The new Summer Institute for Global Justice will enable students to study international and comparative law with renowned scholars and practitioners at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Students also will observe international courts in action through this collaborative effort among the law schools of Washington University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Utrecht.

The six-week program, which will debut this summer, has had a long genesis, says Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law at Washington University. “Particularly in this day of globalization, students need additional training to learn about international law practice. It’s also important for them to get hands-on experience with international institutions and foreign law practice.”

A leading expert in international and comparative law, as well as in war crimes prosecution, Sadat is a natural choice to spearhead this effort. She was instrumental in efforts to establish the International Criminal Court, which is located in The Hague; has studied and practiced law in France; and has taught, lectured, and published internationally.

The Netherlands is an ideal location for the summer institute, she explains, because, “it’s like a laboratory. All the major international legal institutions are there.”

The institute’s co-director is Michael Scharf, a professor of law who heads the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center at Case Western and who launched a successful summer program in Galway, Ireland. Scharf and Sadat have worked together for many years, particularly through the International Association of Criminal Law and the International Law Association.

The University of Utrecht jumped at the opportunity to serve as host institution, Sadat says, “because it has a long-standing relationship with Washington University, and several faculty there are familiar with the work of Professor Scharf.”

In addition to Sadat and Scharf, the faculty will include David Scheffer, former United States ambassador for war crimes; Tom Zwart, dean of Utrecht’s graduate program; Washington University’s Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr., the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law and former dean; and Paul Nihoul, professor of competition law at the University of Louvain in Belgium. Theodor Meron, an American judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, is scheduled to deliver a guest lecture.

“Students will not only enroll in courses taught by these renowned international and comparative scholars, but also gain insights into the workings of some of the world’s most significant international institutions through site visits to The Hague and other European Union institutions,” Sadat says.

She advises all law students to consider attending the institute—particularly during the summer between their first and second years. They can bolster their résumés while making valuable connections. “This program will provide courses that are stimulating and help students build their careers,” Sadat says. “Additionally, studying and traveling abroad is fun and intellectually rewarding.”

The Peace Palace, headquarters for the International Court of Justice, will be one site visited by Institute students.