



**UNIVERSITY TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM**

**POST DESCRIPTION**

The University Traineeship programme is intended to give recent law graduates experience working at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Candidates are nominated and sponsored by universities from which they have graduated.

The aim of the program is to improve participants' understanding of international law and the Court's processes through their engagement in the work of the Court and the experience gained under the supervision of a Judge. Each participant is assigned to work for one Judge for a duration of ten months from 1 September to 30 June the following year. During this period, participants can expect to attend Court's public hearings, to research and write memoranda to the Judge on legal questions or factual aspects of pending cases, and to have some other involvement in the work of the Court, the particulars of which will depend on the Court's docket and the working methods of the particular Judge. The work may also involve assisting the Judge with conferences, speeches and other duties. The trainee will work alongside the P-2 Associate Legal Officer, who is the primary legal assistant of each Judge and is employed by the United Nations for a period of two to four years.

The programme is highly selective. The Court accepts up to 15 participants a year – not more than one from each nominating university. The Court looks in particular for candidates who have excellent results in their law studies, and who have studied, published or worked in international law. Candidates will usually be in the early stages of their legal careers (e.g., within three years of graduation). Some have practical experience in private or public practice, including work at another court or international organisation, and/or post-graduate studies in international law. The Court seeks diversity of nationality in making the selection.

The official languages of the Court are English and French, and participants must have excellent reading, writing and speaking skills in at least one of these. A working knowledge of the second official language will be an asset. The application should indicate the trainee's abilities in respect of both official languages.

Each nominating university must accept the responsibility to provide the stipend, health insurance and travel costs to its candidate, if selected. The stipend should be sufficient to provide for a minimum standard of accommodation and subsistence in The Hague and should be set at a level that ensures that trainees can benefit fully from their experience at the Court without the burden of financial hardship. The Traineeship is not a self-funded internship and candidates without adequate financial support through their sponsoring university will not be eligible. The Court will facilitate visas if necessary and provides working facilities, but it does not provide financial support.

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