Why is the MIDS Moving Online?

Foreword

The Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped many aspects of our lives, and this will continue for a duration that is impossible to predict precisely. Many students see their life projects jeopardized as the required study programs become geographically unreachable, possibly for several years. We feel it is our responsibility to adapt the MIDS to this new reality and offer students the possibility to take part in the program from wherever they feel safest, from wherever they are allowed to travel, from wherever they are able to be. To meet that demand for flexibility, we are introducing the Online Section of MIDS.

The Online Section offers a program of the same high quality that our students, our faculty, and our recruiters have come to expect from the MIDS as a matter of course. To ensure these standards, we have worked closely with the Distance Learning Department of the University of Geneva and have drawn on their many years of experience in online pedagogics, with all the particulars, big and small, which make all the meaningful difference in the end. The result is a pedagogical approach we are proud of. It allows us to seamlessly bring the MIDS experience to wherever you are, true to the MIDS goals, format, and spirit.

Mindful of the evolving uncertainties, the MIDS Online Section is designed so that the MIDS program can be completed either over the course of one academic year, full time, or over the span of two years, part time. Students admitted to the On-Campus Section can also easily start remotely and join the campus when the time is right.

In the current situation, we are all tempted to wait and see. But we believe that the first movers will come out ahead. We should remember that dispute resolution is a counter-cyclical industry: the deep economic crisis which is now starting is bound to lead to disputes at all levels, with a corresponding need for highly qualified lawyers to defend everyone’s rights. Now is the time to study the field of dispute resolution. The world will be needing you in the summer of 2021, when you will graduate from the MIDS, on campus or through its Online Section.

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes and Prof. Thomas Schultz
on behalf of the MIDS Committee

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If you are young and want to make it in the field of international dispute settlement, you have to seize every available opportunity. Now is definitely not the time to dither and waver.

I believe that the timely flexibility which the MIDS newly offers, with its Online and On-Campus sections, and the bridges between them, is the opportunity many of you need right now. There is indeed every reason to believe that there will be much need for young lawyers with a solid education and a prestigious degree in international dispute settlement in the near future. And you will want to be on the job market, with a MIDS degree, whether obtained on campus or through its Online Section.

Professor Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, President, CIDS Council
The MIDS Online Section at a Glance

The MIDS Online Section provides the opportunity to undertake the traditional MIDS program without necessarily having to be in Geneva. The final diploma and the high-profile curriculum remain strictly the same. Only the pedagogy is adapted: it uses innovative teaching formats and technologies inspired by the best practices developed in recent years, many of which originated at Harvard, in order to adapt to the specificities of distance learning.

The MIDS Online Section brings increased flexibility to our educational offer, in several ways. Students admitted to the On-Campus Section of the MIDS can choose to take the program partly or entirely in Geneva and/or online. The schedule of both sections of the program guarantees that students have the possibility of switching almost seamlessly from the Online Section to the On-Campus Section (See p. 10).

For students choosing to take the program entirely online, there is now also the option to undertake the program in one or two years. This modality has been introduced as an acknowledgement of the constraints, in particular sanitary and financial ones, many students may find themselves in as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who want to boost their careers, and not miss the coming movements on the job market, should not have to wait until the end of the current circumstances to enrol in prestigious educational programs (See p. 10).

The MIDS Online Section also adds a new feature to the curriculum: the MIDS Online Seminars. These seminars, specifically organized for the MIDS program, will feature professionals coming from various areas of dispute settlement. They aim at offering students unable to participate in study trips and conferences privileged access and equivalent networking opportunities with leading practitioners (See p. 8).

Career Services

Career services are a distinctive feature of the MIDS program. We proactively help students, be they in Geneva or studying remotely, develop the skills and confidence required to succeed in breaking into the international market of dispute settlement.

All MIDS students, irrespective of their location, benefit from the same support, which includes career planning, resume drafting assistance, networking skills coaching, mock interviews, and after-interview debriefing sessions.
The groundwork of the curriculum remains the same 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

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

General Courses Online Pedagogics

General Courses classes will generally follow a 3-steps teaching structure:

1. **Short recorded sessions** (e.g., for 1h30 in-class teaching, 4 x 20 min recordings), each on a specific point/subpoint, recorded during real class and subsequently edited.

2. **Webinar in small groups** (1h), introduced and moderated by a MIDS Lecturer; work in small groups on 2-3 short assignments related to substance covered in the previous recorded sessions (exercises, cases, multiple-choice, etc.); collective debriefing with full online class.

3. **Flipped classrooms** (1h), moderated by the main professor; full online class; students come to class with questions/remarks related to the substance covered in the previous recorded sessions.
Tutorials in the MIDS Online Section are the same weekly interactions between a tutor and a small group of students as they are in the On-Campus Section. They differ from the 1h-webinars directly following the general courses in that they provide an opportunity for a more detailed exploration of the key concepts addressed in the general courses, rather than applying and practicing the topics covered in the main classes. Students are expected to participate as actively during tutorials in the Online Section as they are in the On-Campus Section. Every student must deliver one research paper per semester and present it during a tutorial session.

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

Lecturer delivering the tutorials for the private international law component of the MIDS.

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

Lecturer delivering the tutorials for the public international law component of the MIDS.

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**Tutorials Online Pedagogics**

Tutorial classes remain very similar to their in-class version. They will use the following methodology:

- **Webinar in small groups**, moderated by one Lecturer; discussion on general courses’ classes topics of the week.
- **Drafting and presentation of 2 research papers**, one in public and the other in private international law.
- **1-to-1 online meetings**, regularly organized with the Lecturers.
Enrolled students can pick at least eight of the following courses, regardless whether they are in the On-Campus or Online Section:

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

2. **MULTIPLE PROCEEDINGS**  
   Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, Professor Emerita, University of Geneva; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

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

4. **EU LAW AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**  
   Prof. George A. Bermann, Walter Gellhorn Professor and Jean Monnet Professor, Columbia Law School

5. **INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION IN THE UK**  
   Prof. Stavros Brekoulakis, Professor, Queen Mary University, Associate Member, 3 Verulam Buildings

6. **THE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION**  
   Prof. Sébastien Besson, Professor, University of Neuchâtel; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

7. **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

8. **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

9. **FRENCH LAW IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION**  
   Prof. Sophie Lemaire, Full Professor, Université Paris-Dauphine PSL

10. **WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**  
    Prof. Gabrielle Marceau, Geneva University; Senior Counselor, WTO Legal Affairs Division

11. **ICC ARBITRATION**  
    Prof. Pierre Tercier, Honorary Chairman, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Emeritus Professor, University of Fribourg  
    Part of this course requires a presence of two days in Paris. At this stage we are unable to guarantee that students not admitted to the On-Campus Section of the MIDS will be able to attend these two days. An additional element of the program, to be defined in due course, may be offered instead.

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**Intensive Courses Online Pedagogics**

The specific pedagogical approaches vary across intensive courses, reflecting the teaching style of each faculty member. The overall aim is always the same: strengthening the students’ knowledge on topical aspects of dispute settlement and having a privileged access and exchange with leading experts and practitioners.
Optional Courses

Optional courses generally draw from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement or in neighboring fields offered by the Graduate Institute and the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. The same in principle applies in the Online Section as both institutions are making their courses available online. To completely ward off the unlikely risk of a decrease of the optional course offering during the Spring term, we ask students in the Online Section to take at least one optional course during the Fall term.

Workshops

The traditional series of clinical workshops will be adapted to distance participation in order to allow online students to improve skills required in international dispute settlement, such as written and oral advocacy, expertise in damage quantification, and settlement techniques.

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

Financial Damage
Mr. Geoffrey Senogles,
Partner, Senogles & Co, Chartered Accountants

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

Witness Examination Workshop
Foundation for International Arbitration
Advocacy - FIAA

Academic Retreat

Convened by Dr. Michele Potestà,
Counsel, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

During this two-day virtual moot court experience, students are able to test their analytical, strategic, and oral advocacy skills. The Online Section will reproduce the conditions in which an increasing number of real arbitrations are being conducted today – conditions which are currently being promoted by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) and which are likely to become increasingly prevalent in the future. Students participating in the Online Section will have the added benefit of a geographically wider participation of practitioners sitting as arbitrators on the mock hearings.
MIDS Online Seminars

To successfully complete the program, students enrolled in the MIDS Online Section are required to participate in 4 MIDS Online Seminars.

These seminars replace the mandatory components of the program which depend on the physical presence of the student in a specific location, namely the two study trips (Paris and The Hague) and the two conferences. Since participation in these activities relies on the assumption that a student can travel at a specific point in time, they are optional for the students enrolled in the MIDS Online Section.

MIDS Online Seminars, which feature professionals coming from various fields of dispute settlement, are specifically organized for MIDS students. Using different formats, the seminars offer online students the opportunity to meet and exchange with leading practitioners from law firms, arbitral institutions, and international organizations. The objective is to offer them networking opportunities which are comparable to those offered to students in the On-Campus Section.

MIDS Online Seminars have an additional qualitative advantage: counterintuitively, their format allows students to be closer and interact more with the guest speakers, which translates into greater exposure to potential future employers.

Q&A Sessions with Star Arbitrators

Every year, the Q&A Sessions with Star Arbitrators is a highly expected opportunity to interact with a top arbitrator who gives insights into his or her views on the evolution of dispute settlement, sharing his or her vast and diverse experience with the MIDS students.

This academic year’s session will be streamed live and moderated in a way which allows direct interventions from the room and from afar.
Academic Information

MIDS Academic Requirements

To obtain the MIDS diploma, students are required to successfully complete the following modules:

Two General Courses and their Tutorials
At least eight Intensive Courses
At least two Optional Courses
The MIDS Academic Retreat
Four Workshops
At least one conference in international dispute settlement and two institutional visits
Or Four MIDS Online Seminars
Two research papers
A master thesis.

MIDS Online Section Program in One or Two Years

Students enrolled specifically in the MIDS Online Section may choose to undertake the program over one or two years. These options allow students to pursue their learning interests in dispute settlement in a flexible way and to accommodate constraints from their family and professional life. The decision on the chosen duration of the program – one or two years – is to be communicated to the MIDS at the end of the first term of the first year.

Students opting for the two-year program will be requested to take at least the two General Courses and all the Tutorials during the first year (September through June). The structure of the second year will thus remain largely elective.

Optional Activities for Online Students

We will be organizing an optional gathering on our campus, in Geneva, to bring together our students in the On-Campus Section and in the Online Section around an academic event. Its timing will depend on the evolution of the pandemic and travel restrictions.

We will further consider the possibility of organizing optional study trips for students in the Online Section, for instance to Paris and The Hague, if there is sufficient demand and the overall situation allows it.
Tuition fees

Tuition fees are the same for both sections of the MIDS program: CHF 28'000.

To confirm their enrolment in MIDS Online Section, students must pay a non-refundable deposit of CHF 500 within two weeks after they receive the admission offer. This amount will be credited towards the tuition fees.

The remaining tuition fees are payable in three instalments according to the following schedule:

- CHF 3'500 (three thousand five hundred Swiss Francs) net of bank charges by 1 July 2020.
- CHF 12'000 (twelve thousand Swiss Francs) net of bank charges by 20 August 2020.
- CHF 12'000 (twelve thousand Swiss Francs) net of bank charges by 2 October 2020.

Platforms and Helpdesk

No need for specific hardware or software. Technical support is provided by the MIDS to access modules and material throughout the year.

Switching from online to offline

Students admitted to the On-Campus Section can switch from the Online Section to the On-Campus Section at any time up to April 2021, with one month’s advance notice and subject to a valid visa. Such a switch should be considered final (i.e. no back and forth between On-Campus and Online).