

**2026 FASPE Clergy & Religious Leaders Fellowship
Eligibility Guidelines**

FASPE seeks graduate students and early-career professionals in formative stages of developing their professional identity and influence as leaders in their fields. The below guidelines should be considered when choosing whether to apply. Applications that do not strictly adhere to these guidelines will still be considered, but preference may be given to those that are more closely aligned with the outlined eligibility parameters.

FASPE Clergy & Religious Leaders applicants must either be enrolled in graduate school preparing for work as a religious leader at the time of application or they must be working as a religious leader with a relevant graduate degree received May 2019 or after. Those applying as students may be studying at a seminary, divinity school, rabbinical school, Muslim chaplaincy program or other graduate program related to religious OR theological training.

FASPE seeks applicants engaged in or preparing for practical or vocational service. Applicants do not need to be ordained or planning to pursue ordination/smicha/formal recognition from their tradition to be eligible. FASPE is a multifaith program. Applicants from all faith traditions are encouraged.

FASPE seeks Clergy Fellows with diverse interests and backgrounds, including those pursuing careers as religious leaders of congregations, as chaplains, at universities, hospitals, prisons, corporations, in the armed services, and in other settings.

FASPE seeks Fellows at a formative stage of their professional lives, who are open-minded and self-reflective, demonstrate leadership capabilities, and possess the potential of having influence in their fields. FASPE selects its Fellows on the basis of their academic background, personal and professional experiences, capacity for leadership, and ability to contribute to the Fellowship program and the alumni community. FASPE values and seeks to create inclusive environments, and welcomes applicants of all religious, political, and socioeconomic backgrounds as well as gender identities. FASPE seeks Fellows who are interested in engaging in discussions with their co-Fellows and faculty, and who have the intellectual and emotional maturity to discuss difficult and controversial issues responsibly and respectfully in small group settings. All applications are welcome and reviewed.