

17<sup>th</sup>  
EDITION



**MIDS**

GENEVA LL.M.  
IN INTERNATIONAL  
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

**2024-2025** PROGRAM



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTÉ DE DROIT

GENEVA  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE

INSTITUT DE HAUTES  
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES  
ET D'UN DÉVELOPPEMENT  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# WELCOME



**PROFESSOR  
MARIE-LAURE  
SALLES**

Director of the  
Graduate Institute  
of International  
and Development  
Studies, Geneva

The main teaching mission of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies is to prepare its students to assume leadership roles in the international community. Our ambition is also to offer young and midcareer professionals the tools, knowledge and competencies they need to advance their career and increase their contribution to solving the many problems and complex challenges of our world. In that regard, our partnership with the University of Geneva, particularly its Faculty of Law, has proven to be highly instrumental. Between them, our two institutions have more than two dozen professors specializing in public and private international law, an exceptional density of expertise and competencies that very few places in the world can match. The LL.M. program in International Dispute Settlement is a stellar illustration of the value of our partnership and we have every reason to be proud of a program that corresponds so well to the role of Geneva as a world-leading hub for dispute settlement and the vocation of our Institute as a center of excellence in international studies.



**PROFESSOR  
AUDREY LEUBA**

Dean of the Faculty  
of Law of the  
University of Geneva

With more than 15 years of experience, the Master in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) has acquired a reputation for excellence and attracts selected students from all over the world every year. This success continues. It is primarily due to the quality of the courses taught by more than twenty of the most prominent experts in the field of international dispute settlement. But it is also due to the environment in which the MIDS has developed. Geneva has a long tradition in arbitration, dating back to the 19th century, and today is home to a large number of law firms active in the field of arbitration and mediation. But Geneva has also developed a long tradition in international relations and today hosts numerous international organizations and U.N. Agencies (including the WTO, WIPO, WHO or WEF to name a few) as well as a large number of non-governmental organizations. All of this contributes to a “Geneva spirit” which is a hallmark of the courses and seminars offered at MIDS.

The Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva is proud of a Master's degree that undeniably contributes to its international influence. The result of a partnership between our Faculty and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, it is also the symbol of a successful collaboration between two neighboring and friendly academic institutions.

## Program Committee

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DE CHAZOURNES**

Professor, University of Geneva

**JACQUES DE WERRA**

Professor, University of Geneva

**ZACHARY DOUGLAS**

Professor, Graduate Institute

**JOOST PAUWELYN**

Professor & Head  
International Law Department,  
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**MARIONA CUSÍ VIDAL**

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Kohler; Council President

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DE CHAZOURNES**

Professor, University of Geneva

**JACQUES DE WERRA**

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Dean, Faculty of Law,  
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**JOOST PAUWELYN**

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Swiss State Secretariat for  
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President, Swiss Arbitration  
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# MIDS

## PROGRAM

International courts and tribunals, international arbitration and mediation are taking center-stage in the international legal and economic arena. Positions in the corresponding departments of major law firms and in international dispute settlement institutions consequently have become among the most sought-after jobs in the field of law. To succeed, candidates for these positions must distinguish themselves, which is exactly where the MIDS makes a difference.

When it was established in 2008, the MIDS was the frontrunner to specialized education in international dispute settlement. Throughout the years, and based on its outstanding faculty, educational methodology and careful selection of students, the MIDS reputation has grown and consolidated as the leading program in the field.

### Faculty

Dispute settlement mechanisms overlap, influence each other, and may sometimes conflict. Leaders in the field must now have a solid understanding of all the major international dispute settlement tools worldwide. With its outstanding faculty, the MIDS caters to these needs and offers students a unique opportunity to learn from world-class professors and practitioners.

The professors are some of the most prominent experts in each field of international dispute settlement and come from the USA, South America, Asia, Africa and throughout Europe.

### A carefully designed curriculum

The MIDS curriculum is designed to meet the educational needs that arise from the job market. It teaches about dispute settlement from a holistic perspective and covers all its aspects. With the aim to achieve excellence in its approach and education, the MIDS provides students not only with sound theoretical knowledge, but also with training in key legal skills. Through a series of learning-by-doing workshops and activities, MIDS students hone their advocacy (both oral and written) and technical skills. Workshops like the FIAA or the Academic Retreat also help in bringing students in contact with numerous professionals in the field, who will interact with the students to provide them with individual feedback and guidance. This unique curriculum gives the students a strategic advantage in the field of international dispute settlement.

The program is global in terms of format and faculty. Its structure combines the multicultural approach to legal studies in Continental Europe with the interactive teaching method of the United States. Class size is kept relatively small to ensure maximum interaction between faculty and students.



## Career services

The MIDS career services are meant to help students develop the skills and confidence required to succeed in breaking into the international dispute settlement market, be this an international law firm, arbitral institution, international organization, international court, or company.

The MIDS career services play a central role and accompany the students from day one and throughout their studies. In addition, during the academic year, students are exposed to numerous opportunities, including in the form of networking events and job interviews.

## The MIDS Community

MIDS alumni are spread all over the world, holding positions in top law firms, international organizations, international courts, arbitral institutions, justice and trade ministries of national governments, companies, international law departments at universities, or as members of the judiciary.

Comprised not only of its students and alumni, but also of the faculty, staff and a vast network of professionals working in all areas of international dispute settlement, the MIDS Community is a testament to the success and potential of the program.

## A strategic location

The MIDS also reflects the fact that Geneva is a major arbitration hub with a long-standing tradition in dispute settlement and home to over 200 international organizations and UN agencies. It therefore maintains interactions with institutions such as the WTO, WIPO, or UNCTAD. Students also have opportunities for networking with practitioners at career events, conferences, and during visits to international dispute resolution institutions either in Geneva or abroad.

## The MIDS

If you have the ambition of working on high-stake disputes, or if you are interested in gaining a thorough understanding of international dispute settlement and pursue an academic career in this area, then this program is for you.



# A JOINT PROGRAM

The MIDS is a joint venture of the Graduate Institute and the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and operates under the umbrella of these institutions' common Centre for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS). Its mission is to explore, understand and inform about international dispute settlement; to independently study its developments, dynamics and norms; and to educate future actors.

The MIDS thus benefits from the unique concentration of expertise in international law and dispute settlement gathered at its two parent institutions as well as at the CIDS.

Students are admitted for one academic year of study in residence (September through June), typically followed by up to two months of independent research and writing, leading to the degree of Master of Advanced Studies in Law / LL.M.

The structure of our largely elective program is such that it offers students sufficient latitude to pursue their specific interests in dispute settlement while acquiring indispensable knowledge in the field within set parameters. A typical curriculum includes:

- Two general courses providing a comprehensive overview of international dispute settlement.
- At least 8 intensive courses from a choice of 12 to 15.
- Two optional courses from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement, international law, and business law.
- Weekly tutorials held in small groups.
- Clinical and practice-oriented workshops in oral and written advocacy in arbitration, financial damage analysis, and mediation.
- A two-day academic retreat.
- Site visits to international dispute settlement institutions.
- Attendance to one or two major academic conferences and symposia, either in Switzerland or abroad.
- Various high-profile lectures and seminars.
- Two short essays and a 40-50 page master thesis.
- Networking events.

The MIDS also offers its students the choice to extend their studies for an additional year to pursue one or more internships as part of their MIDS curriculum.

# IMPORTANT DATES

FOR THE 2024-2025 PROGRAM



2023	20 October	Applications open
	20 December	Application deadline
2024	4 March	Decisions on admission
	16 September	First day of class
2025	20 June	Last day of class
	3 August	Master thesis submission deadline



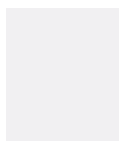
# GENERAL

## COURSES & TUTORIALS



The groundwork of the curriculum consists of two general courses, which provide a comprehensive overview of international dispute settlement. The first course, held during the first semester, sets the stage and explains the different mechanisms for resolving international disputes. The second discusses the main procedural issues that arise in international legal proceedings.

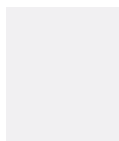
### First General Course: The Organization of International Dispute Settlement



**PROFESSOR THOMAS SCHULTZ**, University of Geneva

What types of situations give rise to disputes in the international arena? How are these different disputes settled? What dispute resolution mechanisms are available? The course will focus on investment and commercial arbitration, ICJ and WTO dispute settlement procedures as well as on certain other contemporary dispute settlement mechanisms. The main characteristics of each dispute settlement institution and procedure will be examined, with emphasis put on the types of disputes that can be brought before each one as well as other relevant issues of jurisdiction.

### Second General Course: International Legal Proceedings



**PROFESSOR ZACHARY DOUGLAS**, Graduate Institute

This course covers the main procedural issues arising in the international legal proceedings examined in the first general course. As the procedures in the different dispute resolution processes raise similar issues (e.g. jurisdiction, provisional remedies, equal treatment, evidence, enforcement), this course reviews these aspects with an eye to comparisons and contrasts.



## Tutorials

Tutorials are intrinsically connected to the general courses. Inspired by the Oxford tutorial system, tutorials are weekly interactions between a tutor and a group of ten students. Tutorials serve two different purposes. On the one hand, they provide an opportunity for a revisit and more detailed exploration and illustration of the key concepts addressed in the general courses. On the other, in every tutorial session a student presents a research paper which is discussed with all participants.

Students are expected to participate actively during tutorials, not only in the discussion of the issues covered by the general courses, but also on the research papers presented by their classmates.



# INTENSIVE

COURSES 2024-2025

Intensive courses, most of which are taught by visiting professors, provide an opportunity to go into the details of various topics in international dispute settlement. Such courses in principle consist of nine hours of class taught over two or three days. Students pick at least eight of the following courses.

## 1. French Law in International Arbitration: Law, practice and annulment of international arbitral awards



**PROF. MAXIMIN DE FONTMICHEL**, Professor of Private Law, Director of the Master in International Arbitration and Business Law (MACI), University Paris – Saclay

The French arbitration law, tradition and culture are not only among the most important frameworks for international commercial arbitration today because Paris is a leading place for international arbitration; they are also among the intellectual factors that most profoundly shaped the world of arbitration as we know it today. As French arbitration law still inspires new legal frameworks and is being used by practitioners throughout the world, this course introduces the students to that French heritage, from the rules governing the arbitral agreement to the rules applicable to the arbitral award, and discusses today's international commercial arbitration law and practice in France.

## 2. International Commercial Arbitration in the UK



**PROF. STAVROS BREKOULAKIS**, Professor in International Arbitration Law, Queen Mary University of London & Member of 3 Verulam Buildings (Gray's Inn)

London has been traditionally one of the most important, and arguably the most popular, arbitration centre worldwide, with more than 5,000 arbitration cases being recorded annually. This course examines the fundamental theoretical concepts and legal framework for international commercial arbitration in the UK. While attention is focused on UK arbitration law and practice, discussion will include comparative references to other major arbitration jurisdictions as well as international arbitration instruments, including the 1958 New York Convention, and arbitration rules of the major arbitration institutions.

## 3. International Courts and Tribunals and Provisional Measures



**PROF. MARCELO KOHEN**, Emeritus Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Provisional measures raise several difficult questions for the judges and arbitrators having to decide on their request. This is true not only with regard to the conditions to be met in order to indicate them, but also with regard to the impact the decision may have in the following steps of the procedure (jurisdiction, merits). This intensive course will critically assess the case law of inter-State courts and tribunals as well as that of investor-State arbitration.



## 4. Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement



**PROF. GABRIELLE KAUFMANN-KOHLER**, Professor Emerita, University of Geneva;  
Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

At the same time as it grew exponentially, investment arbitration started attracting increasingly vocal criticism especially about the lack of transparency, consistency and legitimacy. This course seeks to understand where investment arbitration comes from, what the profound reasons for the current critiques and concerns are, and why they are raised now. It then focuses on the reform initiatives that are presently ongoing, be it through treaty drafting, rules amendments by institutions, such as ICSID, and most importantly through the UNCITRAL reform process. Should investment arbitration be abolished in favor of national courts, or mediation? Should it be replaced by an investment court? Or supplemented by a permanent appellate mechanism? Should it be simply improved? How? Answering these questions will allow to reflect on the purpose of international dispute settlement and on how to design a workable and fair justice system.

## 5. The New York Convention of 1958



**PROF. ALBERT JAN VAN DEN BERG**, Emeritus Professor of Law (arbitration chair), Erasmus University (Rotterdam); Distinguished Faculty Co-Chair, International Arbitration LL.M. Program, University of Miami School of Law; Visiting Professor, Georgetown Law School (Washington DC) and Tsinghua School of Law (Beijing); Partner, Hanotiau & van den Berg (Brussels)

The New York Convention of 1958 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards is the single most important legal text in international agreements and arbitral awards. Students taking the New York Convention of 1958 course obtain a unique insight into the application of the Convention and the great challenges it faces to keep current with the world of arbitration as it has evolved since 1958. Indeed, since the publication in 1981 of his classical treatise “The New York Convention of 1958: Towards a Uniform Judicial Interpretation”, Professor Albert Jan van den Berg has been widely recognized as the worldwide expert on the topic. See also his website: [www.newyorkconvention.org](http://www.newyorkconvention.org)

## 6. WTO Dispute Settlement



**PROF. GABRIELLE MARCEAU**, Geneva University; Senior Counsellor,  
WTO Research Division (ERSD)

This course focuses on how the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO operates from a legal, political, and diplomatic perspective. In reviewing the procedural steps of actual disputes, including the use of experts, the retaliation stage, together with alternative means of settling disputes, the students will be able to better understand how States and other international actors can address international economic tensions resulting from societal choices, while pursuing the WTO goals of both fighting illegitimate protectionism and protecting legitimate public policy objectives. It will also help understand the context of the suspension of the Appellate Body's activities and the calls for specific or general reforms in the WTO, and its dispute settlement system.

# INTENSIVE

COURSES 2024-2025



## 7. The Arbitration Agreement in International Commercial Arbitration



**PROF. SÉBASTIEN BESSON**, Professor, University of Neuchâtel; Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler

The arbitration agreement is the cornerstone of international commercial arbitration. It raises complex theoretical issues that have direct practical consequences. This course explores these issues in depth, including the enforcement of the arbitration agreement, the contents of the arbitration agreement (including so-called “pathological” arbitration agreements), the laws governing arbitration agreements, the notion of separability and the principle of competence-competence, the scope of the arbitration agreement and arbitrability. The course has a comparative law dimension and examines the relevant international treaties and some selected domestic arbitration laws.

## 8. Theoretical and Practical Aspects of International Commercial Arbitration Involving States and State Entities



**PROF. EDUARDO SILVA ROMERO**, Partner, Dechert LLP; Chairman of the ICC Institute of World Business Law; former Deputy Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Professor Emeritus at Rosario University in Bogotá; Lecturer at Paris 2 University and Sciences Po Paris

The decline, political or otherwise, of investment arbitration has caused an explosion in the use of international commercial arbitration to resolve investment disputes. States and State entities, however, have always had confidence in the international commercial arbitration system. The statistics and works of the ICC International Court of Arbitration support this proposition. It is, as a result, timely and relevant to examine anew the theoretical and practical aspects of this classical type of arbitration when used by private parties, on the one hand, and States and State entities, on the other. In particular, (i) notions such as subjective arbitrability, the prohibition to rely on the State’s internal law to escape the effects of an international commercial arbitration agreement, the applicable law to State contracts, and (ii) practical issues such as the drafting of the arbitration agreement, the formation of the tribunal, the transparency of the proceedings, and the enforcement of the award in those cases, among many other notions and practical questions, should be reassessed.

## 9. ICC Arbitration



**ALEXANDER G. FESSAS**, Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration

The International Court of Arbitration is the world’s most preferred arbitral institution. Its unique set of rules and practices have been applied to more than 28,000 disputes since 1923. Students taking ICC Arbitration are offered a practical overview of the ICC arbitration process and its specificities. This course runs for 18 hours, and culminates in a two-day visit at the ICC headquarters and a law firm in Paris.



## 10. Fundamentals of Investment Treaty Arbitration



**PROF. GEORGIOS PETROCHILOS KC**, Founding Partner, Three Crowns;  
Visiting professor, University of Fribourg

This nine-hour foundational course will cover the following: 1) Who is entitled to bring an investment-treaty claim, against whom, and in respect of what types of claims/counter-claims; 2) The main arbitral fora in which such claims can be brought; and the considerations to take into account in selecting or opposing a forum; 3) Obstacles to the admissibility of claims and counterclaims; and 4) The principal causes of action in investment-treaty claims (expropriation, fair and equitable treatment, full protection and security, discrimination, MFN).

## 11. Dispute Settlement Mechanisms for Environmental and Climate Change Disputes



**PROF. LAURENCE BOISSON DE CHAZOURNES**, University of Geneva

Environmental and climate change disputes at the international level are on the rise, frequently being litigated before various types of dispute resolution mechanisms. The specific contours of these disputes with respect to common interests, risk prevention or intergenerational equity deserve special attention. This course will focus on the dispute settlement mechanisms (ICJ, arbitration, investment arbitration as well as specialized means) which are available as well as the procedural tools that can be employed, for example, resorting to expert evidence, provisional measures or counter-claims.

## 12. Arbitration of Intellectual Property & Technology Disputes



**PROF. JACQUES DE WERRA**, Professor and Director of the Digital Law Center,  
Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

In the knowledge economy, intangible assets, technology and data (that can be protected by intellectual property rights [IP]) are of strategic importance for the competitiveness of companies and of countries. This has unsurprisingly led to an increase of international IP and technology disputes. Arbitration has emerged as a privileged way to solve such disputes. On this basis, the goal of this intensive course is to present and discuss the use of arbitration for solving IP & technology disputes in the light of recent trends and of potential future developments.

Further intensive courses may be included at a later stage. To consult the full range of courses for the 2024-2025 MIDS academic year, please visit our website: [www.cids.ch/mids/joining-us/academic-calendar](http://www.cids.ch/mids/joining-us/academic-calendar)

# WORKSHOPS

TRAINING SEMINARS & ACADEMIC RETREAT



The MIDS curriculum includes a series of workshops designed to improve skills required in international dispute settlement, such as written and oral advocacy, expertise in damage quantification, and settlement techniques.

## 1. Financial Damage Analysis | Expert Witness Perspectives



**GEOFFREY SENOGLES**, Partner, Senogles & Co, Chartered Accountants, Switzerland

Any lawyer working in arbitration, whether as counsel, arbitrator or arbitral secretary, will undoubtedly be faced with quantum issues. The goal of this series of workshops is to provide an introduction into financial damage expertise and methodologies from the perspective of a practising forensic accountant who has testified on over 60 occasions as financial expert witness in international proceedings (e.g. at ICSID, ICJ, ICC, SCC, Iran-US Claims Tribunal, TAS/CAS Lausanne, High Court in London etc.) and previously dealt with financial aspects of mass claims while on staff at the United Nations Compensation Commission. He now sits on the Investment Committee of a major litigation funder. Our first workshop concentrates our whole attention on the role, obligations, pressures and perspectives of an expert witness. The aim of our workshops is to provide an introduction into the field of valuation, with practical examples.

## 2. Mediation



**BIRGIT SAMBETH**, Partner, Altenburger Ltd legal+tax

A respected international commercial mediator will take students through the nuts and bolts of mediation: When should parties settle? When are they ready to do so? How to bring them to a settlement through a facilitated interest based negotiation? What is the context and how does the mediation process unfold? These are some of the key questions in mediation; they require special skills, which are too often ignored by counsels and arbitrators alike, much to the detriment of the parties.

## 3. Legal Writing and Written Advocacy



**DAVID RONEY AND TANYA LANDON**, Partners, Sidley Austin

Taught by two experienced practitioners, this workshop covers the legal drafting process in international arbitration with a special emphasis on written advocacy and persuasion. In addition to theoretical underpinnings, it includes practical exercises and individualized feedback on legal submissions drafted as part of the workshop.



## 4. Witness Examination in International Arbitration

**FIAA – Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy**

FIAA is a Geneva-based foundation widely recognized as providing the world's best clinical training in arbitration advocacy. Based on our longstanding partnership, FIAA provides MIDS students with an intensive two-day workshop on witness examination in international arbitration. Through a combination of lectures, demonstrations and, most importantly, small group learning-by-doing exercises, MIDS students have a unique opportunity to learn and put into practice critically important advocacy skills and techniques, all of which has proven to dramatically improve the oral advocacy skills of each and every student.

### Academic Retreat



**CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY**

Guided by **DR. MICHELE POTESÀ**, Partner, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler;  
Senior Researcher, CIDS

The MIDS academic retreat is a two-day outing in a picturesque country setting. In addition to providing an opportunity to socialize and network among students and faculty, it is mainly devoted to a moot court exercise in international arbitration.

The purpose is to develop skills in analyzing facts and evidence, building a strategy, construing legal arguments, practicing oral advocacy, and improving teamwork skills, all within limited time and with pressure evocative of reality. The retreat concludes with a series of hearings conducted before tribunals composed of experienced arbitration practitioners.

### LALIVE Training Seminar

Thanks to a partnership with LALIVE, an international law firm with offices in Geneva, Zurich and London, MIDS students will benefit from the experience and knowledge of the firm's leading lawyers during a half-day training seminar on the practice of international arbitration, with a particular focus on commercial arbitration proceedings.

MIDS students will also have the opportunity to informally meet and exchange with the partners and counsels of the firm.



# LECTURES,

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, STUDY VISITS

**Public lectures with distinguished guest lecturers, international conferences in Switzerland and abroad, seminars on new developments in international dispute settlement and study visits to international institutions abroad are an important component of the MIDS curriculum.**

## Lectures

The MIDS organizes public lectures where well-known academics and practitioners address a larger audience on current dispute resolution issues.

In these fifteen years, speakers at MIDS lectures have included, among others, Alexis Mourre, Judge Xue Hanqin, Prof. José Alvarez, the late Prof. David D. Caron, Prof. Yves Daudet, Judge Christopher Greenwood, Meg Kinnear, Lucy Reed, Salim Moollan, Judge Peter Tomka, Toby Landau QC, Donald Donovan, Prof. Andrea Bjorklund, Prof. Pierre-Marie Dupuy, V.V. Veeder QC, Prof. Pierre Mayer, Prof. Michael Reisman, Judge Bruno Simma, Prof. George A. Bermann, Prof. William W. Park, the late Prof. Emmanuel Gaillard, the late Prof. Pierre Lalive, the late Prof. James Crawford, Hon. Ian Binnie CC QC, Lucinda Low, Claudia Annacker, Prof. Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, Prof. Eduardo Silva Romero, Prof. Pierre Tercier, Isabelle Michou, Prof. Linos-Alexander Sicilianos, and Prof. Chiara Giorgetti.

## Conferences

In 2024-2025, as part of the MIDS curriculum, students will have the opportunity to attend international conferences either in Switzerland or abroad. The offer varies from year to year. In Switzerland, students are typically attending ASA conferences or the University of Neuchâtel conference on new developments in international commercial arbitration. Abroad, MIDS students regularly attend the Investment Treaty Forum organized by the BIICL in London, the annual conference of the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan, or the ICC annual conference in Paris.

Students further have the opportunity to attend many other events during the academic year such as conferences, lectures and seminars organized by the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute, the WTO, and UNCTAD.

## Study Visits

During their MIDS year, students visit international dispute settlement institutions in Switzerland and abroad. One of such visits is the one to the ICC in Paris, where students meet with and hear presentations by ICC officials and practitioners of leading law firms with offices in the city.

In Geneva, MIDS students visit the World Trade Organization and the Arbitration and Mediation Center at the World Intellectual Property Organization.



## Seminars

Each year the MIDS organizes a number of seminars reserved to MIDS students on issues of particular interest and new developments. For example, seminar speakers in recent years have included Prof. Bernard Hanotiau (on complex arbitrations), Judge Charles Brower (on the Iran – US Claims Tribunal), Doak Bishop (on the settlement of energy disputes), David Rivkin (on arbitration at the Olympics), Dr. Yas Banifatemi (on umbrella clauses in investment treaties), Dr. Michael Schneider (on construction arbitration), Prof. John Gotanda (on late interest in arbitration), Prof. Campbell McLachlan (on *lis pendens*), Secretary-General Meg Kinnear (on ICSID), Deputy Secretary-General Brooks Daly (on the PCA), Panapiotis Chalkias (on the role of the Secretary of the Tribunal), Prof. Armand de Mestral (on ISDS between the EU and Canada, and the US), Judge A. Yusuf (on the ICJ), Prof. Yannick Radi (on International Investment Law and Arbitration), Arthad Kurlekar (on Outer Space Activities and Dispute Resolution), among others. Seminars are generally organized on short notice. The MIDS General Course typically also includes additional seminars on topics related to WTO dispute settlement and the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea. For 2024-2025, the following seminars are already scheduled:



### Dispute Settlement at the WTO: An Introduction

**PROF. MAKANE M. MBENGUE**, Professor, University of Geneva;  
Affiliate Professor, Sciences Po Paris (School of Law)

## Swiss Arbitration **Swiss Arbitration: Careers, Insights and Institution's Practices**

**Schellenberg  
Wittmer**

**Schellenberg Wittmer Seminar**

## Q&A Sessions with Star Arbitrators

The Q&A Sessions with Star Arbitrators are organized yearly with different top arbitrators. So far, sessions have been conducted with Professors Jan Paulsson, Brigitte Stern, Pierre Mayer, Laurent Lévy, Bernard Hanotiau, and Felix Dasser. The arbitrators give insights into their views on the evolution of dispute settlement, sharing their vast and diverse experience with the MIDS students.



# OPTIONAL

## COURSES

In addition to the general and intensive courses, students take a choice of at least two semester-long weekly optional courses drawn from a list of 20 to 30 classes relating to international dispute settlement or in neighboring fields. These classes are drawn from the regular curricula of the Graduate Institute and the Faculty of Law.

### Optional courses \*

**International Environmental Law**

Prof. Anne Saab (Institute)

**International Trade Law**

Prof. Joost Pauwelyn (Institute)

**TradeLab International Economic Law & Development Clinic**

Prof. Colette Van Der Ven and Scott Andersen (Institute)

**International Tax Law & Policy**

Prof. Alice Pirlot (Institute)

**Regulating the Internet**

Prof. Neha Mishra (Institute)

**Law without the State**

Prof. Thomas Schultz (Institute)

**Foundations of International Law**

Prof. Zachary Douglas (Institute)

**Climate Change Litigation**

Prof. Anne Saab (Institute)

**International Investment Law**

Prof. Dolores Bentalila, Nathalie Bernasconi, and Michele Potestà (Institute)

**The Theory and Practice of Treaty Interpretation**

Prof. Andrea Bianchi (Institute)

**History and Theory of International Law**

Prof. Janne Nijman (Institute)

**International Arbitration**

Prof. Thomas Schultz (Faculty of Law)

**Practice of International Humanitarian Law**

Prof. Marco Sassòli (Faculty of Law)

**Règlement des différends internationaux: problèmes choisis**

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Faculty of Law)

**Organisation Internationale**

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Faculty of Law)

**International Commercial Litigation**

Prof. Gian Paolo Romano (Faculty of Law)

**WTO Law and Practice**

Prof. Gabrielle Marceau (Faculty of Law)

**Droit du sport: aspects de droit privé**

Prof. Jacques de Werra (Faculty of Law)

**Comparative Methodology: Contract Law**

Prof. Thomas Kadner Graziano (Faculty of Law)

**Current Issues of International Law through the Case-Law of International Courts and Tribunals**

Prof. Makane Moïse Mbengue (Faculty of Law)

**International Intellectual Property Law**

Prof. Jacques de Werra (Faculty of Law)

**Economic Analysis of Law**

Prof. Rashid Bahar (Faculty of Law)

**Internet & IT Law**

Prof. Christian Bovet and Jacques de Werra (Faculty of Law)



# MIDS

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Academic cooperation

Since 2016-2017, the MIDS has a Double Degree Agreement with the National University of Singapore (NUS).

### MIDS Fellowship at the Permanent Court of Arbitration

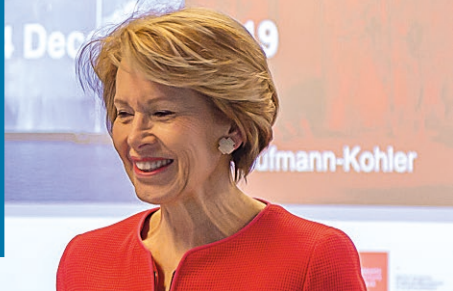
By virtue of an agreement between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the MIDS, a student of the 2024-2025 class will have the opportunity to join the PCA's Secretariat, participating for a period of twelve months in the work of the PCA's International Bureau.

The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with 122 Contracting Parties that have acceded to one or both of the PCA's founding conventions. Established in 1899 to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States, the PCA has developed into a modern, multifaceted institution, meeting the dispute resolution needs of the international community.



# CAREER SERVICES

LIFE AFTER THE MIDS



**Career services and coaching is provided during the MIDS academic year. Career events and seminars are organized with partners and law firms specialized in international arbitration or international law, arbitral institutions, international organizations and companies throughout the program.**

## Career services

Our individualized career services start from day one. A career services workshop is organized at the beginning of the academic year to help students in their first steps of the application process. In addition, at any time during the first semester, an individual meeting can be scheduled with the MIDS Career Advisor, to work on drafting one's CV and application letter, the aim being to improve how to introduce oneself and be effective in drawing up the documents required for an application.

The next stage entails preparing a strategy to apply for a position. Once the student has been invited for a job interview, a mock interview is conducted at the MIDS, based on the features of the forthcoming real interview. Video recordings allow to discuss the student's performance and thus to improve effective communication. The MIDS Career Advisor is available to help the student throughout the application process and to provide individualized guidance and advice throughout the academic year.

The MIDS career services also aim at improving the students' networking skills and professional presence at the different events and conferences attended.





## Life after the MIDS

Many Alumni have joined leading law firms around the world, including Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld (Geneva), Allen & Overy (Frankfurt, Madrid, Paris), Arblit (Milan), Archipel (Geneva), Arnold & Porter (Washington), Bae Kim and Lee (Seoul), Bofill Mir & Alvarez Jana (Chile), Baker & McKenzie (Frankfurt), Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (Milan, Paris, Rome), Clifford Chance (Frankfurt, Zurich, Warsaw), Convington & Burling (London); Cuatrecasas (Madrid), Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle (Geneva, Istanbul, Mexico, New York, Paris), Debevoise & Plimpton (London), Dechert (Paris), Dentons (Brussels, Paris, Warsaw), Derains & Gharavi (Paris), Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners (Kiev, Moscow), Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (Dubai, Frankfurt, London, New York, Paris, Vienna), MLL Meyerlustenberger Lachenal Froriep (Geneva), Gentium Law (Geneva), Gomm & Smith (Miami), FIPA (Paris), Hanotiau & van den Berg (Brussels), Hughes Hubbard and Reed (Paris), Jones Day (Paris), King & Spalding (Geneva, Houston, Paris), Knoetzi (Vienna), K&L Gates (Paris), LALIVE (Geneva, London, Zurich), Latham & Watkins (Paris), Lazareff Le Bars (Paris), Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler (Geneva), Luther (Hamburg), Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy (Munich), Norton Rose Fulbright (Frankfurt), Peter & Kim (Geneva), Python & Peter (Geneva), Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan (Paris), Schellenberg Wittmer (Geneva, Zurich), Shearman & Sterling (Paris), Siassi McCunn Bussard (Geneva), Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom (London), Three Crowns (London, Paris), White&Case (Frankfurt, Geneva, Paris, Washington), WilmerHale (London, New York), Winston & Strawn (London, Paris).

A number of MIDS alumni hold positions at universities, in governments, in national or regional arbitral institutions such as ICSID, the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, the Georgian International Arbitration Centre, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, the LCIA-Mauritius International Arbitration Centre, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, and the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution.

Other MIDS alumni have gone to practice international dispute settlement in their home countries, including Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

Other MIDS graduates have started a career as legal officers at international courts and international organizations such as the African Union, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNCTAD, the World Bank, the WTO and WIPO's Arbitration and Mediation Centre.



# APPLICATION

## ADMISSION PROCESS

### Application information

#### ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the program, applicants must have received a first complete law degree (such as a Bologna Master's degree, a J.D. or an LL.B.) or another academic qualification deemed equivalent by the Program Directors.

Applicants whose primary language is not English and who did not receive their university education in the English language must take a language proficiency test (i.e. TOEFL, IELTS). The admissions committee looks for at least a TOEFL score of 100, or an IELTS of 7, or other equivalent certificate. Applicants with at least two years of professional experience in English may request a waiver of this requirement.

#### APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply to the program, applicants must submit the online application form, available on the MIDS website. Candidates will also be asked to upload to the application website, the following:

- A copy of the completed application form;
- A photocopy of the passport;
- A curriculum vitae;
- A personal statement (essay) demonstrating the applicant's interest in the field of dispute settlement, including concrete examples, if possible;
- At least two recent letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional lecturers and/or supervisors;
- Copies of relevant degrees and diplomas, with an officially certified translation if they are not in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish;
- Copies of official records of university examinations taken and grades obtained (transcripts), with the same need for translation as above;
- Official language proficiency scores, if applicable;
- Optional: A table of contents and a 10-page excerpt of the most important paper written by the candidate in the course of his/her university studies, and, when available, in English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE

For the 2024-2025 program, the application deadline is 20 December 2023. It is the applicant's responsibility to make certain that all items are submitted to the MIDS online application platform on or before the application deadline.



## Tuition, expenses and financial aid

Tuition fees for the 2024-2025 MIDS LL.M. program are set at CHF 28'000. The fees for the additional year of study at the MIDS in order to pursue an internship as part of the program are set at CHF 1'000.

We estimate that an average single student needs CHF 15'000 to CHF 20'000 to meet living expenses for the academic year.

Financial aid, based on the applicant's demonstrated financial need, is limited but may be available for the ten-month period of residence:

- Full scholarships (covering tuition fees & living expenses).
- Full tuition scholarships (full waiver of the tuition fees).
- Partial scholarships (covering part of the tuition fees and/or living expenses).

The MIDS is thankful to its partners that provide support to students in need in the form of partial or full scholarships. MIDS recent scholarship partners include:

**LALIVE**

**LKK**  
LÉVY KAUFMANN-KOHLER

**THREE CROWNS**

**YOUNGICCA**  
OPENING THE DOORS OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

**LAMBADARIOS LAW FIRM**  
est. 1863

**MIDS AL**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We ask students wishing to apply for financial aid to first make timely efforts to obtain financial aid from other sources.

We only entertain requests from students demonstrating to have made best efforts to obtain scholarships in their home country or in Switzerland.

Students may be offered accommodation at a reduced price in student residences in Geneva.

For more information, visit: [www.mids.ch](http://www.mids.ch)

# MIDS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS UNPARALLELED THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL LEGAL SKILLS



## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

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Email: [info@mids.ch](mailto:info@mids.ch)

Website: [www.mids.ch](http://www.mids.ch)

*"I applied to the MIDS because I wanted to pursue a career in international dispute resolution. The MIDS offered a great curriculum with a top faculty that stood out from other graduate programs in this area. I did not think twice before applying, and it was one of the best choices I ever made."*

*"My studies at the MIDS were enriching and the experience rewarding. Not only did I gain invaluable knowledge, and laid the basis for professional network, the MIDS opened me doors to a truly international career and it changed my life."*

**Anna Kozmenko**, MIDS 2008-2009  
Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer, Switzerland