

The 2020/21 SVIR Hague Conference Grant

The Swiss Association of International Law (SVIR) is pleased to present the SVIR Hague Grant Internship. The award will support a post-graduate student or graduate of a Swiss law school to undertake an internship with The Hague Conference on Private International Law (The Hague Conference) in the Netherlands by providing a financial contribution to cover the cost of travel to the Netherlands and a contribution towards living expenses.

The Hague Conference is a global intergovernmental organization that aims for the “progressive unification” of the various State private international law rules. The work of The Hague Conference involves finding internationally agreed approaches to jurisdiction of courts, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of judgments. This is achieved through the development and servicing of multilateral legal conventions which respond to global needs in the areas of international commercial law and banking, international civil procedure, international protection of children, international family and family property relations, international legal cooperation and litigation as well as international judicial and administrative cooperation. Activities of The Hague Conference are coordinated by a multinational Secretariat – the Permanent Bureau – located in The Hague. The Conference’s working languages are English and French. More information about the Hague Conference and its current projects can be found under www.hcch.net.

The successful intern will work for 6 months under the direction of the Secretariat assisting with research, translation and preparation of meetings in accordance with the needs of the lawyers of the Permanent Bureau. PhD-interns (with an ongoing research project) will have 1 day/week available for her or his own research work – the specific time/dates being subject to urgent needs of the respective institution.

Selection criteria:

The applicant must:

- Be a permanent resident of Switzerland or pursuing a course of law studies at a Swiss University and:
 - Hold a graduate level degree in Law (MLaw or JD) of a Swiss University (or be in his or her final year of such a degree); or
 - Be undertaking a postgraduate degree in Law (e.g. LLM or PhD) at a Swiss University;
- Have an excellent academic record;
- Have written and spoken proficiency in English or French, with preference given to those who are also proficient in the other language (English and French being the official languages of The Hague Conference); Ability in a third language will also be taken into account;
- Have an interest or specialization in a field relevant to the work of The Hague Conference;

- Have excellent research and writing skills, demonstrated by dissertation, law review or other publication; and
- Have an ability to work in international or multicultural environments.

It is envisaged that the internship will be of interest to applicants who have undertaken or who are undertaking postgraduate studies relevant to the work programme of The Hague Conference.

How to apply

Please send a letter of application (only electronically) addressed to the SVIR Hague Grant / Profs., christine.kaddous@unige.ch; rodrigo.rodriguez@unilu.ch. Applications close on December 13th 2020, unless otherwise communicated.

The motivation letter should include:

- The applicant's reasons for applying for the SVIR Hague Grant Internship;
- The dates when the applicant would be available to undertake the internship and the desired duration (Note: the applicant must be available to undertake the internship for 6 months).

Please also enclose the following, where applicable:

- The applicant's up-to-date CV;
- The applicant's most recent academic transcript;
- At least one academic reference, with contact details of referees;
- Any relevant work certificates;
- Any other proof of the applicant's legal and linguistic abilities and knowledge.

Selection process

- Applications will be considered by a selection panel appointed by the SVIR.

Conditions

- The successful applicant must be able to participate in the internship for a period of 6 months.
- The amount to be paid is CHF 3'000.-
- The internship will be full-time (see the exception for the 6 months internship) and the successful applicant will carry out the duties assigned to them by The Hague Conference. During the time of the internship, the intern will be bound by the same obligations as regular staff of The Hague Conference.

- The intern will be entitled to dedicate 1/5 of his working time to his research, the specific dates/time subject to the needs of the Hague Conference (including the possibility to reduce the stage to 5 months if so agreed with the Hague Conference). This provision applies to PhD students with a research project.
- During the internship, the intern may be required:
 - To carry out basic research on particular points of private international law and/or comparative law, relevant either to the operation of existing Hague Conventions or the future work of the Conference;
 - To take part in the practical work of preparation for meetings (working groups, judicial conferences, Special Commissions, Diplomatic Session); and
 - Generally to carry out preparatory work, translations or documentary research in accordance with the needs of lawyers of the Permanent Bureau.
- The internship will generally be unpaid although the recipient may obtain funds from other sources including The Hague Conference or other scholarships.
- The successful applicant is responsible for organising his or her own travel and accommodation arrangements.
- The successful applicant must meet the visa requirements for entering and residing in the Netherlands, and have organised the appropriate visa prior to departure.
- The successful applicant must be covered by travel, medical and hospital insurance, including the costs of repatriation to his/her own country of residence in the event of accident, illness or death during the internship. Proof of this insurance must be forwarded to the Permanent Bureau before commencement of the internship.
- The successful applicant is expected to keep confidential any or all unpublished information obtained during the course of the internship. This obligation shall not cease upon departure from The Hague Conference. The successful applicant must, at the beginning of the internship, sign a declaration to that effect.
- On completion of the internship, the successful applicant must provide a written report on his or her experience to the Board for SVIR/SSDI.
- The terms and conditions for internships at the Permanent Bureau of The Hague Conference on Private International Law can be found at www.hcch.net and apply to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the conditions set out above.

For further information, please email rodrigo.rodriguez@unilu.ch