

INTERNATIONAL JOB SEARCHES

What do international lawyers do?

There are two main categories of employers for whom one can practice international law: the public sector and the private sector.

Within the public sector, many attorneys work for THE federal government which provides opportunities in several federal departments: Justice, State, Commerce, Labor, Office of U.S. Trade Representation, Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission. At the Justice Department, you can practice international law within several different divisions including criminal, tax, environmental, and antitrust. In addition, there are a number of legal positions with non-profit organizations which focus on issues such as the environment and human rights.

International attorneys in the private sector typically work for firms with foreign clients or in legal departments within large international corporations. When practicing in a larger firm, attorneys often practice domestic law for foreign clients. These firms tend to be located in metropolitan cities or cities where federal regulatory agencies are located. The international law practice in a corporate legal department is similar to that in private firm practice where attorneys negotiate business transactions with foreign companies.

If you would like to pursue a job in international law...

For every job in international law, analytical ability, research and writing skills, and knowledge of the basic differences in the world's legal systems, as well as their political and cultural contexts, are essential. In addition, employers look favorably upon individuals who are proficient in at least one other language who have overseas experience. The most common foreign languages required by organizations include: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Employers also seek candidates who have significant overseas experience or who have dual citizenship. Consider doing the following while you are in law school to enhance your marketability overseas:

- Spend a summer or semester studying abroad.
- Search www.martindale.com for lawyers listed in the country where you want to work.
- Obtain an internship with an international law firm, an international non-profit organization, the federal government, the UN, an international court, or other any organization or company overseas in your area of interest.
- Participate in the Jessup Moot court competition.
- Get to know the professors that practice international law and find out if they have any contacts in your particular area of interest.
- Join the Doman International Law Society.

Studying Abroad

Studying abroad is a great way to make contacts in another country, learn comparative law, learn a new language, gain exposure to another culture, etc. Having these experiences and making these contacts will allow you to set yourself up with another opportunity in your country of interest.

See the website below for a complete list of law study abroad programs with other ABA accredited institutions: <http://www.abanet.org/legaled/studyabroad/foreign.html>.

Helpful Resources

Careers in International Law: A Guide to Career Paths and Internships in International Law, American Society of International Law.

Careers in International Law, ABA, Section of International Law & Practice.

Career Preparation and Opportunities in International Law, ABA, Section of International Law & Practice.

Public Service and International Law: A Guide to Professional Opportunities in the United States and Abroad, by Stephen K. Park and Susan J. Feathers.

Helpful Websites:

ACT Alliance for Conflict Transformation
www.conflicttransformation.org

American Bar Association/ Central and Eastern European Law Initiative -
www.abanet.org/ceeli

American Civil Liberties Union
www.aclu.org

American Jewish World Service
www.ajws.org

American Society of International Law
www.asil.org

Catholic Relief Service
www.catholicrelief.org

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) Internships
www.hrusa.org/field/internships/cejilintern.shtm

Common Cause
www.commoncause.org

DPK consulting
www.dpkconsulting.com

Electronic Information System for International Law

www.eisil.org

Equality Now
www.equalitynow.org

Financial Services Volunteer Corps
www.fsvc.org

Freedom House
www.freedomhouse.org

Human Rights First, formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
www.humanrightsfirst.org

Human Rights Resource Center
www.hrusa.org

Human Rights Watch
www.hrw.org

Intern Abroad
www.internabroad.com

International Bar Association
www.ibanet.org

International Career Employment Weekly
www.internationaljobs.org

International Executive Services Corps
www.iesc.org

International Law Institute
www.ili.org

International Law Students Association
www.ilsa.org

International Republican Institute
www.iri.org

International Rescue Committee
www.theirc.org

International Senior Lawyers Project Advisor
www.islp.org

Lawyers Without Borders
www.lwob.org

Martindale-Hubbell
www.martindale.com

Mercy Corps
www.mercycorps.org

NALP, National Directory of Legal Employers
www.nalpdirectory.com

NALP, Office of Public Interest & Community Service – see attached listings
www.nalp.org/assets/10_intlfell.pdf

National Center for State Courts
www.ncsconline.org

National Democratic Institute
www.ndi.org

National Resources Defense Council
www.nrdc.org

National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org/volunteer

New Perspectives for Women
www.winrock.org.md

PAE React
www.pae-react.com

Recruiting Center at DevelopmentEx.Com
www.DevelopmentEx.Com

US AID Senior Commercial Law Advisor
www.usaid.gov

U.S. Department of Justice
www.usdoj.com

U.S. Peace Corps
www.peacecorps.gov

Winrock International
www.winrock.org

World Resources Institute
www.wri.org

World Vision
www.worldvision.org

Women's Centre for Legal Aid & Counseling
www.welac.org

International Internships and Post Graduate Opportunities

ABA International Internships

- Multiple regions of the world
- Portal site listing various opportunities to work with foreign law firms. Law firms must be contacted directly.
- Paid and unpaid opportunities available
- Website: <http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/intlinternship.html>

Center for International Legal Studies Internship Program

- Multiple regions of the world
- 3 weeks – 2 months
- CILS developed, organized, and conducted the first European Law Internship Programs in 1976 and 1977, programs which were subsequently recognized and approved by the American Bar Association as part of an LL.M. curriculum. Internships are now available with International law firms and company legal departments in all regions of the world. Internships are established for periods from three weeks up to two months. Hosts may occasionally offer or require extended internships.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://cils.net/inextern/>

AMERA-Egypt

- Cairo, Egypt
- AMERA-Egypt operates as a foreign branch of AMERA-UK under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. AMERA works with Iraqi, Sudanese, and other refugees in Egypt to help them gain asylum. The work of AMERA-Egypt is overseen by an Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Harrell-Bond and appointed by the AMERA-UK Board.
- Unpaid
- Website: http://www.amera-uk.org/egypt/index_eg.html#

AIRE Centre – Advice on Individual Rights in Europe

- London, United Kingdom
- Applicants must have a law degree or currently be studying law. We do prefer candidates with good knowledge of EU or international human rights law. Excellent written and spoken English is essential, and a second European language is desirable. Interns come to us at all stages of their legal careers to participate in the learning process and enrich their skills. Some are current law students, many are doing a further degree in human rights or EU law. We have also taken on barristers and solicitors who are interested in human rights or EU law and want to gain practical experience.
- Website: <http://www.airecentre.org>

Association for Civil Rights in Israel

- Tel Aviv and Haifa, Israel
- If you are a law student and are interested in pursuing a legal internship at ACRI, please contact Attorney Dana Alexander, ACRI's Legal Department Director, at dana@acri.org.il. Please note that internships are unpaid and applicants are therefore encouraged to secure public interest fellowships or other sources of funding.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.acri.org.il/eng/>

ICNL – International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

- Multiple regions of the world
- The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks bright, energetic students with an interest in international affairs to serve as interns. ICNL's internship offers a unique opportunity to be involved in the promotion of an enabling legal environment for civil society, freedom of association, and public participation around the world. ICNL has worked on civil society law in over 90 countries, drawing upon a worldwide network of partners and experts. Working with ICNL's program teams, interns are engaged in our cutting-edge research and technical assistance. ICNL endeavors to develop projects that reflect student interests and skills, and to assist with the student's career development.
- Website: <http://www.icnl.org/contact/employment.htm#internships>

International Justice Mission

- Multiple regions of the world
- 12-week summer
- Help protect the rights of those subject to violent forms of human rights abuses. Learn as you work with experienced Christian professionals who will sharpen and encourage you. Grow as you live in a city like Kampala, Kolkata, Phnom Penh or Washington, DC. Join the IJM team in making public justice work for the poor. IJM requires all interns to possess a mature orthodox Christian faith, as defined by the Apostles' Creed.
- Website: <http://www.ijm.org/>

OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

- Paris, France
- The OECD brings together the governments of countries committed to democracy and the market economy from around the world to support sustainable economic growth, boost employment, raise living standards, maintain financial stability, assist other countries' economic development, and contribute to growth in world trade. The OECD also shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 other countries and economies, from Brazil, China, and Russia to the least developed countries in Africa.
- Website: <https://www.oecd.org>

United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

- New York, NY
- The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) offers an internship program to individuals who have obtained a law degree. Admission to the OLA internship program is highly competitive. Prospective interns are encouraged to apply six to nine months in advance of the desired internship period. The United Nations is unable to provide any financial assistance or remuneration to interns, and service as an intern must entail no financial implications for the United Nations.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://untreaty.un.org/ola/employ.aspx>

US Dept of Transportation

- Semester and summer opportunities
- The Office of International Law, U. S. Department of Transportation, has unpaid legal clinical internships available for JD candidates for each semester and during the summer. The internships may be with or without academic credit. The Office of International Law provides legal support to the Office of the Secretary in all modes of Transportation. Its areas of responsibility include transportation negotiations with foreign countries (including aviation, maritime, global position satellite matters, and trade), international transportation safety and security, international aviation prices, and Alaska and international mail rates, Global Satellite issues, aviation licensing and regulatory matters involving international transportation, and international aviation antitrust matters. Projects have included research and analysis of the law of executive agreements, treaty denunciation, and dispute resolution clauses in international agreements, review of legislation affecting international transportation, and review of orders granting license authority to U.S. and foreign air carriers in contested adjudicatory cases.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.dot.gov/ost/ogc/org/international/index.html>
- Contact: Joseph Brooks, Deputy Assistant General Counsel for International Law, 202-366-2972, Joe.Brooks@DOT.GOV, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE (C-20), Washington, DC 20590.

Global Crossroads

- Multiple regions of the world
- Various durations
- Certain programs will work with the applicant to build an internship in the area the student desires. One such program is in Cambodia.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.globalcrossroad.com/>

USAID General Counsel Internships

- Washington, D.C.
- 3 – 4 months
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for administering the United States Government's economic and humanitarian foreign assistance program. The Office of the General Counsel, which provides legal advice and guidance for all of the agency's operations worldwide, has legal internship positions for J.D. candidates who have completed at least one year of law school and, occasionally, for students seeking law degrees subsequent to receiving the J.D. degree.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/careers/gcintern.html>

Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

- Geneva, Switzerland
- Internship deals with human rights and international relations, but may not be a legal internship.
- Website: <http://www.apt.ch/content/view/31/56/lang,en/>

International Crisis Group

- Brussels, London, New York, Washington, Seoul, Nairobi
- These internships deal directly with human rights work, however, they may not be legal internships.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1154&l=1>

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

- *Intern* - Human Rights Monitor for UN Peace building Commission
- New York, NY
- The intern will monitor the UN Peace building Commission and write internal briefs and analytical reports on the human rights developments taking place in the body. S/he must have knowledge of international human rights law and exceptional research, analytical, and writing skills.
- Website: <http://www.comunit.com/en/node/272091>
- Contact: ishr@ishrny.org

The Idealist

- Multiple regions of the world
- Various durations
- Database of various national and international jobs in all areas of public interest work.
- Paid and unpaid
- Website: www.idealists.org

Global Conscience Initiative Cameroon

- Global Conscience offers field trainings to interested persons all round the year. Our internships last from three to six months unless otherwise arranged. Interns work in the field to collect baseline data on human rights situations.
- Unpaid
- Website: www.gcicameroun.org/intern

Magna Carta: Human Rights Network International

- Brussels, Belgium
- Magna Carta is involved in various projects in the field of human rights promotion and seeks research interns to assist the Faculty Directors and Magna Carta's research team. Tasks include research, contributing to the drafting of academic papers and reports, and any other task that may arise. The ideal candidates must have a degree in law, international relations, or political science with excellent knowledge of International Humanitarian Law.
- Paid
- Website: <http://www.hrni.org>

Sword of the Spirit Intl

- Tororo, Uganda
- SOS is a rapidly growing organization comprised of volunteer-spirited individuals dedicated to our model for training, equipping, empowering and transformation. We have long-term and short-term internship opportunities ranging in duration from weeks to months. All interns provide their own support, but are greatly rewarded through the impact on the lives of those we serve. In exchange, interns receive a high level of responsibility and the chance to utilize and develop their skills in a challenging yet passionate environment. Interns take on a wide variety of projects during their stays. We welcome applications from people with energy and skills who believe in teaching, training, empowering and sustainable development.
- Unpaid
- Website: <http://www.destinycalls.org>