



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2026

Position Title	Senior Researcher
Organization	International Accountability Project
Location	Remote
Stipend	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
Start Date	September 2026

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The [International Accountability Project](#) (IAP) is an international human and environmental rights organization that works with communities, civil society and social movements to change how today's development is done. IAP is part of a global movement, rooted in the aspirations of people for justice and to thrive today and tomorrow. Learn more about IAP's plans and priorities: [IAP Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Senior Researcher at the International Accountability Project makes important contributions to the organization's global advocacy and campaign work on Climate Justice, Defenders and the use of public and community-led data by leading and advising on IAP's research, training and advocacy projects and materials. The Senior Researcher will join colleagues and civil society partners to co-create and implement campaign and communications strategies, ultimately to achieve the organization's goals for development justice. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- While centering community priorities and voices, write and contribute to reports and articles on human and environmental rights to 1) advance community-led campaigns around the world and 2) advance changes to the policy and practice of development actors.
- For advocacy purposes, advise, liaise and conduct impactful research using existing community-led research and development finance data from the Early Warning System.
- Following community priorities, support the creation and implementation of IAP's national, regional and international campaign strategies towards governments, companies and investors.
- In collaboration with the IAP colleagues and global partners, strategize, build and sustain relationships with social movements, civil society organizations and community organizers to support community-led development priorities globally. in the region.
- Utilize the regional and international human rights systems for strategic policy work to realize the Right to Development. Develop and coordinate the submission of individual complaints, case studies and opinions to these bodies.
- Act as a primary contact and representative of IAP in policy meetings and at civil society conferences.
- National and international travel related to the position is possible, but not required.
- Further campaign goals by writing or contributing to blog articles, public statements, news and at least 1 academic article as a representative of IAP.
- Attend weekly staff meetings and internal strategic and programmatic calls.
- Become an active member of two internal IAP programmatic Working Groups.
- As part of the broader movement for development justice, serves as a coordinator in two allied networks, for example on climate justice or the protection of rights defenders.
- Provide updates for monthly programmatic reports, and annual donor reports and perform a range of operational work, including liaising with contractors and interpreters, managing budgets and finances, and other tasks, as needed.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

- Support IAP fundraising and donor relationships by contributing to donor meetings and related proposals and reports.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- A globally conscious person with knowledge of international human and environmental rights.
- Experience and understanding in at least one primary topics: Climate Justice Defenders or using data for advocacy purposes.
- Project management skills, including managing project timelines.
- Teaching and/or facilitation experience (ideally virtually).
- Ability to coordinate and actively engage in advocacy meetings with representatives of civil society, government, companies, and/or investors.
- Competency in multiple research approaches and analyses.
- Experience with data management or a willingness to learn.
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to build and sustain relationships with a diverse set of partners and colleagues.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels of English are required.
- Humility, intellectual curiosity, and humor.
- Self-starter with strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to work independently and resourcefully, and in close coordination with a global remote team.
- Ability to attend meetings to accommodate different time zones.

Preferred:

- Experience as a community mobilizer for human and environmental rights campaigns.
- Skilled facilitator and trainer with community organizers, local groups, and social movements as well as a range of civil society organizations operating at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- Experience or familiarity with participatory action research.
- Experience developing presentation and facilitation plans.
- Experience in and understanding of Indigenous Peoples and traditional people's rights and Gender Justice.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels in a second language, Spanish is preferred.
- Advanced writing, speaking, and listening levels in a third language are welcomed.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 11, 2026.

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