



**INTERNSHIP POSITION INFORMATION : Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire**

<b>Internship Position Title:</b>	University of Toronto International Human Rights Program Legal Fellow
<b>Country:</b>	Cote D'Ivoire
<b>City:</b>	Abidjan
<b>Sector:</b>	Refugee Protection
<b>Position Description:</b>	<p><b>Project Description:</b></p> <p>This fellowship program will provide recent alumni of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law with the opportunity to support the vital work of the UN Refugee Agency to help ensure the protection of refugees, stateless individuals, and internally displaced persons. Fellows will be stationed at UNCHR offices and will provide legal assistance that will have a direct impact on service delivery to stateless and refugee women, children, and men. Fellows will reinforce the technical capacity of UNHCR offices by providing legal research and support. During their tenure, fellows will have the opportunity to provide direct assistance to refugees and stateless individuals. In particular, they will have an opportunity to impact the lives of woman and girls, who make up half the refugee population and face heightened risks due to discrimination and gender-based violence. Fellows will also work directly with children, who comprise nearly half of the refugee population today and are in particular need of legal assistance, given their increased risk of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and forced military recruitment. This initiative will provide recent alumni of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law with international experience, skills, and knowledge to prepare them for future employment in the fields of international human rights law, public international law, immigration and refugee law, and a myriad of other sectors, both in Canada and abroad.</p> <p><b>Position Description:</b></p> <p>The fellow will be posted to the Cote D'Ivoire National Office of UNHCR in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire for approximately six months, and will support the legal protection activities of UNHCR in the country. Through this initiative, the fellow will provide essential legal capacity to UNHCR in Cote D'Ivoire to support the adoption of a national asylum law, the safe return of Ivorians seeking to repatriate, including access to justice for returnees. As of March 2014, Cote D'Ivoire hosted over 150,000 persons of concern. However, UNHCR only has approximately 70 staff the ground, and few of them are legally trained.</p> <p>The fellow will use his/her legal expertise to assist with implementation of UNHCR's overall country strategy. The fellow will support advocacy to support the government's adoption and implementation of a national asylum law. The fellow will also provide support to one of UNHCR's key government partners, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberties, to rebuild and modernize the civil registration system. The fellow will also assist with monitoring and identifying people with specific needs in relation to the safe and dignified return of approximately 15,000 Ivorians</p>



seeking to repatriate from Liberia and neighbouring countries, and will also assist with returnees' access to justice. Finally, the fellow will support the implementation of cessation clauses for Liberia and Rwandan refugees who continue to be in need of protection.

Fellows will participate in a comprehensive pre-departure training program and will also receive career counselling and reintegration assistance upon completion of the program. The IHRP will fund all costs associated with training, transportation, travel medical insurance, and vaccinations, and fellows will be provided with approximately \$11,000 to assist with the costs of living during their fellowship.

**Qualifications:**

The following eligibility requirements must be met by all candidates:

- the candidate must have obtained a J.D. degree from The University of Toronto Faculty of Law prior to the fellowship,
- the candidate must not be more than 30 years of age,
- candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents,
- candidates must be legally entitled to work in Canada,
- candidates cannot have participated in DFATD's IYIP initiative,
- the candidate must be available to be posted overseas for six months, commencing in September 2016,
- previous course or equivalent experience in refugee law, and
- fluency in French is required for this post.

Individuals interested in applying for a fellowships commencing in September 2016 are asked to send the following documents to the IHRP no later than April 15, 2016:

- a cover letter
- c.v.
- the names and contact information for three references
- all post-secondary transcripts
- a short essay explaining the specific needs or challenges that must be addressed in the field of international migration and refugee law (no more than 500 words).

Please note that while candidates are welcome to express interest in being posted to a particular office in their cover letter, all applicants are required to apply to the program generally, and the geographic assignment of fellows will be made after candidates have been selected for participation in the program. Please indicate any language skills you may have in your cover letter, including fluency in French and/or Spanish.

Please direct all applications and any questions about the program to the coordinator, Kathleen Davis, at [kathleen.davis@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:kathleen.davis@mail.utoronto.ca).

**Application Deadline:** April 15, 2016



<b>Start Date of Internship:</b>	September 1, 2016
<b>End Date of Internship:</b>	March 1, 2017
<b>Host Organization:</b>	The International Human Rights Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>Host Organization Details:</b>	<p>The International Human Rights Program (IHRP) at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law enhances the legal protection of existing and emerging international human rights obligations through advocacy, knowledge-exchange, and capacity-building initiatives that provide experiential learning opportunities for students and legal expertise to civil society. The IHRP was established in 1987 and has over 25 years of experience working in international development, especially in the areas of rule of law and human rights. Since 1987, IHRP has facilitated over 300 summer internship opportunities for its students around the world. This new fellowship initiative provides an exciting opportunity for IHRP to extend its robust experiential learning program for law students to recent alumni of the Faculty.</p> <p>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people. Since 1950, the agency has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, a staff of more than 9,300 people in 123 countries continues to help and protect millions of refugees, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people. With the global refugee population continuing to rise, UNHCR is very grateful for the additional assistance that IHRP Legal Fellows will be able to provide to bolster the legal capacity of its field offices.</p>