

2026 Summer Social Science Research Fellowship on LGBTQ Law and Policy

For the summer of 2026, the Williams Institute will award up to three Summer Fellowships to provide UCLA students (upper-level undergraduate and graduate) with opportunities to learn about and engage in social science research related to LGBTQ law and policy, global and domestic, with Williams Institute scholars. The Fellowship program is a mentorship and learning experience that will provide students exposure to public policy, research, analysis, and writing on issues impacting LGBTQ people and communities in the U.S. and worldwide. Anticipated projects include the following:

- Contributing to searches, screening, and data extraction for systematic reviews on 1) the measurement of state-level structural stigma towards LGBTQ and Latino/a/e populations in the U.S. and 2) the impact of policies regulating pediatric intersex surgeries
- Conducting research and contributing to case studies on democratic backsliding and LGBTQ acceptance, including the impact of transnational anti-gender movement actors
- Mapping LGBTQ parliamentarians and elected officials around the world

Summer fellows will receive a stipend of \$6,000 and are expected to work full time for 8 weeks with the Williams Institute. The fellowship will be a remote-work position, but fellows are expected to be available during working hours (Pacific Time). Precise start and end dates are flexible.

Criteria for Selection

Applicants must be UCLA upper-level undergraduate or graduate students during the entire period of the fellowship. Note that those who are recent graduates and not enrolled students are ineligible. The Selection Committee will consider the following when evaluating applicants: a) research and writing abilities; b) academic record; and c) demonstrated commitment to work focused on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and sex characteristics law and policy issues.

Application

To apply, please submit a cover letter addressing your interest in the fellowship and your relevant experience (no more than 500 words); your resume; your academic transcript; a writing sample; and the signed and initialed form below. If you are interested in supporting research on global LGBTQ topics or the systematic reviews, please note that in your cover letter and describe any relevant research or academic experience.

All materials should be sent to WISummerFellow@law.ucla.edu.

The application deadline is **Monday, May 4, 2026, at 5 pm (PT)**. Applicants will be considered on a rolling basis, so early applications are recommended.

The Williams Institute is dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy. A national think tank at UCLA School of Law, the Williams Institute produces high quality research with real-world relevance and disseminates it to judges, legislators, policymakers, media and the public. Experts at the Williams Institute have authored dozens of public policy studies and law review articles, filed amicus briefs in key court cases, provided expert testimony at legislative hearings, been widely cited in the national media, and trained thousands of lawyers, judges and members of the public. Please visit <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/> for more information.

Application Form - 2026 Summer Research Fellowships

Please note that the fellowship application deadline is May 4, 2026.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Permanent Address (if different from above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

If you are an undergraduate:

Your Major _____ Projected Graduation Date _____

If you are a graduate student:

Graduate School _____ Projected Graduation Date _____

Undergraduate Institution _____ Graduation Date _____

If selected, I am interested in focusing my fellowship on:

Global LGBTQ+ research ___

U.S.-focused LGBTQ+ research ___

Either ___

II. REFERENCES

Name:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Select: Academic ___ Professional _____

II. REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

Name:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Select: Academic ___ Professional ____

III. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

If awarded a Fellowship for the Summer of 2025, I understand that:

1. I must inform the Williams Institute immediately if I am unable to complete my term of work for any reason. In such an event, I agree to return a pro rata portion of the award for the time I did not work. ____ (initial)
2. I will submit a digital photo of myself to the Williams Institute by May 1, 2025. I understand this photo may be submitted for publication and/or distributed by the Williams Institute. ____ (initial)
3. I will submit a one-page summary of my experience to the Williams Institute by September 1, 2026. I understand this summary may be submitted for publication and/or distributed by UCLA. ____ (initial)
4. I understand that receipt of a Badgett Summer Fellowship does not make me an employee of the Williams Institute or UCLA School of Law.
5. I accept responsibility for all applicable federal, state, and local taxes and other applicable assessments. ____ (initial)

Name: _____

[Please Print]

Signature: _____ Date: _____