



Internship Assignment

Legal Affairs (LA) Programme

Application deadline	Announcement number	Expected date	Duration of assignment
As soon as possible	18/Intern01/LA	As soon as possible	Three to six months

Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or 'the Convention') and its related legal instruments is the focus of the political process to address climate change. The UNFCCC secretariat supports the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement through a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties.

The Legal Affairs (LA) Programme, inter alia, provides legal advice and opinions to Parties and secretariat staff with respect to the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement,¹ the associated intergovernmental process, the operations of the secretariat in accordance with legal, procedural and institutional requirements and the compliance mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and its effective operation.

The LA Programme's overriding objectives and responsibilities are to protect the integrity of the treaty regime and secure and protect the interests of the secretariat through sound legal advice to Parties, the governing, subsidiary and constituted bodies and the senior management of the UNFCCC secretariat.

Objective of the internship and responsibilities

Interns are normally requested to undertake tasks in connection with the ongoing activities and projects in LA under the supervision of a legal officer. This often includes analytical work and research projects, including search in literature and treaty practice/jurisprudence as well as the writing of summaries, briefing notes and background papers on different topics. In determining the intern's assignments due consideration is given to the nature of the projects currently being undertaken in the Programme.

Assignments may include specific tasks in one or more of the following areas:

- Procedural or substantive issues relating to the implementation of the work programme under the Paris Agreement, the work of the COP, the CMP and the CMA, subsidiary and constituted bodies (in particular in view of the Climate Change Conferences that will take place in May 2018 in Bonn, Germany and in December 2018 in Poland²),
- Assist the legal officers in conducting research and drafting background and strategy papers with regard to the engagement of non-Party stakeholders (e.g. business entities, IGOs, NGOs, local communities) in the UNFCCC process and secretariat activities, through partnership arrangements or other modalities;

¹ Including decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).

² Interns with an assignment period that includes December 2018 will continue to work in the UNFCCC secretariat premises in Bonn during the Climate Change Conference of December in Poland.



- Support of the development of modalities and procedures for the operation of the Committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance under Article 15 of the Paris Agreement; and
- Issues related to reporting, review and transparency under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;
- Work related to the development of tools to assist Parties in implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contribution, in particular through climate law making, in collaboration with partner organizations;
- Work related to the institutional and general legal operations of the secretariat, in particular through review of commercial and procurement contracts, collaboration and partnership agreements, etc.;
- Legal work on issues related to cooperation among Parties in implementation of mitigation action, economic instruments and engagement of non-Party stakeholders, including work on the operations of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol, and research on aspects of implementation of cooperative approaches, the mechanism and non-market based approaches as set out in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
- Contributing to the preparation for and/or follow-up from meetings of the bodies of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol (the plenary, facilitative and enforcement branches), including deliberations and hearings of either branch that may be held during the internship period and other related events by assisting in the preparation of meeting documents, background material and speaking notes, as well as assisting in preparing documents or other outputs as part of the follow-up of meetings held and/or any relevant decisions by the CMP.
- Assisting the LA Programme in the day-to-day legal issues arising from the functioning of the intergovernmental process and the operations of the secretariat, including:
 - Systematic collection, organization and accessibility of legal advice provided;
 - Assistance on institutional and general legal contractual matters.

Timeframe

The internship is for three months (with possible extension to a maximum of six months), subject to the intern's performance and ongoing enrolment. The exact period will be determined based on the availability of the intern and the needs of the programme.

Minimum requirements

- Candidates must be enrolled in a Graduate or Master's programme at a recognized university at the time of application and for the duration of the internship;
- If the Graduate or Master's programme will not confer a degree in law, candidates must have completed a first level university degree in law;
- Candidates must have a strong working knowledge of English (both oral and written) and strong writing and analytical skills;



- Previous professional legal experience (in a law firm, as a legal clerk, in the legal office of another international organization) is a strong asset;
- Proficiency in using Microsoft Office and good research skills are required.

Timeframe

The internship is for a period of minimum three to maximum six months within the period between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2018. The exact period of the internship will be determined based on the availability of the intern and the needs of the LA programme. The maximum duration of the internship is six months, subject to the intern's continued university enrolment³ and performance.

Internship conditions

UNFCCC secretariat internships are not remunerated and the selected intern will be responsible for all costs before, during and after the internship assignment. Interns of the UNFCCC secretariat are not considered to be staff members. The selected intern will work on a full-time basis (40 hours per week) at the UNFCCC premises in Bonn, Germany. For more detailed information about UNFCCC Internship programme please visit the internship section on our recruitment [webpage](#).

Application procedure

Candidates who are interested in this assignment and meet the minimum requirements must use the [on-line application system](#) and **include a cover letter**. Due to the high number of applications, only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted for a telephone interview.

³ In line with the requirements set out above.