The University of Chicago Law School  
2018-2019 International Immersion Program Information  
15th-30th March 2019

General Information

Launched in 2012, the International Immersion Program (IIP) provides support to law students seeking substantive, immersive international experiences and helps prepare students to enter an increasingly globalized profession. For the 2018-2019 school year, three Spring Break IIP trips will be offered, two in Europe (France-Belgium-Luxembourg and Hungary-Czech Republic) and one in North Africa (Tunisia-Morocco). The general theme of this year’s International Immersion Program is Law and Democracy, with the trips to Europe focusing on EU law and EU institutions, and the trip to North Africa focusing on the Arab region’s legal development.

Each IIP trip will have up to ten participants. The IIP budget comes from both participant-raised funds and the Law School IIP resources, which together will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, substantive program activities, and business meals. Students will also receive the Law School’s assistance in program development and logistical arrangements. Additionally, the University of Chicago Center in Paris co-sponsors the IIP trip to France-Belgium-Luxembourg.

As ambassadors of the United States, the University of Chicago, and the Law School, participants on the IIP trips are expected to act at the highest level of professionalism and respect in their interactions with the host organizations and their representatives, with University and Law School alumni, with local people, and with each other.

The program details will be discussed at the 2018-2019 IIP Information Session scheduled to take place in Room V from 12:15-1:15 pm on 3rd October 2018. Students with questions can contact International Programs Director Aican Nguyen at aican@uchicago.edu.

Program Description

The immersion program in France-Belgium-Luxembourg will introduce students to the European Union, its laws and institutions. Participants of the trip will first attend two colloquia at the University of Chicago Center in Paris, followed by visits to and meetings with legal professionals at the European Parliament and other institutions in Brussels, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Meetings with lawyers at law firms and NGOs will also be part of the trip program.

The trip to Hungary-Czech Republic will introduce students to the host countries’ legal framework, their constitution and recent legal reform efforts, and their impact of their membership in the European Union on their recent legal development. Student participants will learn about the country’s current
political situation, economic policy, the relationship between its national and local governments, and business and investment law.

Similarly, the trip to North Africa will introduce students to the Arab region’s legal traditions and its recent legal reform efforts, with a focus on legal development in Tunisia and Morocco.

For all participants, the immersion program includes a series of on-campus preparation sessions with faculty members and guest speakers during the Autumn and Winter Quarters, followed by a study trip to the destination country from 15th-30th March 2019. While in the host country, the program participants will participate in a series of seminars and workshops on legal issues. The program will then continue with visits to courts, law firms, federal and local governmental institutions, and NGOs. Students will also have an opportunity to interact with the University and the Law School alumni in the host country.

Program Requirements

1. **Research Paper and Trip Report**
   - Each IIP trip will have a substantive academic component. Prior to the trips, each participant will choose and conduct research on a trip specific topic.
   - An IIP participant can choose to develop his/her trip-related research project into an independent research if a faculty member agrees to supervise his/her research. For more details on Independent Research rules, refer to the Student’s Handbook or visit [http://www.law.uchicago.edu/students/handbook/academicmatters/independent](http://www.law.uchicago.edu/students/handbook/academicmatters/independent)
   - By 28th April 2019, each IIP student must submit his/her final research paper, which will be placed in his/her permanent academic file at the Law School. An IIP research paper should be at least 15 pages double-spaced. All IIP student research papers, whether used as independent research or not, will be posted on Chicago Unbound.
   - In addition to the substantive research paper, students will complete a five-page trip report, which will be due on 28th April 2019.
   - All IIP participants are expected to present their completed trip reports and research papers at a post-trip lunch seminar on 1st May 2019 to share their experiences with the Law School community.

2. **Fundraising and Contributions**

   Given the University’s and the Law School’s restrictions on fundraising within the Law School, successful fundraising requires advance planning, coordination among participants of each trip and with the Office of the Dean of Students, and receipt of permissions from different entities. Groups that have been most successful in the past have worked together, been creative, and started as early as possible. (For example, groups that wait until February to hold a food sale have been disappointed by the amount of competition and/or by the denial of their requests due to other events.) There are also limitations on the number of requests to bar preparation companies and other companies that market to students. In addition, no fundraising from law firms is permitted due to other institutional requests and feedback received from firms. Because of these realities, while the Law School’s goal is to make these trips accessible to all and students are strongly encouraged to work with other students from their trip to raise funds, they should plan to contribute a significant portion of their $750 (or $1000), whether from money set aside and saved from summer jobs, from other personal funds, or from gifts and other funds from family and friends.

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• A first-time IIP participant must raise $750 toward the program costs and turn in the required contribution by 15th January 2019.
• A second- or third-time participant must raise $1000 toward the program costs and turn in the required contribution by 15th January 2019.
• Students can raise funds individually or as groups. All fundraising activities must be completed consistent with current Law School and University policies. These rules will be discussed in detail at the first group meeting on 26th Oct 2018.

3. Other Program Requirements: All IIP participants are required
• to sign a University-provided travel waiver, a participation agreement, and any other trip specific waivers.
• to participate fully in all preparation sessions prior to the trips. Preparation sessions will be held bi-weekly primarily on Friday afternoons (3:30-5:30 p.m.) during the Autumn and Winter Quarters, excluding holidays and exam time. Depending upon lecturer availability, some sessions may be scheduled during the lunch block. This trip will have approximately eight preparation sessions. The first preparation session is from 3:30-5:30 pm in Room V on 26th Oct 2018.
With the exceptions of the Law School excused absences, students should inform and receive permissions from the International Programs Director one day in advance to miss an IIP preparation session.
• to participate fully in all program activities during the trips. During the trip, students are expected to strictly follow the Law School safety rules, which require that IIP participants go out in a group of at least two people and check-in with a Law School administrator each day no later than 11 pm local time.
• to have a passport valid for international travel until 30th September 2019.
• to obtain an entry visa to the host country and a re-entry visa to the US, if required, by 15th January 2019. The Law School will provide all required documents required for visa purposes, but all visa-related expenses are the student’s responsibility.
• to buy a travel insurance plan with trip cancelation/interruption coverage.
• to pay for local travel, touristic activities, and for their own meals.

Application and Selection Process

1. Eligibility
• All Law School students currently enrolled in the JD and LL.M programs are eligible to apply for the IIP trips.
• Participants of past IIP trips are welcome to apply, but priority will be given to first-time students.
• Students can apply for more than one trip.
• Students can participate in no more than one IIP trip per academic year.
2. **Application**: The application deadline is 14th October 2018.

   To be considered for the Program, each IIP applicant must submit the following documents via email to Aican Nguyen at aican@uchicago.edu
   - A completed Student Application Form/Questionnaire.
   - A substantive half-page research proposal. If selected, a participant’s research proposal will serve as the basis for his/her final IIP research paper, unless he/she receives the Law School's permission to change topics.
   - A fundraising proposal. The proposal should set forth the student’s suggestions for potential funding sources and an explanation for why such sources might be interested in sponsoring the trip. Students may choose to submit a joint instead of an individual fundraising proposal. A group fundraising proposal must include the names of its members and the sum of funds they plan to raise as a group to meet the individual requirement (of $750 for a first-time and $1000 for a second-time participant). Each member of a group fundraising proposal must submit a copy of the proposal with his/her application form.
   - An unofficial Law School transcript, or an unofficial transcript from previous academic institutions (1Ls, transfer, and LL.M applicants).
   - A current resume.

3. **Selection**
   - IIP participants will be selected by the International Immersion Program Selection Committee through an open selection process.
   - **Selection criteria**
     - Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
     - Priority will be given to students who have not participated in past IIP trips.
     - Participant selection will be based on criteria set by the Committee which may include demonstrated academic interest in international law, comparative law, and/or the specific topics studied on the trip, diversity of all types, ability to travel as a member of a study team, and other program-specific criteria, such as language skills.
   - **Selection interview**: Each IIP applicant will have an interview with the members of the International Immersion Program Selection Committee.
     - During the interview, in addition to interview questions, each applicant will be asked to give an explanation of his/her academic interests, interests in the trip destination, and relevant travel and other experiences.
   - **Selection result**: Students may expect to learn whether they have been selected by 24th October, 2018.

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2 If a student applies for more than one trip, she/he should submit an application form and a research proposal for each of the trips she/he applies for.