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| **Georgetown University Law Center**  **Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship Program Application for 2026-2027 Fellowship Year**  **Completed applications must be sent via e-mail to** [**morrisjc@georgetown.edu**](mailto:morrisjc@georgetown.edu) **by Friday, January 16, 2026. No applications will be accepted after this date.**  **This application must be filled out on a computer. Handwritten applications will not be considered. All application materials except transcripts must be in English. Your qualifications for the LAWA program will be evaluated based on your ability to follow these instructions.** |

The Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellowship Program was founded in 1993 at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, to train women’s human rights lawyers from Africa who are committed to returning home to their countries to advance the status of women and girls throughout their careers.

The entire LAWA Fellowship Program is approximately 14 months long – from July of the first year through late August of the following year. The LAWA Program starts with the [Foundations of American Law](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate-programs/student-services/student-advising/ll-m-summer-experience/), followed by a thesis writing course. From late August to May, the LAWA Fellows earn a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree at Georgetown, with an emphasis on international women’s human rights, and complete a major graduate thesis. Fellows are also welcome to apply for a [specialized LL.M.](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate-programs/degrees/ll-m-degrees) or [certificate program](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate-programs/degrees/certificates-of-specialization/).

Fellows also participate in professional development seminars and networking events with recent U.S. law school graduates who are working in the field of women’s rights. After graduation, the LAWA Fellows have the option to complete an internship, but not every Fellow finds an appropriate internship placement or is selected by an organization to intern.

The LAWA Program helps defray the costs for candidates who would not otherwise be able to afford an LL.M. degree and additional professional development training. The LAWA Fellowship provides the tuition for the mandatory summer courses (a U.S. $5,000 benefit) and for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the Georgetown University Law Center (a U.S. $86,294 benefit). On-campus housing is provided for the first three weeks of the summer program (a U.S. $1,500 benefit). Books and health insurance are also covered by the program for the duration (a U.S. $6,098). Fellows are also reimbursed up to $600 for miscellaneous medical expenses.

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| Total required for visa (estimated for the 2025-2026 school year; presume that this amount will increase for the 2026-2027 school year) | $135,055 |
| Tuition for Summer Experience and the school year | $91,294 |
| Books and Health Insurance for Summer Experience and the school year | $6,098 |
| Housing for the first three weeks of Summer Experience | $1,500 |
| Misc. medical expenses | $600 |
| Total support provided by the LAWA Program | $99,492 |
| Remainder of living expenses covered by applicant ($135,055-$99,492) | $35,563 |

**Requirements:**

**Candidates who are awarded a LAWA Fellowship must be prepared to cover the costs of all additional expenses** (such as visas, travel, housing, utilities, food, clothing, etc.). Candidates must be able to demonstrate to the U.S. Embassy for visa purposes that they have the full amount of funds available to cover these expenses at the time of their visa application. This totals approximately U.S. $35,563. Please refer to this [sample budget](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/admissions-aid/international-students/new-students/supporting-documents/proof-of-funding/) (LL.M. Students - Attending Summer Experience). These costs are significantly less for those residing with family in the Washington, DC area. Candidates still must show at least $10,000 for living expenses. For the summer internship portion following graduation, students are required to demonstrate a monthly stipend of about $2,500 for the 2- to 3-month internship period.

Candidates are encouraged to apply for individual funding or seek support from their employers. The LAWA Program cannot assist with these efforts.

1. You must be a human rights lawyer focusing on women’s rights to be considered. You must hold an LL.B. or other law degree. A preference is given to candidates who:

a. are currently living and working in Africa, and

b. do not already have a Master’s Degree.

1. The strongest applicants tend to be about five to ten years out of law school, but those with less or more experience will be considered. Candidates with no work experience applying directly from an LL.B. degree or other law school will not be considered.
2. All people committed to women’s rights are strongly encouraged to apply, regardless of gender identity.
3. As a requirement of participation in the LAWA Program, all applicants must commit to return home to their own countries upon completion of the Fellowship, and to use their best professional efforts to advance women’s human rights throughout their careers.
4. You must have strong English language skills, both written and oral. Language problems have been the primary barrier to success for LAWA Fellows.
5. The LAWA Program requires candidates to become proficient in using computers for drafting papers and conducting research. Candidates are strongly encouraged to learn basic computer skills before arrival to make this transition easier. At the very minimum, candidates should work to improve their typing speed.
6. Candidates must be prepared to enter a very demanding course of study. LAWA Fellows take one required course and several more elective courses over the two academic semesters. Each class requires reading hundreds of pages in preparation. Fellows are required to produce a thesis of publishable quality totaling no fewer than 40 pages. This entails multiple drafts with intense research, writing, and editing. Successful completion of the program requires exceptional focus and painstaking work. Please do not apply if you are not prepared at this time to make a serious academic commitment.

**Please submit \*ALL\* of the following to apply. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered:**

1. Complete the **Application Form**, including **all three** **essay questions**.
2. **Current** **Resume or CV**, indicating:
3. your employment history, including both paid and volunteer positions, including the name of your employer, location of your employment (city, country), dates of your employment (start and end dates), and description of your work for each position;
4. your education from high school to the present, including the name and location (city, country) of the institution, dates attended (including date of graduation), degree awarded, grade point average or your class rank, and number of students, and your participation in any extracurricular activities;
5. titles of any published materials (articles, books, reports, etc.) or significant research papers;
6. any special honors, awards, scholarships, or fellowships; and
7. any memberships in organizations or community activities in which you have been involved, including any leadership roles.
8. **Two** **Letters of Recommendation** (letters of reference) from people who are well acquainted with you, your commitment to advancing women’s human rights in your country, your legal skills, and your work habits. At least one reference should be a person who is willing to assist you professionally upon your return to your country. Recommendations should highlight your skills and knowledge. Please do not submit references that merely attest to your good character or your duration of employment. Letters of recommendation may be emailed directly from the recommender or can be scanned and sent as email attachments along with the rest of your application materials. These may arrive later than the rest of your application, but no later than Friday, January 30.
9. **Transcript from the institution granting your law degree as soon as you are offered an interview:**

Please arrange to have a hard copy of your official, sealed law school transcript(s) sent to:

Jill C. Morrison

Georgetown University Law Center

600 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Hotung 5000K

Washington, DC 20001

**Photocopies or emails directly from your institution are not sufficient**. An original of your transcript must be mailed directly from your institution to the address above. We understand this requires you to incur some expense, but it cannot be avoided. Please include an explanation of the grading and ranking system. Transcripts will not be returned to you. Each year, well-qualified candidates are denied a place in the program because we have not received their official transcripts. Please comply with this requirement and have your transcript sent as soon as you are offered an interview.

If you applied in previous years, you do not need to resubmit your transcript, but you must resubmit your revised application form, your updated resume, and updated recommendations.

**Send your completed application via e-mail to** [morrisjc@georgetown.edu](mailto:morrisjc@georgetown.edu) by Friday, January 16, 2026.

**There is no need to apply separately to Georgetown.** Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp/lawa-fellowship-program/frequently-asked-questions/). If you cannot find the answers on our website, please email [morrisjc@georgetown.edu](mailto:morrisjc@georgetown.edu). **You must check your email regularly beginning February 1st, 2026, to see if you have been selected for an interview! If you are traveling, you may wish to have someone check for you. If you do not respond promptly, you will relinquish this opportunity.**

**APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED IN ENGLISH AND MUST BE TYPED**

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| 1. Legal name as shown on your passport | | | | | |
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|  | (First) |  | (Middle) |  | (Last/Family/Surname) |

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| 1. Home Address | |  | | | | |
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|  | (City) | |  | (Country) |  | (Postal Code) |

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| 1. Preferred Phone Number |  |
| (Include Country & City Code) | |

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| 1. Email Address |  |

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| 1. How did you hear about the LAWA Program? | |
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| 1. If you have applied to the LAWA Program before, please provide the years and whether you were granted an interview | |
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| 1. Date of Birth |  | Place of Birth |  |
| (day-month-year, example 19-September-1980) | |  |  |

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| 1. Country of Citizenship |  |

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| 1. Sex |  |

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| 1. Present occupation/position and organization: | |
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| 1. Please indicate your native language: |  |

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| 1. Were your law courses taught in English? |  |

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| 1. Please list all other languages you speak and your level of proficiency: | |
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| 1. Please list each time you have **traveled outside of your home country** for any purpose, including study, research, vacation/holiday, visit family or friends, work, live, etc. Add additional pages if necessary. | | |
| *Country* | *Dates (****from*** *day-month-year –* ***to*** *day-month-year)* | *Purpose* |
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| 1. If you are awarded a LAWA Fellowship, you will be asked to certify that you will return to your country after the Fellowship and that you will continue to promote women’s human rights in your country throughout your career. Please indicate whether you have any reservations about signing the agreement, or if there is anything that would interfere with your ability to do so. | |
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| 1. Please confirm that you can fund your non-tuition expenses (totaling approximately $33,000) and indicate what specific financial resources you have available to cover these expenses. Please also indicate if you have relatives in the Washington, DC area who have committed to providing your room and board during your Fellowship year. | |
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1. **Essays**

**The total length of your three essay answers should not exceed 1500 words, or 500 words per essay. Please write at least 250 words for each answer, including your possible research topic.**

* 1. Describe your background and/or any significant experiences that help define you as a person and what motivates your commitment to women’s human rights. The LAWA program actively recruits and welcomes a diverse pool of applicants. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation), disability status, or any other characteristic. You are encouraged to describe how any of these characteristics impacts your approach to your work. Please provide any information that you believe will qualify you as a top candidate for the LAWA Fellowship. Please do not simply restate your education and work experience. This is already evident from your resume.
  2. Explain why you desire to be a LAWA Fellow, and how both your personal career goals, as well as women’s human rights in your country, will be advanced through your participation in the LAWA Program. You are welcome to include information about the status of women in your community and country, and how the laws in your country impact the lives of women and girls.
  3. If you are awarded a LAWA Fellowship, you will write a major research paper on a particular legal issue affecting women in your country. Please indicate what topic or topics you may be interested in addressing in this legal research paper and describe the problem as you see it.

**Thank you for your interest in the Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Program. I look forward to reviewing your application!**