



INTERNSHIP POSITION INFORMATION : UNHCR, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Internship Position Title:	University of Toronto International Human Rights Program Legal Fellow
Country:	Honduras
City:	Tegucigalpa
Sector:	Refugee Protection
Position Description:	<p>Project Description:</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>Position Description:</p> <p>An fellow will be officially working with UNHCR Panama Regional Office in Panama, but will work out of the Tegucigalpa Office. The Regional Office in Panama covers Central America and Cuba, oversees Mexico and Costa Rica, and provides technical and legal support to the region through the Regional Legal Unit (RLU) and the technical hub. In the forthcoming biennium, the Office will maintain an emphasis on the following areas in particular: work on protection and solutions in Panama will include strengthening asylum systems through the Quality Assurance Initiative in Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama. Displacement due to criminal violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras will be monitored, and information gathered will help to increase understanding of displacement issues and population trends in Central America. Work on statelessness and sexual and gender-based will also be pursued.</p> <p>Through this initiative, the fellow will provide essential legal capacity to UNHCR in Honduras primarily, and will contribute to UNHCR's primary objectives to provide first-line care to those in need, to help the government maintain a favourable protection environment for refugees</p>



and asylum-seekers and to engage the government in ensuring the local integration of refugees. The fellow will also help to facilitate voluntary repatriation and to use resettlement strategically as a protection tool.

In Honduras particular efforts will be made to contribute to the strengthening of the eligibility process in Honduras and provide support to UNHCR's implementing partners and other institutions, working on protection related issues (Ombudsperson's Office, NGOs, volunteer organizations, universities).

The fellow will specifically:

- Support the UNHCR in advising on eligibility and status determination procedures, ensuring compliance with UNHCR procedural standards and international protection principles;
- Assist UNHCR in advising on internal displacement matters, including the provision of technical assistance and support to the work of the Inter-Institutional Commission for Persons Displaced by Violence on legal issues;
- Stay abreast of political, social, economic and cultural developments that have an impact on the protection environment;
- Assist in enhancing the protection capacity of national and local governments, partners and civil society to assume their responsibilities vis-à-vis all persons of concern through protection training, mainstreaming and related activities;
- Carry out legal analysis and research as requested;
- Assist in other tasks performed by UNHCR including preparation of case studies, presentations and materials; and
- Contributions to Human Rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and UPR drafts.

The fellow will use his/her legal expertise to assist with implementation of the UNHCR's overall country strategies in Honduras. The fellow will support the UNHCR in assisting the Honduran government and other partners to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees have full access to the protection and services they need.

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:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Spanish required for this post. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). <p>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.</p> <p>Please direct all applications and any questions about the program to the coordinator, Kathleen Davis, at kathleen.davis@mail.utoronto.ca.</p> <p>Application Deadline: April 15, 2016</p>
Start Date of Internship:	September 1st, 2016
End Date of Internship:	March 1st, 2017
Host Organization:	The International Human Rights Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Host Organization Details:	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.

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.