

International Law Programs

Graduate Testimonials

Public International Law

“The program was an unforgettable and enriching experience! Having the opportunity to learn from practitioners of international law in settings where international law is shaped is a unique opportunity that allowed me to envision a future in this field. My time with the program has been inspiring and instructive, and I have made lifelong connections and friendships.”

Maryam Abdelaal, PIL 2024, Ottawa

“The program offered an unparalleled experience. The professors were all remarkable and I appreciated learning alongside students from other law schools across Canada, each bringing a diverse background. The one-week field trip offered opportunities to meet international law professionals and provided insight into what a career in the field might look like. I highly recommend the program!”

Sam Abramson, PIL 2024, Ottawa

“There are some things you can only comprehend through experience - talking with those doing the work, living in the environment, working in that area of law. Through conversations and visiting legal spaces, you see how international law is a different beast - some areas have more "teeth", more funding and more support than others. Each has its own challenges. What you take with you from the program is invaluable knowledge you will simply never get without going. I am so grateful for this experience because, without it, I would have definitely made some mistakes on my career trajectory. It gave clarity and critical information to make important career decisions. If you hope to practice international law, find a way to get yourself to this program. You will be glad you did.”

Constance Carriere-Prill, PIL 2023, Queen's

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the PIL program. The experience allowed me to build life-long connections with and learn from like-minded students and distinguished international law professionals, all while being surrounded by the very institutions that have shaped international law. Before attending, I found international law intriguing to study, but the program opened my eyes to the diverse career opportunities available.”

Kaitlyn Clark, PIL 2024, Manitoba

“I was a participant in the PIL program as a mature student in the Master of Law program. I thoroughly enjoyed my learning journey and was especially impressed with the caliber of instruction and the level of engagement demonstrated by every student. The professors typically operate at a very senior level in their respective areas of International law and generously shared their lived experiences with us. The program is professionally run with considerable support for the individual needs of students. It most certainly ranks as the top experiential learning experiences that I have had, and I highly recommend it to anyone considering a career in international public or business law.”

Lisa Fudge, PIL 2023, Queen's LLM

"The program provided such a unique and unforgettable experience for our cohort. In addition to learning from an exceptional group of instructors, the connections I have made are invaluable. The visits to The Hague and Geneva stand out as just a couple of the many highlights from this experience. I would do it again in a heartbeat!"
Francesca Griffin, PIL 2023, Windsor

"Alongside students from universities across Canada, I immersed myself in three comprehensive courses which covered the fundamentals of international law, the intricacies of international arbitration and dispute resolution, the key characteristics and institutions of international commercial law, and the various ways states engage in cross-border commerce. A highlight of the program was spending a week in Paris and Geneva, visiting prestigious law firms and organizations pivotal to international business law. Our classroom knowledge was enriched by lectures from distinguished guest speakers. I was especially touched by the passion, determination and optimism I sensed from the conversations I had with the brilliant individuals I met."
Juliette Walker-Hanley, IBL 2024, McGill

"I began the program completely unsure about the path my legal career would take. Two months later, I returned to Canada with a renewed self-confidence and sense of purpose. I cannot speak highly enough of the program, the instructors, and the guest speakers, who introduced me to this dynamic area of the law, and inspired me to pursue an international legal career."
Michael Watkins, PIL 2022, Osgoode Hall

"The program offered a unique opportunity to connect with leading experts in the field of international law and build lasting friendships with colleagues from universities across Canada. Visiting key institutions like the United Nations, International Criminal Court, and the International Court of Justice provided first-hand insights into how international law operates. This experience was truly invaluable, offering significant opportunities for travel, academic development, and personal growth."
Travis Wilson, PIL 2024, Queen's

"I chose to do this program because I had an interest in refugee and human rights law, and there are not many opportunities for 1L students interested in the social justice field, so it was the perfect option for me! I recommend this to anyone who thinks they may have the slightest interest in international law because the people you meet, the things you learn, and experiences you gain are truly priceless and will help you in whatever you do. The workload is definitely intense, but it was super interesting to see what we learnt in class applied in the real world during our field trips to The Hague and Geneva. Can't recommend this program enough, you will be working the rest of your life, take advantage of 1L summer to do something different and interesting!"
Mylène Woehrlé, PIL 2023, Ottawa

"The program is a unique opportunity that I would highly recommend to any law student. Classroom learning becomes an experience through incorporation of talented guest speakers, insightful teachers and visits to organizations that function daily within the international sphere."
Dylan Wong, PIL 2023, Queen's

International Business Law

"The program is an amazing opportunity to learn about international law in either the business or public law streams, and to do something with your upcoming summer that will help you academically and professionally. Getting to see so much of Europe while doing summer courses was a really rewarding experience, and allowed all of us who took part in the program to form great friendships. The program allowed me to feel more confident going into my second year, travel around Europe with friends, and meet very accomplished people with amazing academic and career advice. This program is extremely well run, and the people running it made the experience amazing for all of us."
Logan Dillon, IBL 2023, Queen's

"The program was easily among the top highlights of my law school experience. Gaining invaluable exposure to international law, students get the opportunity to learn from incredible instructors and guest speakers, while making profound connections with peers in numerous unique settings."

Ryan Erdman, IBL 2022, Osgoode Hall

"The highlights of the program for me were the opportunities to challenge myself in practical advocacy and negotiation skills, like in the mock WTO negotiations. If you have any questions about the program, Gillian Ready is your best resource. With her boundless passion and knowledge, she helped me decide which stream was right for me."

Sam Fostaty, IBL 2022, Queen's

"Looking back, this was a major highlight of my law school career. I was able to make new connections and see how the law operates in practice at institutions such as the World Trade Organization and major international law firms such as Sidley Austin. I also was able to secure a legal internship in the field of international business law because of the accreditation and the practical knowledge I gained from this program. With such a return on investment, I highly recommend the program to any student hoping to get an early leg up in their academic and professional career."

Iman Jaffari, IBL 2022, Queen's JD/MBA

2024 End-of-program survey responses

This program was a life-changing experience. This was my first exchange, it turned out better than I expected. Germany is very close to other European countries where I was able to travel with other students during the weekends!

I was exposed to an area of law I would not otherwise have experienced. I developed lifelong friendships and connections with peers. I was able to travel in my free time and create lasting memories. I will never forget this experience and opportunity.

I would absolutely recommend this program to students interested in international law. Through the program not only do you learn about IL but you get to learn what it looks like in practice from practicing professionals and in the actual places it happens. Before the program I was interested in IL as something to learn but I never really thought about a career in it. After the program, my eyes have been opened to many possibilities for careers in international law that I had no idea about.

The program was a fantastic way to spend the summer of 1L. Learning about international law while being immersed in European culture, getting to meet fantastic and world-renowned legal professionals, and travelling to The Hague and Geneva to explore the UN offices were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that I will forever cherish.

I feel like I've grown immensely personally and professionally. Not only is it great to get to know students from other schools and explore Europe, the content is so interesting and I think everyone should know about it!