

10 December 2021

Excellency,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to inform you of the establishment of the Trust fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the International Court of Justice, pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/129 of 14 December 2020. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to improve the diversity of participants in the Court's Judicial Fellowship Programme by providing financial support to eligible young lawyers from universities in developing countries.

The Judicial Fellowship Programme is an apprenticeship programme, which accepts up to 15 recent law graduates every year and enables them to develop their skills in the field of peaceful settlement of international disputes through the law. The Programme aims to improve participants' understanding of international law and the Court's procedures by actively involving them in the work of the Court under the supervision of a judge. The Court is particularly interested in candidates who have excellent results in their legal studies, and who have shown an interest in international law through their studies, publications and/or work experience.

Universities who wish to nominate candidates to participate in the Programme must ensure that the following materials are submitted:

- a) Letter from the university agreeing to nominate the candidate and, if applicable, financially sponsor the nominee, if selected;
- b) Application form and summary table as found in the confirmation received after completing the initial online application procedure, through the Court's website;
- c) Two to three letters of reference in support of the candidate;
- d) Official academic records of the candidate; and
- e) One writing sample by the candidate of no longer than 15 pages.

Prior to the establishment of the Trust Fund, participation in the Programme was limited to nominating universities that agreed to fund the stipend, health insurance and travel costs of successful candidates. As a result, otherwise eligible candidates attending less well-endowed universities in developed countries did not have the same opportunity to participate in the Programme.

It is henceforth possible to make contributions to the Trust Fund. The necessary banking information will be disclosed following the receipt of pledge letters for contributions to the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund will grant fellowship awards to selected candidates who are nationals of developing countries attending universities based in developing countries. For the selected candidates, the award will consist of a monthly stipend and will cover travel and health insurance costs. This will not only enable fellows to fully participate in the Programme without the burden of financial hardship but will enhance the geographical and linguistic diversity of the Programme. The Trust Fund will be administered in conformity with the applicable United Nations financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

It is hoped that the Programme will receive sufficient contributions to be able to welcome candidates from eligible universities in developing countries during the next call for applications, which will be published by the Court in the last quarter of 2021 on the Court's website together with all the relevant application instructions.

The Secretary-General looks forward to your continued support and that of your country for the implementation of the resolution and mobilization of the financial resources necessary to award grants to eligible young lawyers with a view to promoting further geographical inclusiveness and diversity within the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the International Court of Justice. I remain at your disposal for any questions or additional information needed.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Atul Khare
Under-Secretary-General
for Operational Support

Attachment: Resolution A/RES/75/129 Trust fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the International Court of Justice