International Summer Law Internship Program

As we experience the second decade of the 21st century, it is increasingly apparent that events taking place beyond Canada’s borders have a profound impact on our lives. The legal challenges facing Canada today often have an international dimension. Globalization, the information revolution, multiculturalism and the ever-present tensions associated with federalism: each of these represents a legal challenge as well as a social, economic and political challenge. Each of these issues also challenges the way we think about the law, and the way we think about legal education at Western.

International Summer Law Internship Program (ISLIP)

Western Law’s International Summer Law Internship Program (ISLIP) was launched in March 2006, to provide students with interesting and substantive summer international law internship placements. The ISLIP offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of international and comparative law, from the theoretical to the practical level, and to contribute to a better understanding of Canada’s place within the global framework.

By interning with government departments, international organizations, non-government organizations and private industries, our students broaden their understanding of different legal systems, strengthen their legal skills, and gain valuable insight into the application of law that remains valuable throughout their careers.

An Enriched Educational Experience

Although Western Law invests a significant amount in support of student internships, the cost of providing a world-class legal education continues to rise. Our aim in creating the International Summer Law Internship Program is to offer Western Law students a genuine opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a global economy. This opportunity is available to all students regardless of financial means.

The International Summer Law Internship Program will provide students with the opportunity to:

• Gain valuable international experience and a network of international contacts
• Acquire practical legal experience in another jurisdiction and competency in a multicultural work environment
• Consider a future in international law
• Bring the benefits of their international experience to the law firms and organizations that employ them after graduation

This program enables students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a global economy.

Jaime Cardy (JD 2013) at the WHO World Health Assembly
Private support for the International Summer Law Internship Program will give Western Law students the freedom to pursue a rewarding experience without incurring an additional financial burden. Examples of past internship placements include:

- Bank of China in Hong Kong, China
- Basketball Arbitration Tribunal in Munich, Germany
- Caribbean Court of Justice in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands
- International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland
- Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and New York City
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in Vienna, Austria
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland
- World Bank Group in Washington, DC
- World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland

Our Goal: The International Summer Law Internship Fund

The Faculty of Law strives to attract the brightest students to its program. The International Summer Law Internship Program enhances the Faculty’s ability to recruit the most promising future lawyers to Western.

In order to ensure ongoing viability, the Faculty is seeking to establish an expendable fund to support its students in the program. Each student internship requires $10,000 in private funding. Therefore, we are reaching out to alumni, firms, foundations, organizations and friends of Western Law to consider supporting student placements annually, for a term of three to five years.

Strengthening the Canadian Legal Profession

Support for the International Summer Law Internship Program will enable Western Law students to enhance their international perspective regarding legal issues, broaden their horizons and sharpen their analytical skills. In return, the legal community in Canada will have the benefit of law graduates with an enhanced international perspective, who will be able to more critically assess the world around them and respond creatively and effectively to emerging legal issues.