



CPL Equity Fellowship Program

The Center for Public Leadership Equity Fellowship Program provides scholarships to top-tier students from all backgrounds who plan to devote their careers to understanding and dismantling barriers to equity across society. The fellowship supports students who focus on issues in the United States Black community, the United States Latino community, and other marginalized populations. The program strengthens the capacity for public leadership through reflection, mentorship, and skill building.

What We Offer

The fellowship provides financial support toward a master's degree at Harvard Kennedy School; a comprehensive co-curricular program to augment leadership development; and a network of exceptional peers and mentors who enhance students' ability to impact the communities they serve. Recipients of the CPL Equity Fellowship receive a need-based scholarship plus an annual stipend for the course of their study at HKS.

"Many of us, myself included, find it hard to aspire to higher leadership positions because we haven't seen people like us in positions of power. The Equity Fellowship has given me the ability—and the challenge—to dream."

Phoebe Canagarajah, MPP 2024

Eligibility

The fellowship is open to all admitted degree program students at HKS. Students from all backgrounds are eligible; students from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. Applicants are considered based on academic credentials and demonstrated leadership promise, interest, and experience in reducing disparities in Black, Latino, and other underserved communities.

The Fellowship Experience

Fellows participate in a yearlong, not-for-credit co-curricular program intended to inspire, provide concrete opportunities for leadership skill-building, and connect fellows with an interdisciplinary network of like-minded peers and mentors. Programming includes dinner seminars, an annual retreat, and experiential learning grounded in discussions with visionary leaders whose work has had significant real-world impact.

The Equity Fellowship Program nurtures a vibrant network of students and alumni committed to advancing knowledge, collaborating on solutions to pressing problems affecting marginalized communities, and building leadership capacity across communities, nations, and the world.