

2026-2027 ASF FELLOWSHIPS FOR FINNISH CITIZENS IN THE U.S.

New York, NY—The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) is pleased to announce its 2026-2027 Fellows from Finland. ASF's fellowships help further academic scholarship across all fields of study. ASF and the League of Finnish-American Societies (Suomi-Amerikka Yhdistysten Liitto/Samsuomi) work together to promote educational and cultural exchange between Finland and the United States. Fellowships are awarded in all fields and made possible this year by the following ASF Endowment Funds: the Carl G. and Rikke Fredriksen Barth Memorial Fund, the Martha and Jack McFall Fund, the Finnish Fund, the Thor and Saimie Soderholm Fund, and the Saara and Björn Wahlroos Finnish Fellowship Fund.

To learn more about our yearly fellowship competition for Finnish residents, visit our website:
<https://www.amscan.org/fellowships-and-grants/>



IMAGES: (Left to right) Photos of Finnish Fellows Jagoda Julia Sekular-Amara, Anu Vehkamäki, and Milla Tarpola.

SEKULAR-AMARA, Jagoda Julia to the Harvard Kennedy School

MPA, Public Administration

In Fall 2026, Julia Jagoda Sekular-Amara will begin an MPA at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she will deepen her expertise in public administration, leadership, and governance to support Finnish and European foreign and security policy. Building on her experience as a former Finnish diplomat, she aims to contribute toward EU civilian crisis management, institutional accountability, and reform efforts in conflict-affected regions. She earned an LLB from the University of Law, an MA in International Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), an LLM in International Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam, and an LLD from Åbo Akademi University. She currently serves as Adviser on Human Rights to the European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine.

TARPOLA, Milla to Yale University and Stanford University

PhD, Economics

Milla Tarpola will conduct her dissertation research at Yale University and Stanford University, spending four months at Yale followed by five months at Stanford. Her research examines how technological breakthroughs are transferred between firms through acquisitions, paying particular attention to how patent value and firm size often influence acquisition decisions. She seeks to explain these dynamics through an economic model of innovation, growth, and competition policy. Tarpola earned a BS in Economics from the University of Helsinki in 2022 and an MS in Analysis and Policy in Economics from the Paris School of Economics in 2024. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics from the Paris School of Economics and was awarded a 2026 Fulbright-KAUTE Foundation Grant.

VEHKAMÄKI, Anu to Stanford University

PhD, Industrial Engineering and Management

In Fall 2026, Anu Vehkamäki will conduct dissertation research at Stanford University, where she will investigate continuity of care for chronic patients in fragmented healthcare systems. Working under the supervision of Professors Sara Singer and Laurence Baker, her research combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine health service and care continuity. Vehkamäki earned both her BS in Information Networks (2019) and MS in Information Networks (2021) from Aalto University. In 2025, she received grants from the Yrjö and Senja Koivunen Foundation Grant and the Finnish Foundation for Technology Promotion. She is currently a PhD candidate in Industrial Engineering and Management at Aalto University.