



Institute of International  
Shipping and Trade Law



*Making waves in shipping and trade for over 20 years*

# Internships

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Shipping and Trade Law



## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWANSEA LLM STUDENTS

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The Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law (IISTL) enjoys close links with many international law firms and other organisations specialising in various aspects of commercial, maritime, energy and IP law, and legaltech.

This puts our LLM students in an excellent position to take advantage of internships offered by a number of these organisations.

Internships play a valuable role in exposing our students to the workplace, allowing them to develop their networks and gain real life experience in their chosen areas.

Each year, particularly over the summer, our students spend their time as interns with various organisations.

In the following pages, you will read about the internship experiences of several students from our most recent cohort (2023-24).



## OLUWAKEMI ISHOLA - KENNEDYS LAW LLP

"As the inaugural winner of the 'Kennedys Prize in AI in Commerce and Legal Practice', I am honoured to have achieved the highest score in the Artificial Intelligence in Commerce and Legal Practice module.

This new prize, established through a partnership between the IISTL and Kennedys, has provided me with an incredible opportunity. In addition to the financial reward, I am thrilled to be starting a 2-week internship with the Kennedys IQ department dealing with data-powered technology as part of legal practice. During this time, I will have the chance to work on ongoing projects alongside industry experts in the field, gaining invaluable hands-on experience. I am deeply grateful to Kennedys and the IISTL for this exceptional opportunity. This experience will undoubtedly mark a significant milestone in my academic and professional journey."

# Kennedys



## VAIDEHI KOLHE - IMO

"I was offered a research internship at the Maritime Knowledge Centre of the International Maritime Organization in London.

During my tenure, I was fortunate to observe the 10th Session of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, the 41st meeting of the Editorial and Technical Group (IMSBS Code) and the 2nd WMO-IMO Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather.

It was an enlightening experience, and I could interact with delegates of the Member-States, NGOs and IGOs. This experience helped me understand the nuances of devising strategies and institutional frameworks necessary for the maritime sector."

## JOSHUA BENN - STEPHENSON HARWOOD

"I was awarded the Energy Law Prize for attaining the highest mark in the Offshore Energy Law module, which allowed me to spend one week at Stephenson Harwood LLP's London office, where I was attached to the Maritime, Trade and Offshore (MTO) Department.

This exposed me to some of the main issues that affect the sectors. For example, I researched indemnity and charterparty contracts and the UK's 'Contracts for Difference' scheme for low carbon electricity generation I was also able to interact with some of the key personnel of the firm, which provided me with first-hand insight into, for example, how technical in-house experts are invaluable to providing solutions to clients within the sectors. I am very grateful to Swansea University for providing me with this opportunity."

**STEPHENSON  
HARWOOD**



**STEPHENSON  
HARWOOD**



## AJA BAH - STEPHENSON HARWOOD

"The internship opportunity with Stephenson Harwood energy team enabled me to see how law works in practice, how relationships with clients are developed and what I need to do to enhance my professional life as a practicing lawyer.

It was one of the highlights of my LLM degree at Swansea and I am grateful to my School and Stephenson Harwood for this fantastic opportunity."

## ER NUO - CHINA P&I CLUB

"China Shipowners Mutual Assurance Association, kindly offered me a one-month internship opportunity. My supervisor was brilliant and offered me great exposure to many big names in the shipping industry as well as many P&I clubs such as NorthStandard, etc.

Apart from being introduced to the more practical aspects of P&I and H&M cover, I was mainly learning about the Marine Delay Insurance (MDI) underwriting process; a new and interesting insurance type to me. I was given the opportunity to learn more about ship finance and get in touch with many leasing companies in China. At the same time, I also learned about the reinsurance structure and the claim handling process. This internship experience was no doubt very productive and comprehensive, I enjoyed it very much and I am grateful to the IISTL for facilitating this opportunity."



## JIALE LIN - CHINA P&I CLUB

"A one-month internship with China P&I is the best opportunity for anyone who is considering a career in the shipping industry. Even day-to-day claims work is challenging and always exciting at the world's top port, Shanghai.

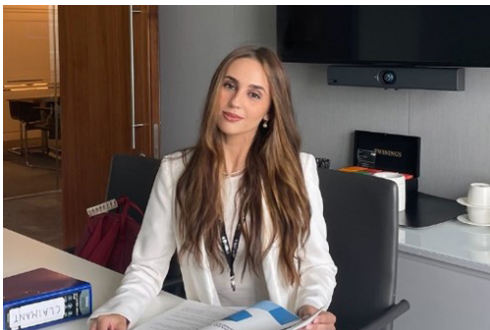
During my time at the Claims Department, I undertook legal research on a wide range of trending topics relating to deck cargo damage, repatriation and injury of seafarers every week, which enabled me to apply what I learned at Swansea University to real practice."

## EHSAN SARKHOSH - FLOYD ZADKOVICH

“The FZ Summer Virtual Scheme began with two Legal Experience Days, during which I had the opportunity to shadow lawyers from Floyd Zadkovich’s London office and engage in live legal tasks including case report preparation and commercial arbitration related issues. On the third day, I was challenged with a written task that simulated the work typically undertaken by associates and trainees. The last two days were dedicated to preparing for an FZ Moot, where I received coaching and insightful feedback. Overall, the scheme provided valuable practical experience and professional insights, effectively bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world legal practice. I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank the IISTL for all the support I received throughout the year. It has been a year where I learnt a lot and grew, both as a person as well as a young professional. I am always grateful for all the opportunities that the IISTL has provided.”



## ILIANA FOUNTOGLOU - FLOYD ZADKOVICH



“My internship at the law firm Floyd Zadkovich was an invaluable experience. The daily tasks allowed me to engage closely with the firm’s lawyers and fellow interns, which helped me expand my legal knowledge and refine my practical skills.

During an enriching week, I had the chance to dive into the fast-paced fields of shipping law, arbitration, and commercial litigation. I worked on matters such as demurrage claims, the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards in the UK, drafting letters of demand, and I participated in a Moot Competition addressing the invocation of a War Peril Clause in a charterparty contract. I am thankful for this opportunity, as it aligned perfectly with my postgraduate studies in International Commercial and Maritime Law at Swansea University.”

## AKASH DUBEY - FLOYD ZADKOVICH

"My internship was an invaluable experience that consolidated my passion for maritime law. I had the opportunity to shadow associates in various practice areas, including arbitration, charterparties, banking law, and trade law. This hands-on exposure allowed me to apply my classroom knowledge to real-world legal challenges. One of the highlights was participating in a moot arbitration alongside peers from other universities. Additionally, I attended seminars conducted by experienced lawyers from both the London and US offices. These offered unique perspectives on the firm's work and the shipping industry. The lawyers were generous with their advice, sharing their career paths and providing guidance on succeeding in the field. I am deeply grateful to IISTL for this incredible opportunity. Working alongside professionals with decades of experience has been truly inspiring. I am confident that this internship has equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in my career."

**FZ** | FLOYD  
ZADKOVICH



 **gard**



## CESAR PENICHE-LUNA - GARD

"Gard is the largest P&I Club, with 20% market share across the shipping sector. They are also one of the only Clubs that has expanded into offshore, energy, shipbuilding and the hull sectors. I had the great privilege of being the first student from the IISTL to be awarded an internship at Gard. I worked at the London office, where I had hands-on experience with FD&D and Claims cases, testing the knowledge acquired during my LLM. I was immersed in the underwriting process, learning about the products Gard offers. Lastly, I was able to visit 4 Pump Court, the High Court, and Lloyd's Market, obtaining invaluable contacts within the industry in London. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the IISTL for making this opportunity available. It was a testament of the high consideration that the shipping industry has for Swansea University's Shipping & Trade LLMs. I am sure that this experience will prove useful in advancing my career."

## FARUK MUTLU - HUDSON MORGAN WILLIAMS

“Hudson Morgan Williams is a boutique litigation practice based in London, routinely instructed to act in large-value, complex commercial and contractual disputes, often involving multiple jurisdictions. During my time with the firm, I engaged in meaningful discussions with legal professionals, gaining insights from different perspectives on intricate legal issues. My role primarily involved conducting thorough legal research and drafting legal documents, which deepened my understanding of commercial litigation and legal processes while sharpening my analytical and communication skills.

I truly enjoyed being in such an intellectually stimulating environment while pursuing my LLM at Swansea University, as it provided me with valuable real-world experience and complemented my academic studies.”



## SHRUSHTI SHETTY - AGOR INNOVATION

“As an Intellectual Property and Innovation student, I completed two impressive internships, enhancing my expertise in international recruitment and intellectual property management. As an intern with the University’s International Recruitment Team, I contributed to the global recruitment strategy through data analysis, market research, and implementing international engagement initiatives, honing my skills in cross-cultural communication, strategic planning, and data-driven decision-making. In a subsequent role as an Intellectual Property Intern at Agor Innovation, I worked closely with industry professionals on the protection and commercialisation of innovative technologies. This provided a comprehensive understanding of IP law, patent filings, and commercialisation strategies, equipping me with the knowledge to assess the market potential of emerging technologies and manage the IP lifecycle. I would like to thank the IISTL for their support in providing these fantastic opportunities.”



## SHANGHENG LI - BIMCO

“As a postgraduate student at Swansea University Law School, I recently completed my studies and am now fully focused on my graduation project. During my time at Swansea, I was fortunate enough to be offered many valuable opportunities, and one of the most significant was the internship program at the Shanghai office of BIMCO, the largest international shipping association. When I first learned about this opportunity, I was both excited and a bit nervous, as it’s not every day that you get the chance to interview with such a prestigious international organisation.

Having never participated in an interview for a large-scale international organisation like BIMCO before, I naturally felt some anxiety. However, my studies at Swansea University had provided me with a solid foundation of knowledge and confidence. The professors not only equipped us with the necessary theoretical expertise but also continuously encouraged us to embrace challenges and push beyond our comfort zones. Their support helped me remain composed and confident throughout the two rounds of interviews, ultimately leading me to secure this incredible internship opportunity.

Looking back, I feel an immense sense of gratitude toward Swansea University. The university not only provided me with a platform to step onto the global stage but also cultivated a learning environment that fostered growth and ambition. I’m especially thankful to my tutors and professors, whose encouragement and guidance throughout my academic journey empowered me to take this leap and pursue new challenges.

Securing this internship with BIMCO is a true honour, and I am incredibly excited about the opportunity. I look forward to further developing my skills in this leading global shipping organisation, gaining valuable industry experience, and preparing for the next steps in my career.”

The BIMCO logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A horizontal blue bar is positioned above the letters 'I' and 'M'.



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# Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law Swansea University

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