



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Providing practical international law opportunities for our talented graduate law students

The **Geneva International Fellows Program** is designed to provide individual students with advanced training and research opportunities in areas of particular interest to them that go beyond what is traditionally offered in a classroom setting. The Geneva program expands and enriches the Law School's extensive curriculum in international and foreign law, making it possible for students to engage in legal work with agencies grappling with the most challenging international problems and legal issues of the day. Michigan Law offers semester-long externship opportunities, for Law School credit, during the winter term of each year with leading intergovernmental and nongovernmental institutions in Geneva.

We accept only second- and third-year law students, and they enjoy being immersed in the work of these international institutions under close supervision by qualified lawyers. Students have an opportunity to explore how international legal regimes intersect with such diverse fields as trade, human rights, intellectual property, labor, environment, telecommunications, and health.

GENEVA EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

(2008–2022)

199

Externs

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27

Partnering Organizations/
Departments



INTERNATIONALISM IS OUR HALLMARK

2022 Geneva Interns

James Daher

Dave Duckett

Erica Paul

Kiersten West

Kevin Longhany

Jovian Marcello

Daniel Liberman

Dina Akhmetshina

James "J.J." Moser

The University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor is one of the world's finest institutions of legal education. The Law School has a sizable and diverse faculty, with many preeminent in their fields. The careers of alumni also speak eloquently to the strength of the Law School; our graduates are leaders serving with distinction in the public, private, and academic sectors in the United States and around the world. Throughout its history, Michigan Law has brought a global perspective to the study of law and legal institutions. The 1837 statute that established the University specifically provided that the "law department" include a professor of international law, a rarity at the time. Since then, Michigan's scholarship in international and comparative law has become world renowned. The Law School has a strong reputation as a major center of global legal studies.

Today, Michigan Law's internationalism is reflected in its leadership in international, comparative, and foreign law, as well as in the global perspective that the faculty bring to their teaching and scholarship regardless of their fields of specialization. Michigan requires each student to take a comparative and international law class, ensuring that its students explore the fluidity of the boundaries between domestic and international law and the foundations of law at the international level. Students then can choose from a tremendous range of international, comparative, and foreign courses; externships and internships; student activities; and clinical experience involving cross-border issues.

At the heart of Michigan's commitment to internationalism is a distinguished group of faculty members whose collective breadth of scholarship places Michigan Law among the leaders in international legal education. The faculty's legal expertise includes the fields of international tax, investment and trade, environmental, asylum and refugee, and human rights law, and covers the world's major economies outside the United States, including China, India, Japan, and the European Union.

Faculty Leadership



Steven Ratner
sratner@umich.edu



Amy Sankaran
aharwell@umich.edu



Anna Nicol
awnicol@umich.edu

The University of Michigan Geneva Program was founded by Professor Steven Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law. It is managed by Amy Sankaran, director of externships and pro bono programs. The Geneva-based course professor, faculty supervisor for the students, and coordinator of the Program, is Anna Nicol, adjunct clinical professor of law.

About the Geneva Program

The Geneva International Fellows Program has been designed to consist of more than just on-the-job training, and it involves a mix of classroom and practical learning. Participants are required to complete a number of requirements, which are closely monitored by the American Bar Association (ABA). In order to obtain a full semester of credit for their law degrees, accredited by the ABA, our students must satisfy each of these requirements.

- Complete a minimum of 15 weeks of full-time work at a satisfactory standard
- Be supervised by a qualified lawyer
- Submit regular reports describing and reflecting on their work and progress
- Attend and actively participate in visits to international organizations and lectures by top international lawyers
- Participate in face-to-face roundtables with fellow students
- Write a final analytical report on their work experience
- Ensure their supervisors complete a mid-term and final evaluation

The students' work performance is assessed on a pass/fail basis, while the academic component is graded, and each of the requirements above must be satisfied in order to obtain a pass.

The Michigan Law Difference

At the University of Michigan, we believe the students selected to participate in our Geneva International Fellows Program are different than many of the usual interns working in Geneva. Most importantly, they are undertaking a semester in Geneva for full credit towards their law degree, making it vital that they produce high-quality, substantive legal work (equivalent to a semester at law school). In addition, they have:

Experience

As graduate JD students, most have worked for several years post-college. Most have experience in living and working overseas, and many have clerked at top law firms already. Previous participants in the Geneva program have included former social workers, policy officers, management consultants, journalists, governmental advisers, translators, mediators, an aeronautical engineer and an electrical engineer, and high school math and English teachers.

Qualifications

Most of the Geneva Program participants are only a year or two away from being fully qualified U.S. attorneys. All have at least one undergraduate degree, and many have other degrees or diplomas.

Reputation

Field supervisors have been enthusiastic about having Michigan Law students at their agencies.

Michigan Law attracts some of the world's top soon-to-be-lawyers seeking to enhance their global experience in Geneva.



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JAMES DAHER

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

James is a second-year law student from Hebron, Connecticut. He is particularly interested in international trade, sustainability, and the transition to clean energy. He is an associate editor for the *Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law*, and a board member for both the Michigan European Law Organization and the Environmental Law Society. Prior to law school, James worked as an IT analyst for PPG Industries in Pittsburgh. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Duquesne University. James will be a summer associate at Allen & Overy in New York this coming summer.



DAVE DUCKETT

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Dave is a dual-degree student with the Law School and U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability. He is from Riverview, Michigan, and after earning a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University, he taught English in Korea and China and worked in construction in Australia. He has spent summers interning with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in Detroit and the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago. After law school, he hopes to work against climate change. He likes reading, traveling, and cooking.



ERICA PAUL

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Erica is a second-year law student from western Massachusetts. She is an executive editor of the *Michigan Journal of International Law*. Prior to law school, she worked as an English language assistant in the Grenoble region of France and as a national park ranger for the National Parks of Boston. After her first year of law school, she interned at Mikijelj, Jankovic, & Bogdanovic, a Serbian law firm that specializes in international commercial arbitration. This coming summer, she will be working in the New York office of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. She enjoys singing, playing tennis, and walking dogs.



KIERSTEN WEST

International Service for Human Rights

Kiersten is a second-year law student and an associate editor of the *Michigan Business & Entrepreneurial Law Review*. She is originally from Missouri and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from Washington University in St. Louis. After her first year of law school, she spent her summer at a litigation boutique firm in Missouri. At ISHR, Kiersten assists the director of development and treaty body advocacy with their strategic engagement with the UN Treaty Bodies. This coming summer, she will be working in the Chicago office of White & Case LLP. Kiersten enjoys traveling, reading, and being outdoors.



KEVIN LONGHANY

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Protection Policy and Legal Advice

Kevin is a third-year law student from Spring Lake, North Carolina. After his second year of law school, Kevin worked as a summer associate at Fried Frank in New York. Prior to law school, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Timor-Leste for a little over two years and worked as a case manager in a small immigration law firm. Kevin enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with his wife and daughter.



JOVIAN MARCELLO

GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance

Jovian is a third-year law student and a senior editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. He has served as a student-attorney for the International Transactions Clinic, where he discovered his interest in international transactional work. During his 1L summer, Jovian worked as a summer associate for Fox Rothschild LLP in New York, where he gained both litigation and transactional experience. He then worked as a summer associate with Cooley LLP in Palo Alto, California, after his 2L year, where his work focused on early-stage company financings, M&A, and public company filings. Jovian enjoys playing basketball, golf, and surfing.



DANIEL LIBERMAN

INHR: Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Geneva

Dan is a third-year law student from Skokie, Illinois, and a University of Iowa alumnus. He serves as an executive editor on the *Michigan Journal of International Law*. Following his first year of law school, he worked in the criminal division at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. This past summer, he was a summer associate at Fried Frank in New York and will be returning there upon graduation. Prior to law school, he worked in the nonprofit sector, focusing on homelessness issues.



DINA AKHMETSHINA

International Commission of Jurists: Europe and Central Asia Division

Dina is a second-year law student who is originally from Russia but spent her last few years of high school in Michigan. As an undergraduate at Michigan, she majored in philosophy, politics, and economics. She currently serves as the co-chair of the Organization of Public Interest Students. After her first year in law school, Dina interned with Lakeshore Legal Aid. Prior to law school, Dina worked for a public defender's office and later an immigration law firm.



JAMES "J.J." MOSER

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Petitions & Inquiries Division

J.J. is a third-year law student from the Philadelphia area. He has worked as an executive editor with the *Michigan Journal of International Law*, participated as an oralist with the Jessup International Moot Court Team, and served as a Law School Student Senate representative. J.J. has spent summers at the University of Michigan Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic and DLA Piper in Chile. In the fall, he will join Dechert LLP's financial restructuring practice in New York. J.J. graduated from Middlebury College, where he studied history and philosophy and studied abroad at the Universidad de la Rioja in Spain for an academic year. Before law school, J.J. worked as a family immigration case manager at a firm and as an Auxiliar de Conversación (English classroom assistant) in Galicia, Spain.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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michigan.law.umich.edu/resource-center/geneva-externship

2022–2023