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Photos below

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THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AWARDS FOUR GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected four recipients to receive 2026 Graduate Fellowships for graduate-level tuition. The fellowships are awarded to full-time students in terminal master's degree programs who show promise of achieving distinction in careers that will serve the public good. Criteria for selection include quality of scholarship, leadership, community service, professional experience, and financial need.

The Graduate Fellowship Committee's chair, Elise Barack, notes: "The Alumnae is extremely proud to support these outstanding Northwestern graduates as they work to complete their master's degrees."

2026 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Idaya Chambers

Idaya will receive her Bachelor of Science in Education from Northwestern University in June 2026, majoring in Learning & Organizational Change with a minor in Asian Languages and Cultures. She is continuing at the School of Education & Social Policy, where she is pursuing a master's degree in Elementary Teaching. Her application stood out for its polished writing, maturity, and meaningful teaching experience in both the United States and Taiwan, reflecting a deep commitment to supporting multilingual learners. Looking ahead, she hopes to work directly in classrooms before eventually shaping education policy and leadership initiatives. A faculty advisor shared that she is "an educator whose empathy, adaptability, and commitment to students consistently set her apart from her peers."

Haben Fessehazion

Haben is a first-generation college graduate and the first person in her family to attend a top university. She will celebrate another first this fall when she becomes a member of the University's inaugural Masters in Sports Marketing cohort. She is excited to return to Northwestern at a particularly transformative moment for the University and its athletics programs. At the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, Haben studied journalism and international studies while completing a Certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications. During her undergraduate years, she focused on leadership, storytelling, and community engagement. Her long-term goal is to build a career in sports marketing and media where she can help shape how stories about athletes, particularly women and underrepresented communities, are told and amplified. As one of Haben's recommenders describes her: "Haben's professional expertise...demonstrates her readiness for graduate study. She has contributed to SLAM Media (digital agency), Bknown Agency, and Conagra Brands. Across each role she brought creativity, adaptability, and a strong sense of responsibility.

Hannah Paik

Hannah will receive her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University in June 2026 with majors in Neuroscience and Global Health. She is pursuing a Master of Public Health at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine, a program she began in September 2025 and expects to complete in June 2027. Her application impressed reviewers with its intellectual rigor, global awareness, and ability to connect research with community-centered public health work in both Chicago and abroad. She aspires to lead large-scale public health initiatives focused on improving equity and access to care for underserved populations. One professor described her as "a student whose curiosity, compassion, and analytical rigor distinguish her even among Northwestern's strongest students."

Preena Shroff

Preena will earn her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University in June 2026 with majors in Neuroscience and Global Health Studies and a minor in Data Science – Python. She is continuing her education through a Master of Public Health program at Northwestern's Graduate School, which began in June 2026. What resonated most about Preena's application was her warmth, sincerity, emotional intelligence, and genuine commitment to improving the lives of others. Her long-term goals focus on mission-driven leadership and improving public health outcomes through collaborative, community-centered work. Reflecting on her character and presence, one supervisor noted that "Preena is the kind of person who quietly elevates every community she becomes part of through her compassion, humility, and dedication."

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The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University, while sharing the University's academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education Program, now in its 55th year. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$10.6 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, endowed professorships, funding for special University projects, and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae's website (nualumnae.org) or our CE website (nualumnaecourses.org).

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