International Justice & Conflict Resolution Semester Externship

The International Justice & Conflict Resolution Experience

This full-semester externship provides students with an opportunity to learn international criminal law and practice, conflict resolution theory and practice, and advocacy while working with lawyers practicing before international courts and tribunals, international judges, and lawyers in international conflict resolution and advocacy offices.

Students are placed with international organizations and in governmental and non-governmental offices. Placements may include international tribunals such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Court of Justice, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC); the supreme appellate or constitutional court of foreign States such as India and Israel; and UN, Embassy, and non-governmental organization offices that engage in conflict resolution and advocacy in countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Cambodia, and Thailand.

To date, eight students have interned with the ICTR in Arusha for a semester (and five more for the summer), four for the ICTY in the Hague, two for the ECCC in Phnom Penh, and one each with Earthrights in Chiang Mai, the UN Human Trafficking Office in Bangkok, the Legal Resource Centre in Durban, South Africa, FIDA in Accra, Ghana, the India Supreme Court, and the Israeli Supreme Court.

Typical Activities

- Legal research and writing
- Fact investigation
- Interviewing and counseling
- Negotiation and dispute resolution
- Litigation
- Policy making in international arenas

Requirements

Enrolled students are required to attend a pre-trip orientation. During the semester, students are required to work in their placements on a full-time basis (40 hours per week, for a minimum of 13 weeks); for 10 credits, students must work a minimum of 520 hours; for 11 credits, 572 hours; and for 12 credits, 624 hours. Students must produce a minimum 10-page final paper. In addition to required readings and required experiences, students are required to submit weekly progress reports and reflective journals.

Pre/Co-requisites

In most cases, students must apply directly to tribunals, courts, and other agencies for acceptance before enrolling in this course. Preference for placement with international courts and tribunals will be given to students who have taken the following courses (or comparable experience): International Criminal Law, War Crimes Seminar, International Human Rights Law, and/or International Law. Preference for placement with international legal services, conflict resolution, and advocacy organizations will be given to students who have taken (or comparable experience): Introduction to US & Comparative Dispute Resolution, Mediation Theory & Practice, and/or International Human Rights Law.

The Bottom Line

- Enrollment is limited to 6 students per semester; acceptance on an ad hoc basis.
- The course is graded on a credit/no credit basis.
- There is no final exam.
- This course is 10 to 12 credits.
- Note: Credits from this course count toward the 19 maximum credits a J.D. student can take in non-law classes and law classes without a classroom component or clinics/externships without direct supervision of the clinical work by a law school faculty member.

International Justice & Conflict Resolution Faculty

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