

The Oxford Law and Policy Fellowship

Supporting policy-makers, launching careers.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are involved in the pilot?

A: At this time, we are not sharing which countries are involved in the pilot. This is in part because these countries may change and/or expand. Further, we want to prevent any sort of bias from candidates when they apply: all of the postings will provide fantastic opportunities for the right candidate willing to go where their experience is most needed.

Q: Will you offer successful candidates a choice of locations or will only one offer be made?

A: For the pilot, successful candidates will be given an offer for one specific country. Since we have a relatively small number of posts with specific demands, it is unlikely that one candidate will be appropriate for more than one post.

Q: Can the fellowship fund my postgraduate studies?

A: No. The fellowship programme is specifically aimed at placing legal professionals in low-income country governments to work as civil servants.

Q: My current employer does not know I am applying to the fellowship and so I will not be able to receive a letter of support from them. Can I ask a colleague or a past employer?

A: While asking a colleague or a past employer to provide a letter of support is acceptable, asking a friend from work is not. Letters of support, particularly from employers, are meant to provide us an insight into you as an employee and a colleague. Almost always, managers or former managers are the best people to provide this insight.

Q: I have been out of University for quite some years and fear that those who taught me may not remember me. Can I ask a classmate from that time to provide an academic reference?

A: No. While we appreciate this can be a difficult, we feel this is still an important part of the application process and our ability to learn about you before meeting you. Both tutors from University and postgraduate advisors with whom you may have had little contact are quite used to this sort of request and should be able to accommodate. We would suggest when reaching out to tell them a bit about the opportunity and to remind them of what you were doing at University, what you've done since, and how they participated in that process. This should begin the dialogue you may need to acquire the letter of support.