

Palmer Fellowship in Public Policy 2026-27 Call for Expressions of Interest

The Public Policy Fellow will work to safeguard and promote foundational democratic rights through a variety of strategies, including but not limited to the development of policy papers for legislative committees at the federal and provincial level, direct engagement with thought leaders from government, industry, and civil society to foster creative approaches to solving complex public policy challenges, and potential participation in strategic litigation related to Canadian democracy and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Fellow is expected to develop their own strategy for impactful programming, which prioritises engagement in areas of Canadian democracy at particular risk, and/or in support of vulnerable communities whose rights are under threat and will work closely with the Palmer Chair in Public Policy and the Law in developing their priorities.

The Fellow will collaborate with the Palmer Chair, the members of the Law and Technology Institute, and other Dalhousie faculty and institutes to contribute to the vibrant intellectual community at Schulich, including through participating in the faculty seminar series, and other workshops and events hosted at the university.

The Fellow is also expected to carry appropriate teaching responsibilities in the J.D. program, designed to onboard Dalhousie law students into the public policy and advocacy space, and to expand Schulich Law's course offerings related to public policy and the law. They will mentor and supervise senior law students who are interested in public policy and Charter advocacy.

The Fellow is expected to be in residence at the Schulich School of Law for one-year from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027 (renewable for up to three years).

This Fellowship is funded through the James S. Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law at the Schulich School of Law. Due to the unique nature of this Fellowship, the Public Policy Fellow will receive a separate part-time academic appointment from the Schulich School of Law for their teaching role. The combined annual salary for the two appointments will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum three years' experience in policy advocacy, with a preference for substantial engagement with constitutional matters, a familiarity with questions in relation to emerging technologies, and a demonstrated commitment to human rights and democracy and/or public interest law. A J.D. or LL.B is required, and an additional degree related to the technology field would be an asset, though not required. A license to practice law in either Ontario or Nova Scotia would also be an asset, though not required.

Office of the Dean

Weldon Law Building | 6061 University Ave. | P.O. Box 15000 | Halifax NS B3H 4R2
Tel: 902.494.3495 | Fax: 902.494.1316 | dal.ca/law

About the Schulich School of Law

The Schulich School of Law plays an extraordinary role in the fabric of Canadian legal education. We are a national law school, with our students coming from and returning to every region. We graduate leaders. Our alumni hold every form of government office, teach in Canadian law schools, innovate in the provision of private and public sector legal services, advance policy in the executive branch of government, render decisions on courts across the country, and offer service to non-governmental bodies and non-profit and community organizations. We have always been known for and proud of our commitment to the Weldon tradition of unselfish public service.

We embrace the interdisciplinary opportunity of working in a university, we value the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, and we are firmly committed to students and to teaching and learning excellence. We are conscious of the difference we make to law reform, adjudication, legal service, and community engagement at home and around the world. We value the contributions of the founding communities in this province, the Mi'kmaq Nation, Acadians, African Nova Scotians, and British, and we open our doors to the world.

For more information, see the Schulich School of Law 'About' page at: www.dal.ca/law

How to Apply

Applications will include a: (1) covering letter; (2) CV; (3) vision statement for the fellowship, which includes a summary teaching interests (and teaching evaluations if available); and (4) the names of three referees (at least one academic).

Complete applications should be forwarded by **March 13, 2026**, for fullest consideration, to:

Office of the Dean
Schulich School of Law
Dalhousie University
6061 University Ave.
P.O. Box 15000
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2
lawdean@dal.ca