

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

New York, NY—The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) is pleased to announce its 2026-2027 Fellows from Norway. ASF's fellowships advance academic scholarship across all fields of study. ASF and The Norway-America Association (Norge-Amerika Foreningen—NORAM) have collaborated since 1919 to promote educational and cultural exchange between Norway and the United States. Fellowships are awarded across all fields and, this year, are made possible by the following ASF Endowment Funds: the Andrew E. and G. Norman Wigeland Fund, the Mathilde Aas Memorial Fund, the Haakon Styri Fellowship Fund, the Peter and Birgit Faber Morse Fund, the Stolt-Nielsen Fund for Education, the King Olav V 70th Birthday Fund, the King Haakon VII Birthday Fund, and the Carl Olaf, Marie, and Katherine Elizabeth Johnson Fellowship Fund. Additional funding for fellows studying at Northern California universities was provided by the Norway House Foundation.

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



IMAGES: (Left to right) Photos of Norwegian Fellows Maya Westerlund, Balder Hella Mikkelsen, and Linnea Spånberg Nordli.

BEKKEVARD, Anders to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
MS, Computer Science

In Fall 2026, Anders Bekkevard will undertake an exchange year at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he will further his research interests in computer science, with a specialization in machine learning and optimization. He is currently enrolled in the MS program in Industrial Economics and Technology Management at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), which he began in 2024 following military service as a reconnaissance soldier with the Telemark Battalion HRF. His professional experience includes roles as a Project Intern at Boston Consulting Group and a Course Developer at EnkelEksamen. In 2026, he was selected for an Equity Analyst Internship with Odin Forvaltning.

DAMSGAARD, Jakob Ugland to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

MS, Mathematics and Computer Science

Jakob Ugland Damsgaard, a graduate student in Industrial Economics and Technology Management at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), will begin his exchange semester at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Fall 2026. During this period, he will deepen his research in computer science and take selected coursework at Harvard University. Over the past three years, he has gained professional experience with Fiskesalg AS and Abakus Veldedige Forening, and has volunteered with Janus, Abakus Veldedige Forening, and other student organizations.

HAMMERSLAND, Mattias to Columbia University

MA, International Affairs

Mattias Hammersland will pursue an MA in International Affairs at Columbia University, specializing in Finance and Capital Markets. His academic interests center on the role of global financial structures, risk pricing, and capital allocation in shaping economic outcomes and public policy constraints. He earned a BA in Economics and Politics at the University of Edinburgh in 2024 and subsequently served as an International Finance Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations. He most recently served as an International Trade & Shopping Market Data Analyst at Xeneta.

MAKSUTOVA, Martine Aamodt to George Washington University

MA, History

Martine Aamodt Maksutova is pursuing an MA in History at George Washington University, where she is specializing in Chinese history. Her research focuses on ethnic minority populations, particularly the historical forces shaping Uyghur identity and resistance. In 2025, she earned a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Yonsei University, where she wrote her senior thesis "Emergence of Political Islam in the Uyghur Resistance Movement: A Case Study on the Social Movement Theory." She has also contributed to applied research through her recent internship with the Uyghur Transitional Justice Database.

MARCHAND, Daniel to the University of California, Berkeley

MS, Cybernetics and Robotics

Daniel Marchand is in his third year of an integrated master's degree at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and will undertake an exchange semester at the University of California, Berkeley. During his exchange visit, he aims to deepen his expertise in autonomous systems, focusing on the integration of robotics, artificial intelligence, and intelligent control. In 2023, he began his graduate studies at NTNU after completing military service. His professional experience includes roles as a Drone Engineer for Aviant and an Autonomy Team Member at Ascend.

MARGIELEWSKI, Pawel to Columbia University

MS, Financial Engineering

Pawel Margielewski is pursuing his MS in Financial Engineering at Columbia University, where he aims to further his expertise in quantitative finance and trading. He earned his BS in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics in 2024. His professional experience includes roles as a Commodities Trading Intern at Norsk Hydro, a trainee at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Warsaw, a Credit Analyst at FundingPartner, and a Data Engineer for Avo Consulting, among other roles. In 2025, he was awarded a Fulbright Foundation Scholarship.

MCGRATH, Leo Lie to the University of California, Berkeley

MS, Computer Science

In Fall 2026, Leo Lie McGrath will begin an exchange semester at the University of California, Berkeley, where he will specialize in artificial intelligence. He is currently pursuing his MS in Computer Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), which he began after completing his military service as a Technical Material Manager in the CSS Battalion in 2023. His professional experience includes various roles as a Developer at Bekk Consulting, a Data Science Intern at Equinor, and a Technical Project Lead at Kystskolen. In his spare time, he has also volunteered as a Committee and Project Leader at Abakus Student Association and Brain NTNU.

MIKKELSEN, Balder Hella to Yale University

MMA, Musical Arts

Balder Hella Mikkelsen will begin his Master of Musical Arts in Cello at the Yale School of Music, where he will study with Professor Paul Watkins. His program will include individual cello instruction, chamber music, ensemble work, and public performances. He earned his BM in Cello Performance at the Barratt Due Institute of Music in 2024 and has since performed as a soloist with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2025, he won The Broadus Erle Prize at Yale University and, in 2020, he was named a finalist in NRK's soloist competition Virtuos.

MOEN, Knut to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

MS, Computer Science

Knut Moen is currently pursuing an MS in Computer Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), where he will begin an exchange semester at MIT in Fall 2026. While at MIT, he plans to specialize in machine learning and computational neuroscience with a focus on applying insights from the human brain to develop more sophisticated AI systems. In 2026, he earned a BS in Computer Science from NTNU and has since worked as Research Assistant for the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment and a Project Lead for ReLU NTNU. In 2025, he won third place in the Norwegian AI Championship and was selected as a finalist in the 2023 Norwegian Physics Olympiad.

MOEN, Maud Sundnes to Columbia University

MS, Sustainability Management

A 2025 ASF Fellow, Maud Sundnes Moen will begin her second year in the MS program in Sustainability Management (SUMA) at Columbia University. While there, she plans to further develop her interdisciplinary research in sustainability science, policy, and management with the goal of applying her expertise to solve complex organizational and climate-related challenges. She earned her BS in Development Studies from the University of Oslo in 2022 and has since worked as an Intern at the United Nations Office for Partnerships in New York and as an Environmental Sustainability Advisor with Voice Norge AS.

MOHAMED, Ruwayda to the University of Pennsylvania

MS. Ed, International Education Development

A 2025-26 NORAM Scholar and Lipman Family Prize Fellow, Ruwayda Mohamed is currently pursuing her MS. Ed. in International Education Development at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the intersection of global education policy and educational technology. Working under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Wagner, she aims to further her expertise in artificial intelligence within the education sector. She earned a BS in Sociology from the University of Oslo in 2022 as well as a professional degree in Applied Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence from the Norwegian School of Technology and Digital Media in 2024. Since then, she has worked as a Data Analyst.

MORUD, Paul Henrik to the University of California, Berkeley

MS, Computer Science.

Paul Henrik Morud is currently pursuing an MS in Computer Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), with a specialization in computer architecture and machine learning. During his exchange semester at the University of California, Berkeley, he will further develop his expertise in computer vision, graphics, and machine learning. Most recently, he has worked as a Summer Researcher at SINTEF Energy and as a Teaching Assistant at NTNU. He has also undertaken independent technical projects, including the development of a chess-AI program and a solver for the NRK.no game *Former*.

NORDLI, Linnea Spånberg to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

MS, Marine Science

Linnea Spånberg Nordli's research focuses on applied aquaculture and coral reef ecology. In Fall 2026, she will begin her graduate research at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she will specialize in molecular biology, marine ecology, and biogeochemical analysis. She hopes her graduate work will contribute toward a career working in marine conservation efforts and coastal environmental resilience. She earned a BS in Marine Biology from Hawai'i Pacific University in 2023 and has since worked as a research assistant in the Shrimp Department for the Oceanic Institute of Hawai'i Pacific University. During her spare time, she has also contributed as a volunteer in sea turtle entanglement response and seabird rescue efforts.

NYSTAD, Tiril Celine Opsahl to the University of West Florida

MSW, Social Work

Tiril Celine Opsahl Nystad will pursue her MSW at the University of West Florida, where she intends to specialize in mental health support for children, military personnel, veterans, and their families. Building on her background in early childhood education, she intends to prepare for a career that supports military families. She earned a BS in Education from Nord University in 2022 and subsequently worked as a Pedagogical Leader at Jensvoll Preschool in Norway. She is currently completing a BSW at the University of West Florida, which she will finish in May 2026.

ØKSNEVAD, Johannes to Wake Forest University School of Law

JD, Law

A 2025 ASF Fellow, Johannes Øksnevad will complete his final year at Wake Forest School of Law, where he is currently specializing in international and transactional law. His academic and professional goal is to pursue a career focused on cross-border transactions. During his time at Wake Forest School of Law, he has served on the Board of the Transactional Law Team and the Maritime Law Society and competed in the Transactional Law Competition, the Duke Interscholastic Transactional Law Competition, as well as contributed toward numerous pro bono initiatives. He earned a BA in English and a BS in Sport Management at Lees-McRae Honors College in 2021 and has since worked as an Attorney at W. McNair Tornow.

ROGNE, Arya Magdalena Kvinge to North Dakota State University

MA, English

Arya Magdalena Kvinge Rogne is pursuing an MA in English at North Dakota State University, where she is specializing in auto-theory, a genre that bends personal narrative with scholarly inquiry. Her current research project, *A Little Book About Norwegian Women in North Dakota in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries*, integrates Rogne's archival research with personal narrative. She earned a BA in Theatre Science and Literature Science from the University of Bergen in 2023 and subsequently began her role as a Higher Executive Officer at the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy. In 2024, she commenced her MA in English at North Dakota State University and is currently working as a Graduate School Communications Specialist & Writing Consultant.

RYEN, Emma to Columbia Business School

MS, Accounting and Fundamental Analysis

A 2025 ASF Fellow, Emma Ryen is currently pursuing an MS in Accounting and Fundamental Analysis at Columbia Business School, where she specializes in corporate finance, valuation, and capital markets. She hopes her graduate work will enable her to undertake an international career in investment banking and private equity. In 2023, she earned a BS in Economics and Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Economics and has since worked as an Analyst Intern at Fredensborg, Oslo, a Private Equity Intern at Norvestor, Oslo, and a Private Equity Intern at Axcel, Stockholm.

SEIM, Frederik to Columbia Business School

MBA, Business Administration

In Fall 2026, Fredrik Seim will begin his MBA at Columbia Business School, where he will specialize in corporate finance. He aims to develop a deeper understanding of how business can be leveraged as a tool for social impact and global progress. In 2023, he earned a BS in Business Administration and Economics at the Norwegian School of Economics and has held internships at Altor Equity Partners, Boston Consulting Group, Carnegie Investment Bank, and ABG Sundal Collier. Since 2024, he has worked as a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company within the Department of Strategy & Corporate Finance and Sustainability Practice.

VIKEN-SLÅTTEN, Christian to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

MS, Industrial Economics and Technology Management

In Fall 2026, Christian Viken-Slåtten will begin an exchange semester at MIT. While there, his academic focus will include advanced coursework in mechanical engineering and business, with the objective of developing expertise in energy and technology solutions relevant to Norwegian industry and energy sectors. He is currently pursuing an MS in Industrial Economics and Energy Technology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and works as an Operations Manager at Janus Cabins.

VILHJALMSSON, Vilhjalmur to Columbia University

MS, Computer Science

In Fall 2026, Vilhjalmur Vilhjalmsson will undertake an exchange semester at Columbia University, focusing on theoretical computer science, machine learning, and quantitative modeling. Building on research conducted during his Spring 2026 exchange semester at Tsinghua University in Beijing, he aims to develop the foundational expertise required to apply computational methods to large-scale financial and economic systems. He is currently pursuing both an MS in Computer Science and an MS in Applied Mathematics & Physics at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and will work as a Data Scientist at NBIM (Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund) in Summer 2026.

WESTERLUND, Maya to Georgetown University

MS, Foreign Service

Maya Westerlund will be completing the final year of her MS in Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where she is currently specializing in both finance and geo-economics. Her research focuses on the energy transition and emerging markets, and she aims to build a career integrating finance, markets, and global affairs. In 2025, she earned a BBA from BI Norwegian Business School and subsequently worked on the auditing team at Ernst & Young (EY). Since then, she has volunteered as a team leader for Oslo Business Forum and served as a board member of the Norwegian Union of Jewish Youth.