**General Information**

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 2019 - 2020 school year, three Spring Break IIP trips will be offered – in Hong Kong and Taiwan, in Myanmar, and in Brazil. The general theme of this year’s International Immersion Program is **Rule of Law - Democracy - 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 Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong co-sponsors the IIP trip to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

For all IIP participants, the program includes a series of mandatory 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 14th - 28th March 2020.

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 IIP application deadline is 27th October 2019. The program details will be discussed at the IIP Information Session scheduled to take place in Room V from 12:15-1:15 pm on 8th October 2019. Students with questions can contact International Programs Director Aican Nguyen at aican@uchicago.edu.

**Program Description**

The 2019 - 2020 immersion program focuses on the rule of law as a form of governance through the examples of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Myanmar, and Brazil. The Hong Kong – Taiwan trip will give students an opportunity to look at legal development in Hong Kong and Taiwan vis-a-vis China through a two-day workshop on the rule of law, democracy, and development at The University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong, followed by a visit to the University of Hong Kong Law School and meetings with scholars and legal professionals in the government, law firms, and NGOs in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Participants of the IIP trip to Myanmar will start their journey in Hong Kong and join the two-day workshop on the rule of law before heading to Myanmar, where they’ll attend an introductory lecture series on the country’s legal history and recent reforms. The planned trip also includes visits to government offices and meetings with judges and other legal professionals at law firms and NGOs.
The trip to Brazil will focus on the country’s current political situation, recent reforms, economic policies, and the relationship between its national and local governments. The trip participants will start in Sao Paulo, then head to Rio de Janeiro and end the trip in Brasilia.

**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 2020, each IIP student must submit a 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, each participant will complete a five-page trip report, due on 28th April 2020.
   - All IIP participants are expected to share their trip experience and research findings with the Law School community at a post-trip lunch seminar in May 2020.

2. **Fundraising and Contributions**
   - A first-time IIP participant must raise $750 toward the program costs and turn in the required contribution by 15th January 2020.
   - A second- or third-time participant must raise $1000 toward the program costs and turn in the required contribution by 15th January 2020.
   - 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 8th November 2019.

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.

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1 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. 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 as well as to apply for travel funding from the Grad Council, 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.
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 scheduled from 3:30-5:30 pm in Room D on 8th November 2019.

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 2020.
- to obtain an entry visa to the host country and a re-entry visa to the US, if required, by 15th January 2020. The Law School will provide all documents required for visa purposes; however, 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 J.D. and LL.M. programs are eligible to apply for the International Immersion Program.
   - 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 11:59 pm 27th October 2019.

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

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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.
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 (first-year, 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 1st November 2019.