigned by their judge. The duration of the Fellowship is approximately ten months, typically, from September 1 through June 30.

The Fellow will be financially supported by the Howard M. Holtzmann Endowment Fund for International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at Yale Law School. The successful candidate will receive a stipend of \$45,833 as well as reimbursement for one round-trip economy class airfare from the United States to The Hague (up to \$1,500), and, if necessary, a contribution towards health insurance of up to \$5,000. Additional information about the ICJ can be found at [www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org). There, the Court has also included a description of the Judicial Fellowship Programme and a list of the Programme's alumni.

Applications are reviewed by all Members of the Court, and the Fellows are selected by consensus. The Court accepts up to 15 Fellows per year, and no more than one from each nominating institution. Each participant is assigned to work for one judge, and the duties will include attending hearings, drafting legal memoranda on issues in pending cases, and other duties depending on the Court's docket and the needs of the judge.

To be eligible, candidates should be 31 years of age or younger at the time the Programme begins. This requirement may be waived in special circumstances. In making its selection, the Court seeks candidates of diverse nationalities.

**Qualifications**

- JD, LLM or JSD from YLS (applications accepted from alumni and from students in the final year of study)
- Excellent command of at least one of the ICJ's official languages (English or French). A working knowledge of the other language is considered an asset.
- Excellent academic record, academic or work experience in international law, proven research and writing skills

## **Application Materials**

The ICJ does not accept individual applications. Rather, it requires CDO to collect all applications and submit them together as a group. Please submit the **FOLLOWING MATERIALS** to CDO as separate documents in Microsoft Word or PDF via the [CMS Job Posting](#):

- Application Form for Judicial Fellowship Programme: Complete the application form as comprehensively as possible. (Word format)
- Judicial Fellows Summary Table: The summary table should be limited to one page and should highlight the most relevant and important information. It may be presented in list form. (Word format)
- Official YLS transcript and, if applicable, transcripts for other law degrees (pdf files)
- One writing sample not to exceed 15 pages: The sample should be researched and drafted by the individual candidate without significant editing by others. The sample can, for example, be from a previous publication, note, or law school paper, preferably on a topic of international law. (pdf file)

## **Letters of Recommendation and Address Information**

As part of the application, ICJ requires two or three letters of recommendation in PDF format. These letters should be, preferably, from individuals who can attest to a candidate's credentials in international law and who currently engages with the candidate in an academic or professional capacity or has done so in the past. (pdf files)

Recommendation letters should be addressed to Philippe Gautier, Registrar, International Court of Justice, Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, The Netherlands. This address is to be used *only* in the text of your recommendation letters.

ALL Letters of Recommendation must be sent to CDO by the Faculty Recommender/Faculty Assistant. Please ask your recommenders to email their letters to [clerkship@yale.edu](mailto:clerkship@yale.edu), not directly to the Registrar. Recommenders should include "ICJ Recommendation for (full name)" in the Subject line of their emails to CDO.

## **Deadline: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 8:00 a.m. (Eastern)**

ALL MATERIALS (**including recommendation letters**) must be submitted to CDO no later than 8:00 a.m. (Eastern) on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.

The Court is expected to reach its final decision on the selection of candidates by April 2025. The IJC will notify CDO, and we will share this information with applicants.

## **Former YLS Recipients**

You might wish to reach out to past YLS Recipients to get their feedback about the program.

<u>Jay Butler</u> (JD '11)	2011-12 term
<u>Shashank Kumar</u> (LLM '11)	2012-13 term
<u>Gregor Novak</u> (LLM '13)	2013-14 term
Manuel Casas Martínez (LLM '15)	2015-16 term
<u>Peter Tzeng</u> (JD '16)	2016-17 term
<u>Beatrice Walton</u> (JD '18)	2018-19 term
<u>Shikha Garg</u> (JD '19)	2019-20 term
<u>Idriss Fofana</u> (JD '18)	2020-21 term
<u>Alaa Hachem</u> (JD '24)	2024-25 term

## **Questions or Need Help?**

CDO is here for you! Please email Rochelle McCain in CDO with questions or make an appointment to speak with her as you build your application.