



MIDS - GENEVA LL.M.
IN INTERNATIONAL
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

13TH EDITION

ARBITRATION

WTO

ICJ

MEDIATION

ADVOCACY
TRAINING

2020-2021

PROGRAM



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DE DROIT



INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Welcome



Professor Philippe Burrin
Director of the Graduate
Institute of International
and Development
Studies, Geneva

The main teaching mission of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies is to prepare its students to assume leadership roles in the international community. Our ambition is also to offer young and midcareer professionals the tools and knowledge they need to advance their career and increase their contribution to solving the many problems of our world and in that regard, our partnership with the University of Geneva, particularly its Law Faculty, has proven to be highly instrumental. Between them, our two institutions have more than a dozen professors specializing in public and private international law, an exceptional density of competencies that very few places in the world can match. The LL.M. program in International Dispute Settlement is an important illustration of our partnership and we have every reason to be proud of a program that corresponds so well to the role of Geneva as a world-leading hub place for dispute settlement and the vocation of our Institute as a center of excellence in international studies.



Professor Bénédict Foëx
Dean of the Geneva
University Law School

Geneva is a city which numerous international organizations and U.N. Agencies call home; among others: the World Trade Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the World Economic Forum. Geneva also has a long tradition in arbitration and dispute resolution that can be traced back to the 19th century; and its Faculty of law currently offers more than thirty classes in international law. It therefore seems particularly fitting that the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva Faculty of Law would join forces to offer the LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement. This program provides participants from around the world a unique opportunity to study this exciting and constantly developing field in a challenging, yet friendly, atmosphere.

Program Committee

**Laurence BOISSON
DE CHAZOURNES**
*Professor, University of Geneva;
MIDS Program Director; CIDS
Co-Director*

Zachary DOUGLAS
Professor, Graduate Institute

Marcelo KOHEN
*Professor, Graduate Institute;
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of International Law*

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*Professor, University of Geneva;
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Mariona CUSÍ VIDAL
Executive Director

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Ahmed YUSUF**
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Further information
on the program
may be obtained from:
www.mids.ch

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The past decades have seen a radical increase in international dispute settlement procedures, especially in the fields of international trade, investment, natural resources management, and the protection of the environment. International courts and tribunals, international arbitration and mediation are increasingly taking center-stage in the international legal and economic arena. Positions in the corresponding departments of major law firms and in international dispute settlement institutions consequently have become among the most sought-after jobs in the field of law. To succeed, candidates for these positions must distinguish themselves, which is exactly where MIDS makes a difference. The MIDS distinctness comes not only from its outstanding faculty, but also from its unique and innovative educational methodology.

Faculty

More and more international disputes involve both private and public international law issues. Dispute settlement mechanisms overlap, influence each other, and may sometimes conflict. The times when specialization in one field was sufficient are gone.

Leaders in the field must now have a solid understanding of all the major international dispute settlement tools worldwide. With its outstanding faculty, the MIDS caters to these needs and offers students a unique opportunity to learn from world-class professors and practitioners.

A carefully designed curriculum

The MIDS curriculum is designed to meet the educational needs that arise from this evolution. It teaches about dispute settlement from a holistic perspective and covers all its aspects, both private and public. With the aim to achieve excellence in its approach and education, the MIDS provides students not only with sound theoretical knowledge, but also with training in key legal skills. Through a series of learning-by-doing workshops and activities, MIDS students hone their advocacy (both oral and written) and technical skills. Workshops like the FIAA or the Academic Retreat also help in bringing students in contact with numerous professionals in the field, who will interact with the students to provide them with individual feedback and guidance. This unique curriculum gives the students a strategic advantage in the field of international dispute settlement.

The program is global in terms of format and faculty. The professors are some of the most prominent experts in each field of international dispute settlement and come from the USA, South America, Asia, Africa and throughout Europe. Its structure combines the multicultural approach to legal studies in Continental Europe with the interactive teaching method of the United States and the small-group tutorial system of Oxford and Cambridge. Class size is kept relatively small (35-43 students) to ensure maximum interaction between faculty and students.

Career services

Of critical importance is the placement of the students after the program. The MIDS career services are meant to help students develop the skills and confidence required to succeed in breaking into the international dispute settlement market, be this an international law firm, arbitral institution, international organization, international court, or company.

The MIDS career services play a central role and accompany the students from day one and throughout their studies. In addition, during the academic year, students are exposed to numerous opportunities, including in the form of networking events and job interviews.

The MIDS Community

MIDS alumni are spread all over the world holding positions in top law firms, international organizations, international courts (ICJ), arbitral institutions, justice and trade ministries of national governments, companies, international law departments at universities, or as members of the judiciary.

Comprised not only by its students and alumni, but also by the faculty, staff and vast network of professionals working in all areas of international dispute settlement, the MIDS Community is a testament to the success and potential of the program.

A strategic location

The MIDS also reflects the fact that Geneva is a major arbitration hub with a long standing tradition in dispute settlement and home to over 200 international organizations and UN agencies. It therefore maintains interactions with institutions such as the WTO, WIPO, or UNCTAD. Students also have opportunities for networking with practitioners at career events, conferences, and during visits to international dispute resolution institutions such as the WTO Appellate Body or the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center in Geneva; the ICJ, the PCA and the Iran-US Claims Tribunal in The Hague the ICC in Paris.

If you are interested in a legal career with top law firms, international organizations, justice or trade ministries of governments, as member of the judiciary handling international cases, if you have the ambition of working on high-stake disputes, or if you are interested in gaining a thorough understanding of international dispute settlement and pursue an academic career in this area, then this program is for you.





A JOINT program

MIDS curriculum

The MIDS is a joint venture of the Graduate Institute and the Geneva University Law School and operates under the umbrella of these institutions' common Centre for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS).

The CIDS mission is to explore, understand and inform about international dispute settlement; to independently study its developments, dynamics and norms; and to educate future actors.

The MIDS thus benefits from the unique concentration of expertise in international law and dispute settlement gathered at its two parent institutions, as well as at the CIDS.

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva An Establishment for Research and Higher Education, Specialized in Global Affairs

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies' mission is to analyze the stakes of globalization through teaching (master and doctorate), research, executive education and forum activities. Thanks to its professors and doctoral students, to the centres created with the University of Geneva and to the array of knowledge present in the Maison de la paix and International Geneva, the Graduate Institute offers a unique density of expertise.

Geneva University Law School

The University of Geneva, founded by Jean Calvin in 1559, is Switzerland's second-largest university and is a member of the League of European Research Universities, which includes academic institutions such as Amsterdam, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Helsinki and Milan.

The University's Law School has an ongoing student and professor exchange program with Harvard Law School and is also part of the Strategic Alliance of Research Faculties of Law, together with twelve other prestigious law schools. The Law School offers a wide variety of academic courses covering all areas of law, with a strong focus on international and comparative law.

Benefiting from its strategic location in one of the world's main arbitration venues with a long tradition in dispute settlement, the Law School has developed a recognized area of expertise in international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution incorporating research projects, conferences and seminars.

The Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) is a one-year full-time graduate degree program providing an opportunity for in-depth and high-profile study of international dispute settlement from a broad range of perspectives. The program covers all current approaches to the subject-matter, including private and public international law, and delves into today's relevant fields, such as commercial and investment arbitration, WTO dispute resolution and proceedings before the ICJ.

Students are admitted for one academic year of study in residence (September through June), typically followed by up to two months of independent research and writing, leading to the degree of Master of Advanced Study in Law / LL.M. The structure of our largely elective program is such that it offers students sufficient latitude to pursue their specific interests in dispute settlement while acquiring indispensable knowledge in the field within set parameters. A typical curriculum includes:

- Two general courses providing a comprehensive overview of international dispute settlement.
- At least 8 intensive courses from a choice of 13 to 15.
- Two optional courses from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement, international law and business law.
- Weekly tutorials held in small groups.
- Clinical and practice oriented workshops in legal writing, advocacy in arbitration (operated by the Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy), financial damage analysis and mediation.
- A two-day academic retreat.
- Site visits to international dispute settlement institutions in Geneva, Paris and The Hague.
- Attendance at two major academic conferences and symposia, one in Switzerland and another one abroad.
- Various high-profile lectures and seminars.
- Two short essays and a 40-50 page master thesis.
- Networking events.



GENERAL Courses & Tutorials

The groundwork of the curriculum consists of two general courses, which provide a comprehensive overview of international dispute settlement. The first course, held during the first semester, sets the stage and explains the different mechanisms for resolving international disputes. The second discusses the main procedural issues that arise in international legal proceedings.

1. FIRST GENERAL COURSE: THE ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT



Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva

Prof. Thomas Schultz, Professor, University of Geneva

What types of situations give rise to disputes in the international arena? How are these different disputes settled? What dispute resolution mechanisms are available? The course will focus on investment and commercial arbitration, ICJ and WTO dispute settlement procedures as well as on certain other contemporary dispute settlement mechanisms. The main characteristics of each dispute settlement institution and procedure will be examined, with emphasis put on the types of disputes that can be brought before each one as well as other relevant issues of jurisdiction.

2. SECOND GENERAL COURSE: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS



Prof. Marcelo Kohen, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Prof. Zachary Douglas, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

This course covers the main procedural issues arising in the international legal proceedings examined in the first general course. As the procedures in the different dispute resolution processes raise similar issues (e.g. jurisdiction, provisional remedies, equal treatment, evidence, enforcement), this course reviews these aspects with an eye to comparisons and contrasts.

Tutorials

Tutorials are intrinsically connected to the general courses. Inspired by the Oxford tutorial system, tutorials are weekly interactions between a tutor and a group of ten students. Tutorials serve two different purposes. On the one hand, they provide an opportunity for a revisit and more detailed exploration and illustration of the key concepts addressed in the general courses. On the other, in every tutorial session a student presents a research paper which is discussed with all participants.

Students are expected to participate actively during tutorials, not only in the discussion of the issues covered by the general courses, but also on the research papers presented by their classmates. Every student must deliver one research paper per semester, one on disputes between States, and one on private or mixed disputes.



Dr. Dafina Atanasova, Lecturer, MIDS; Researcher, CIDS

Dafina Atanasova is the Lecturer delivering the tutorials for the private International law component of the MIDS.



Dr. Lorenzo Palestini, Lecturer, MIDS; Researcher, CIDS

Lorenzo Palestini is the Lecturer delivering the tutorials for the public International law component of the MIDS.



INTENSIVE Courses

2020-2021 COURSES

Intensive courses, most of which are taught by visiting professors, provide an opportunity to go into the details of various topics in international dispute settlement. Such courses in principle consist of nine hours of class taught over two or three days. Students pick at least eight of the following courses.



1. THE NEW YORK CONVENTION OF 1958

Prof. Albert Jan van den Berg, Emeritus Professor of Law, Erasmus University, Rotterdam; Visiting Professor, Georgetown Law School, Washington DC and Tsinghua School of Law, Beijing; Partner, Hanotiau & van den Berg

The New York Convention of 1958 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards is the single most important legal text in international commercial arbitration, as it defines the international currency of international arbitration agreements and arbitral awards. Students taking the New York Convention of 1958 course obtain a unique insight into the application of the Convention and into the great challenges it faces to keep current with the world of arbitration as it has evolved since 1958. Indeed, since the publication in 1981 of his classical treatise “The New York Convention of 1958: Towards a Uniform Judicial Interpretation”, Professor Albert Jan van den Berg has been widely recognized as the worldwide expert on the topic. See also his website: www.newyorkconvention.org



2. ICC ARBITRATION

Prof. Pierre Tercier, Honorary Chairman, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Emeritus Professor, University of Fribourg

The International Court of Arbitration of the ICC is one of the most important and best known institutions of arbitration. Its unique set of procedures has been applied to more than 23'000 disputes since their adoption. Students taking ICC Arbitration are offered a practical overview of the ICC arbitration process and its specificities. This course runs for 18 hours, and culminates in a two-day visit at the premises of the ICC in Paris.



3. THE PCA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Mr. Brooks W. Daly, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration

While arbitration is most often thought of as an alternative to litigation in national courts, the PCA was founded in 1899 to provide an alternative to war. From its beginnings in the settlement of interstate disputes to its diverse modern activity, this course examines how the PCA has contributed to, and been transformed by, the dispute settlement needs of the international community.



4. MULTIPLE PROCEEDINGS

Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, Professor Emerita, University of Geneva; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

Multiple proceedings dealing with the same or closely related disputes are increasingly frequent in commercial and investment arbitration. This course reviews the causes for such increase (more legal bases to bring claims, more actors involved in economic transactions, more available fora); whether multiple proceedings are to be favored or discouraged policywise; and the legal tools to manage the multiplicity, both existing and prospective.



5. EU LAW AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Prof. George A. Bermann, Walter Gellhorn Professor and Jean Monnet Professor, Columbia Law School

For some time, it has been assumed in European circles that international commercial arbitration was adequately regulated by the fundamental text, the 1958 New York Convention. But a number of circumstances have come together – a growing awareness that important EU claims are being decided in arbitral rather than judicial fora, a dramatic heightening of EU activity in private international law generally, debate over the use of anti-suit injunctions in the international arbitration field, and imperfections of the New York Convention itself – have come together to put international commercial arbitration suddenly in the EU spotlight. This course examines these developments and their prospects.



6. INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION IN THE UK

Prof. Stavros Brekoulakis, Professor in International Arbitration Law, Queen Mary University of London & Member of 3 Verulam Buildings (Gray's Inn)

London has been traditionally one of the most important, and arguably the most popular, arbitration centre worldwide, with more than 5,000 arbitration cases being recorded annually. This course examines the fundamental theoretical concepts and legal framework for international commercial arbitration in the UK. While attention is focused on UK arbitration law and practice, discussion will include comparative references to other major arbitration jurisdictions as well as international arbitration instruments, including the 1958 New York Convention, and arbitration rules of the major arbitration institutions.



INTENSIVE Courses



7. THE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

Prof. Sébastien Besson, Professor, University of Neuchâtel; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

The arbitration agreement is the cornerstone of international commercial arbitration. It raises many issues that in part receive divergent answers under different arbitration laws. This course explores these issues in depth. Including the notion of separability of the arbitration agreement and the principle of competence-competence that play a fundamental role in the theory and practice of international commercial arbitration.



8. ICSID ARBITRATION

Prof. Emmanuel Gaillard, Visiting Professor at Yale Law School and Harvard Law School; Chair of Shearman&Sterling international arbitration practice; Chair of the International Arbitration Institute

In recent years, the number of investment disputes has risen dramatically and ICSID is the international arbitration mechanism par excellence in this field. Acquaintance with the regime and case law of ICSID arbitration has now become indispensable for anyone seeking to have a full picture of arbitration.



9. INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION IN LATIN AMERICA

Prof. Eduardo Silva Romero, Partner, Dechert LLP; former Deputy Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Professor at Rosario University in Bogotá; Lecturer at Sciences Po Paris

The increasing number of arbitrations involving Latin American parties has raised many important issues in respect to the development and clarification of investment and commercial arbitration. This course will identify the specificities and similarities of arbitration in Latin America compared to the general transnational trends.



10. FRENCH LAW IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

Prof. Sophie Lemaire, Full Professor, Université Paris-Dauphine PSL

French arbitration law is among the most important frameworks for international commercial arbitration today, because Paris is a leading place for international arbitration. Moreover, it is one of the key factors that have shaped the world of arbitration as we know it today. This course introduces the students to that French heritage and discusses today's international commercial arbitration law and practice in France.



11. WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Prof. Gabrielle Marceau, Geneva University; Senior Counselor, WTO Legal Affairs Division

This course focuses on how the dispute settlement mechanisms of the WTO operate from a legal, political and diplomatic perspective. By placing the WTO in the broad institutional context of international economic relations, the students will consider how WTO panelists, and members of the Appellate Body, have propelled the WTO dispute settlement system to become one of the most effective international litigation mechanisms until very recently when it came under attack by some WTO Members. In reviewing the procedural steps of actual disputes, including the use of experts, the retaliation stage, and eventual mutually agreed solutions routes, together with a focus on recent calls for WTO reforms and alternative means of settling dispute other than through adjudication, the students will be able to better understand how States and other international actors can address international economic tensions resulting from societal choices, while pursuing the WTO goals of both fighting against illegitimate protectionism and protecting legitimate public policy objectives.



12. SPORTS ARBITRATION

Prof. Antonio Rigozzi, Professor, University of Neuchâtel; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

Switzerland hosts most major international sports federations and organizations, including the International Olympic Committee and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which acts as the world's highest sports tribunal for most kinds of disputes between athletes/clubs and sports governing bodies. CAS also administers commercial arbitrations in sports matters and a specific arbitration procedure for the Olympic Games and Anti-Doping Disputes. Students taking Sports Arbitration are introduced to these different procedures and have the opportunity to discuss their specificity, including the impact on the rights of athletes.

Further intensive courses will be included at a later stage.

To consult the full range of courses for the 2020-2021 MIDS academic year, please visit our website:

<https://www.cids.ch/mids/joining-us/academic-calendar>





OPTIONAL Courses

In addition to the general and intensive courses, students take a choice of at least two semester-long weekly optional courses drawn from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement or in neighboring fields.

These classes are drawn from the regular curricula of the Graduate Institute and the Law School.

In English*

Comparative Methodology: Contract Law

Prof. Thomas Kadner (Law Faculty)

Corporate Responsibility in International and Transnational Law

Prof. Zachary Douglas (Institute)

International Arbitration

Prof. Thomas Schultz (Law Faculty)

Practice of International Humanitarian Law

Prof. Marco Sassoli (Law Faculty)

WTO Law and Practice

Prof. Gabrielle Marceau (Law Faculty)

European Competition Law

Prof. Christian Bovet (Law Faculty)

Law without the State

Prof. Thomas Schultz (Institute)

Contemporary Challenges in Public International Law

Prof. Gloria Gaggioli (Law Faculty)

The Sources of International Law: between Theory and Practice

Prof. Marcelo Kohen (Institute)

International Trade Law

Prof. Jan Bohanes (Institute)

Fundamental Principles of International Law

Prof. Marcelo Kohen (Institute)

Internet Governance: the Role of International Law

Prof. Thomas Schultz (Institute)

International Investment Law

Prof. Joost Pauwelyn (Institute)

The Theory and Practice of Treaty Interpretation

Profs. Andrea Bianchi (Institute)

WIPO and International Intellectual Property Law

Prof. Edward K. Kwakwa (Institute)

A Discourse Analysis of International Law

Prof. Fuad Zarbiyev (Institute)

Social Analysis of Transnational Law and Arbitration

Prof. Fuad Zarbiyev (Institute)

In French*

Organisation internationale

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Law Faculty)

*Optional courses offered for 2019-2020 academic year (indicative list for 2020-2021).



CLINICAL TRAINING

Workshops, Academic Retreat

The MIDS curriculum includes a series of clinical workshops designed to improve skills required in international dispute settlement, such as written and oral advocacy, expertise in damage quantification, and settlement techniques.

FINANCIAL DAMAGE ANALYSIS



Mr. Geoffrey Senogles, Partner, Senogles & Co, Chartered Accountants, Switzerland

Any lawyer working in arbitration, whether as counsel, arbitrator or arbitral secretary, will undoubtedly be faced with quantum issues. The goal of this series of workshops is to provide an insight into financial damage expertise and methodologies from the perspective of a practicing forensic accountant who frequently testifies as financial expert witness in international proceedings and previously dealt with financial aspects of mass claims while on staff at the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC).

MEDIATION



Ms. Birgit Sambeth Glasner, Partner, Altenburger Ltd legal+tax

A respected international commercial mediator will take students through the nuts and bolts of mediation: When should parties settle? When are they ready to do so? How to bring them to a settlement through a facilitated interest based negotiation? What is the context and how does the mediation process unfold? These are some of the key questions in mediation; they require special skills, which are too often ignored by counsel and arbitrators alike, much to the detriment of the parties.

LEGAL WRITING AND WRITTEN ADVOCACY



Mr. David Roney and Ms. Tanya Landon, Partners, Sidley Austin

Taught by two experienced practitioners, this workshop covers the legal drafting process in international arbitration with a special emphasis on written advocacy and persuasion. In addition to theoretical underpinnings, it includes practical exercises and individualized feedback on legal submissions drafted as part of the workshop.



WITNESS EXAMINATION IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

FIAA - Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy

FIAA is a Geneva-based foundation which is generally recognized to provide the world's best clinical training in arbitration advocacy. Thanks to the existing partnership, FIAA instructors offer MIDS students a two-day workshop on witness examination in international arbitration, which is specifically designed to meet the needs of MIDS students.

Following an introductory lecture, participants are taken through practical exercises in small groups, which have repeatedly proven to dramatically improve the oral advocacy skills of each and every student.

ACADEMIC RETREAT

Château de Bossey

The MIDS academic retreat is a two-day outing in a picturesque country setting. In addition to providing an opportunity to socialize and network among students and faculty, it is mainly devoted to a moot court exercise in international arbitration.

The purpose is to develop skills in analyzing facts and evidence, building a strategy, construing legal arguments, practicing oral advocacy, and improving teamwork skills, all within limited time and with pressure evocative of reality. The retreat concludes with a series of hearings conducted before tribunals composed of experienced arbitration practitioners.

Q&A SESSIONS WITH STAR ARBITRATORS

The Q&A Sessions with Star Arbitrators are organized yearly with different top arbitrators. So far, sessions have been conducted with Professors Jan Paulsson, Brigitte Stern and Pierre Mayer. The arbitrators give insights into their views on the evolution of dispute settlement, sharing their vast and diverse experience with the MIDS students.





LECTURES, CONFERENCES

Seminars, Study Visits

Public lectures with distinguished guest lecturers, international conferences in Switzerland and abroad, seminars on new developments in international dispute settlement and study visits to Paris and The Hague are an important component of the MIDS curriculum.

Lectures

The MIDS organizes public lectures where well known academics and practitioners address a larger audience on current dispute resolution issues.

In these ten years, speakers at MIDS lectures have included, among others, Alexis Mourre, Judge Xue Hanqin, Prof. José Alvarez, the late Prof. David D. Caron, Judge Christopher Greenwood, Meg Kinnear, Lucy Reed, Salim Moollan, Judge Peter Tomka, Toby Landau QC, Donald Donovan, Prof. Andrea Bjorklund, Prof. Pierre-Marie Dupuy, V.V. Veeder QC, Prof. Pierre Mayer, Prof. Michael Reisman, Judge Bruno Simma, Prof. George A. Bermann, Prof. William W. Park, Prof. Emmanuel Gaillard, the late Prof. Pierre Lalive, Prof. James Crawford, Hon. Ian Binnie CC QC, Lucinda Low and Claudia Annacker.

Conferences

In 2020-2021, as part of the MIDS curriculum, students will attend two international conferences of their choice, one in Switzerland and one abroad. The offer varies from year to year. In Switzerland, students are typically attending the ASA annual conference or the University of Neuchâtel conference on new developments in international commercial arbitration. Abroad, MIDS students regularly attend the Investment Treaty Forum organized by the BIICL in London, the annual conference of the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan and the ICC annual conference in Paris.

Students further have the opportunity to attend many other events during the academic year such as conferences, lectures and seminars organized by the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute, the WTO and UNCTAD. They also regularly participate in ASA local groups, ASA below 40 conferences, ICC YAF events, and ICDR Young & International debates.

Study visits

During their MIDS year, students visit international dispute settlement institutions in Switzerland and abroad. In the first semester, the students visit the ICC in Paris where they meet with and hear presentations by ICC officials and practitioners of leading law firms. The visit also serves as the second part of the intensive course with Prof. Pierre Tercier on ICC arbitration.

In the second semester, MIDS students travel to The Hague where they visit the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.

In Geneva, MIDS students visit the World Trade Organization, where they meet with the Legal Affairs Division and the Appellate Body Secretariat, and the Arbitration and Mediation Center at the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Seminars

Each year, the MIDS organizes a number of seminars reserved to MIDS students on issues of particular interest and new developments. For example, seminar speakers in recent years have included Prof. Bernard Hanotiau (on complex arbitrations), Judge Charles Brower (on the Iran – US Claims Tribunal), Doak Bishop (on the settlement of energy disputes), David Rivkin (on arbitration at the Olympics), Dr. Yas Banifatemi (on umbrella clauses in investment treaties), Dr. Michael Schneider (on construction arbitration), Prof. John Gotanda (on late interest in arbitration), Prof. Campbell McLachlan (on lis pendens), Secretary-General Meg Kinnear (on ICSID), Deputy Secretary-General Brooks Daly (on the PCA), and Prof. Armand de Mestral (on ISDS between the EU and Canada, and the US). Seminars are generally organized on short notice. For 2020-2021, the following seminars are already scheduled:



International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea

Prof. Tullio Treves, University of Milan;
Senior International Consultant, Curtis,
Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle



Dispute Settlement at the WTO: An Introduction

Prof. Makane M. Mbengue, Professor,
University of Geneva; Affiliate Professor,
Sciences Po Paris (School of Law)

LALIVE Training Seminar

Thanks to a partnership with LALIVE, an international law firm with offices in Geneva, Zurich and London, MIDS students will benefit from the experience and knowledge of the firm's leading lawyers during a half-day training seminar on the practice of international arbitration, with a particular focus on commercial arbitration proceedings. MIDS students will also have the opportunity to informally meet and exchange with the partners and counsel of the firm.



CAREER SERVICES

Life after the MIDS

Career services and coaching is provided during the MIDS academic year. Career events are organized with partners and law firms specialized in international arbitration or international law, arbitral institutions, international organizations and companies throughout the program.

Career services

Our individualized career services start from day one. At any time during the first semester, an individual meeting can be scheduled with the MIDS Career Advisor, to work on drafting one's CV and application letter, the aim being to improve how to introduce oneself and be effective in drawing up the documents required for an application.

The next stage entails preparing a strategy to apply for a position. Once the student has been invited for a job interview, a mock interview is conducted at the MIDS based on the features of the forthcoming real interview. Video recordings allow to discuss the student's performance and thus to improve effective communication. The MIDS Career Advisor is available to help the student throughout the application process and to provide individualized guidance and advice throughout the academic year.

The MIDS career services also aim at improving the students' networking skills and professional presence at the different events and conferences attended.

Life after the MIDS

MIDS graduates have found positions with **government** divisions in charge of disputes involving the State in various countries such as Armenia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine; in **law firms**, including Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld (Geneva), Allen & Overy (Frankfurt, Madrid, Paris), ArbLit (Milan), Archipel (Geneva), Arnold & Porter (Washington), Bae Kim and Lee (Seoul), Bofill Mir & Alvarez Jana (Chile), Baker & McKenzie (Frankfurt), Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (Milan, Paris, Rome), Clifford Chance (Frankfurt, Zurich, Warsaw), Convington & Burling (London); Cuatrecasas (Madrid), Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle (Geneva, Istanbul, Mexico, New York, Paris), Debevoise & Plimpton (London), Dechert (Paris), Dentons (Brussels, Paris, Warsaw), Derains & Gharavi (Paris), Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners (Kiev, Moscow), Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (Dubai, Frankfurt, London, New York, Paris, Vienna), Froriep (Geneva), Gentium Law (Geneva), Gomm & Smith (Miami), FTPA (Paris), Hanotiau & van den Berg (Brussels), Hughes Hubbard and Reed (Paris), Jones Day (Paris), King & Spalding

(Houston, Paris), Knoetzi (Vienna), K&L Gates (Paris), Lalive (Geneva, Zurich), Latham & Watkins (Paris), Lazareff Le Bars (Paris), Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler (Geneva), Luther (Hamburg), Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy (Munich), Norton Rose Fulbright (Frankfurt), Python & Peter (Geneva), Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan (Paris), Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva, Zurich), Shearman & Sterling (Paris), Skadden (London), Three Crowns (London, Paris), White&Case (Frankfurt, Paris, Washington), WilmerHale (London, New York), Winston & Strawn (London, Paris); in **international courts and tribunals and arbitral institutions**, including the ICC Court of International Arbitration, the ICJ, the PCA, ICSID, the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, the AAA, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, the Hong Kong Arbitration Center, and the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution; in **international organizations**, including UNCTAD, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre, and the WTO Legal Affairs Division and Appellate Body Secretariat; as well as in **academic institutions**, including in Geneva, Jimma (Ethiopia), Mexico City, Neuchâtel, Quito, Santiago de Chile, Tehran and Tbilissi.

MIDS Fellowship at the Permanent Court of Arbitration

By virtue of an agreement between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the MIDS, a student of the 2020-2021 Class will have the opportunity to join the PCA's Secretariat, participating for a period of twelve-months in the work of the PCA's International Bureau.

The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with 117 member States. Established in 1899 to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States, the PCA has developed into a modern, multifaceted institution meeting the dispute resolution needs of the international community.





APPLICATION

Admission process

Application information

Academic and language requirements

To be considered for the program, applicants must have received, or expect to receive by the summer of 2020, a first complete law degree (such as a Bologna Master's degree, a J.D. or an LL.B.) or another academic qualification deemed equivalent by the Program Directors.

Applicants whose primary language is not English and who did not receive their university education in the English language must take a language proficiency test (i.e. TOEFL, IELTS). The admissions committee looks for at least a TOEFL score of 100, or an IELTS of 7, or other equivalent certificate. Applicants with at least two years of professional experience in English may request a waiver of this requirement. A passive understanding of French is an asset, though not a requirement.

In order to keep our faculty-student ratio low, we seek to enroll no more than 35 to 43 students each year, based on the strength of their record of academic or professional achievements.

Academic cooperation

Since 2015-2016, the MIDS cooperates with the International Arbitration Program of Tsinghua University Law School, one of the best in China.

Since 2016-2017, the MIDS also has a Double Degree Agreement with the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Application materials

To apply to the program, applicants must submit the online application form, available on the MIDS website, as well as send a complete application file by email, containing:

- A copy of the completed application form;
- A photocopy of the passport;
- A curriculum vitae;
- A personal statement (essay) demonstrating the applicant's interest in the field of dispute settlement, including concrete examples if possible;
- At least two recent letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional lecturers/supervisors;
- Copies of relevant degrees and diplomas, with an officially certified translation if they are not in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish;
- Copies of official records of university examinations taken and grades obtained (transcripts), with the same need for translation as above;
- Official language proficiency scores if applicable.
- Optional: A table of contents and a 10-page excerpt of the most important paper written by the candidate in the course of his/her university studies, and when available in English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish;

We accept requested documents for application by e-mail (info@mids.ch) or mail to our standard contact address.

Please do not staple or bind the pages of your application and do not send original documents, as all submitted materials become the property of the LL.M. program upon receipt and will be neither returned to the applicant nor forwarded to other schools or agencies.

Application deadline

For the 2020-2021 program, the application deadline is 19 December 2019. It is the applicant's responsibility to make certain that all items are delivered to our offices on or before the application deadline.

Confirmation from the Admissions Office

After completing your application via our Campus online platform, you will receive a confirmation that your application has been received.

TUITION, EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition fees for the 2020-2021 MIDS LL.M. program are set at CHF 28'000.

We estimate that an average single student needs CHF 15'000 to CHF 20'000 to meet living expenses for the academic year.

Financial aid, based on the applicant's demonstrated financial need is limited but may be available, for the ten-month period of residence:

- Full scholarships (covering tuition fees & living expenses – 40'000,- CHF).
- Full tuition scholarships (full waiver of the tuition fees) - MIDS-Young ICCA scholarship
- Partial scholarships: (covering part of the tuition fees and/or living expenses – such as the MIDS-Alumni scholarship).

We ask students wishing to apply for financial aid to first make timely efforts to obtain financial aid from other sources.

We only entertain requests from students demonstrating to have made best efforts to obtain scholarships in their home country or in Switzerland.

Students may be offered accommodation at a reduced price in student residences in Geneva.

For more information, visit: www.mids.ch



IMPORTANT DATES TO CONSIDER FOR THE 2020-2021 PROGRAM



2019

October Applications open

19 December Application deadline

2020

4 March Decision on admissions

14 September First day of class

2021

18 June Last day of class

8 August Master thesis submission deadline

“The MIDS has changed my life. I applied for the MIDS because I thought that it would give me an opportunity to specialize in international dispute settlement and perhaps a chance to start a career in this area. The reality far exceeded expectations. I found the program extraordinarily stimulating and the faculty superlative. I am about to embark on a career as an arbitration lawyer and this is all thanks to the MIDS. I would recommend it unreservedly for anyone interested in this area of law”. Geneva, September 2010.

Ndanga Kamau, a MIDS '10 alumna from Kenya, former Registrar at the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (LCIA-MIAC); after the MIDS Ndanga practiced with Lalive (Geneva), King & Spalding (Houston) and Oxfam (Nairobi).

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

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