

Thanks to the University of Toronto Faculty of Law International Human Rights Program (IHRP), I had the unparalleled opportunity to work alongside some of the brightest and most dedicated migration lawyers in the field today. I worked as an International Migration Law Intern with the International Migration Law (IML) unit at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva, Switzerland. My broad areas of focus were the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and its coherence with the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), the international legal regimes for humanitarian protection of migrants, and the international law protecting LGBTI migrants.



*Figure 1 - IOM Director General William L. Swing at the IOM's Intern Talk*

When I was first introduced to the team, I immediately sensed how interactive and collaborative an environment the International Migration Law (IML) unit created. I was encouraged to collaborate with the GCM unit of IOM to draft internal reports on the coherence between the GCM and the GCR, which entailed a full review of these monumental documents during their inauguration into the international law world. I worked alongside some of the most senior staff members dedicated to this work, learning much from their professionalism, teamwork, and commitment to the cause.



*Figure 2 - The IML Unit Goodbye Picnic*

Working more closely with the lawyers in the IML unit further fostered this cooperative spirit. I was able to contribute to multiple trainings conducted for IOM's Regional Offices, Member State border management or international academic conferences. During the first week of June, the IML unit hosts an annual training at IOM Headquarters for United Nations Mission representatives on the status of international migration law. I drafted case studies and reviewed the legal content of the units covered during this two-day training, as well as attending and assisting the process, as necessary. Not only was this course an incredible opportunity to interact with professionals in the migration law field, but it also provided an excellent overview of the area on which I would be researching and working for the rest of the summer and for the rest of my career.



*Figure 3 - IOM Intern Talk August 2018*

Throughout the summer I was able to fully engage with the UN Network through the GCR Consultations and the Human Rights Council events at the Palais des Nations. There are myriad chances to witness the gears of international policy turning through these public fora, as well as chances to learn more about less explored areas of international law through the side events of the Human Rights Council. External events provide an even broader picture of the international law world, especially when taking advantage of the talks, panels and film viewings held by the Graduate Institute of Geneva.



*Figure 4 - Impromptu visit to the Palais des Nations*

My longer-term project on humanitarian protection regimes around the world culminated in a substantive internal report that will assist in collaborative discussions and international law trainings in the coming years. The openness and enthusiastic support that comes from the IML team has led to my continued cooperation with the unit on non-confidential research and publication. I highly recommend taking full advantage of this internship and diving into the area of international law that most interests you; the team will be there to support you however possible.

More generally, my time in Geneva was exceptional. No other moment in my life will I meet such like-minded, free-spirited individuals who all face their work with equal dedication and passion. Interacting with the community of interns that Geneva welcomes every season made my Swiss internship experience that much more meaningful. My memories travelling and working alongside these interns and friends will stay with me forever, as will the friendships.



*Figure 5 - A taste of the weekend adventures*