

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, Switzerland

Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Semesters

Important Dates:

- **February 13, 2009**
BU Law application deadline
- **Mid-March, 2009**
Selections made
- **April, 2009**
Application deadline for Fall 2009.
- **September 7 – 14, 2009**
International Student Orientation
- **September 14-December 18, 2009**
Approximate Fall 2009 semester dates
- **February 15 – May 28, 2010**
Approximate Spring 2010 semester dates
(3Ls should check with their professors
before finalizing their schedules to be sure
to be home in time for graduation and bar
certification.)

Office of Graduate and
International Programs
Boston University School of Law
765 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 1534
Boston, MA 02215

Tel: 617/353-5323
Fax: 617/358-2720
E-mail: ofp@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, in Switzerland. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply:

A. Timing

This is a one-semester program that will be offered during both the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters. You will need to state on your application which semester you are interested in. The application process will occur this spring only.

B. Credits

The program is designed to grant participating students twelve semester credits toward their J.D. degree.

C. Academic Focus

The program focuses on international and comparative law. Therefore, the list of courses from which students choose is limited for the most part to international and comparative law subjects.

D. Eligible Students

The program is open to second- and third-year students who have completed at least one full year at BU Law. First year students cannot participate.

E. Language

Students will be able to select from courses offered in English and in French (if fluent in French).

F. Number of Participants

Two students at most can participate each year. We may select fewer than two, but under no circumstances can we select more than two.

II. Why Study Law at The Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies?

A. The Institute

The Institute is an independent graduate school within the University of Geneva. It is thought to be one of the best international law and relations institute on the European continent. The Institute was officially formed as the result of a January 2008 merger between two long-standing Geneva academic institutions specializing in international relations and development -- the Graduate Institute of International Studies (founded in 1927 and best known by the French

acronym *HEI*) and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED, founded in 1961). It is a private foundation, receiving financial support from the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva. The Institute offers graduate-level (Masters and Ph.D.), bilingual study opportunities for students from all over the world. More than 80 percent of the Institute's students speak three or more languages.

According to the Institute's web site, the school's "mission as an institution of higher education and research is to provide independent and rigorous analyses of current and emerging world issues with a double emphasis on international relations and development studies. It has a particular concern for promoting international cooperation and bringing an academic contribution to less advanced nations."

The Institute is comprised of six departments or "units": Development Studies, International Affairs, International Economics, International History and Politics, International Law, and Political Science. The International Law Unit's faculty has an impressive array of expertise, covering the full spectrum of international law topics, including United Nations law, state responsibility, international settlement of disputes, jurisdiction and immunity, territory and sovereignty, international human rights, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, international environmental law, international economic law, WTO law, history and philosophy of international law, private international law, and international contracts.

B. The City of Geneva

On the shores of Lake Geneva and surrounded by the Alps, Geneva is an important center of international diplomacy, business, and humanitarian activities. It is home to over 200 international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization, The U.N. High Commission on Refugees, the International Red Cross, and dozens of other nongovernmental organizations. It is home to the European headquarters of the United Nations. No other foreign city has as strong a presence of international organizations as Geneva. It brings together policymakers, diplomats, advocates, and many other professionals whose work focuses on the most challenging global issues of the day – thus offering robust volunteer opportunities for law students interested in international affairs.

Geneva is easily accessible and centrally located -- the French and Swiss Alps are close by and Paris, Milan, and the Mediterranean are reachable within about 4 hours by high-speed train. Its airport has numerous non-stops flights to cities in Europe and worldwide.

III. The Exchange Program with The Graduate Institute

http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/iheid/shared/iheid/_commun/guide_etudiant_08.pdf

A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative law in an international setting. **This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad.** This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with Swiss culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, since this is an exchange program, the number of BU Law students who can participate in the program is limited. We will be selecting no more than two BU Law students to participate in the program, either in the fall or spring semester.

C. Program Dates

The tentative schedule, is as follows (all these dates are subject to change, pending Geneva's confirmation later this spring):

September 7 – 14: Fall 2009: Orientation

September 14 – December 18, 2009: Fall Semester

February 15 – May 28, 2010: Spring Semester

D. Course Offerings

BU Law students will be allowed to register for Master and Doctoral level courses at the Institute, primarily in international law topics. **BU Law students will be expected to take at least five courses at the Institute in order to earn 12 credits towards their BU Law degree.** Most of these classes will be taken through the school's Master of International Studies program (MIS). Courses are available in English and in French. Those students wishing to take French-language courses must have a very high level of French-language proficiency.

Specific course information can be found on the Institute's website at http://graduateinstitute.ch/corporate/teaching/masters_en.html.

E. The Faculty at the Graduate Institute

Law department teaching is structured around small classes (between 8 to 25 students). Each year the International Law Unit admits approximately 25 new Masters students and 5 - 10 new Ph.D. students. The small size of the Unit and low student/faculty ratio allows for personal contact with professors and an active classroom dynamic. Both oral presentations and written research are encouraged.

The Institute describes its teaching philosophy as follows:

"Based on a rigorous requirement for academic quality, teaching at the Institute has the following distinctive characteristics:

- We place a high priority on **interaction** between students and faculty within small working groups which allows students to enjoy the full advantage of exchange with people from all over the world;
- We recognize the importance of **personal academic work**, which is facilitated by limiting the number of teaching hours. This allows students time to prepare their research and seminar papers as well as their Masters' theses and Ph.D. dissertations;
- We have a policy of **bilingualism** in the two official languages of the Institute, English and French, which allows students to express themselves and prepare written work in their preferred language, although students do need to understand both languages;
- We are concerned for the **career opportunities** of our students and therefore keep our curriculum up-to-date with current developments in their fields of study. We also

offer many career-skills workshops and provide students with information about internships and other employment opportunities relevant to an international career.

IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application available online at www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad, and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Associate Dean Chris Marx, scheduled through the Office of Graduate and International Programs.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 13, 2009.

* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until mid-summer, after we have received your second semester grades.

V. Student Evaluation and Grades

Grades are typically based on a combination of research papers, assignments, class participation and other factors, depending on the course requirements. Upon successfully completing a course, BU Law students will receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. The designation would include an asterisk or a footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request and will be accompanied by an explanation of the host school's grading system

VI. The Graduate Institute's Program Director and Staff

The Program Director at the Institute will be Professor Marcelo Kohen. Professor Kohen received his Ph.D. from the University of Geneva. He is the head of the International Law section of the Institute. He has been a member of faculty at HEI since 1995 and is an Associate Member of the *Institut de Droit International*. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Trento (1996), the Institute of International Studies (IHEI) of the University Pantheon-Assas Paris II (2000), the Ortega y Gasset University Institute in Madrid (since 2001), the Complutense University of Madrid (2004), the University of Lecce (2004), the University of Aix-en-Provence (2005), and the University of Palerme (2006). Professor Kohen held the 2003 Henri Rolin Chair (Belgian universities). More details on his scholarly background appear in Appendix A. Mrs Guillemette Carlucci handles the administrative matters for exchange students.

Camille Cosendai
Administrative assistant of the International Law Unit
132, rue de Lausanne
P.O. Box 136
CH 1211 Geneva 21

Telephone (General): +41 22 908 57 00
Fax (General): +41 22 908 57 10
Email: camille.cosendai@graduateinstitute.ch
www.graduateinstitute.ch

VII. Library Facilities

The Institute's library is the result of the merger of the HEI and IUED libraries. It consists of: 300,000+ books; 4500 DVD and videotapes; many e-resources (databases, e-journals, e-books, working papers, etc.). The collection's strengths are in

- international law and international organizations
- international security, peace and conflict prevention
- development economics and development aid
- human rights
- international migrations and refugees
- international commercial relations and WTO
- gender studies from a developmental point of view
- applied sciences

VIII. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/iheid/shared/iheid/_commun/guide_etudiant_08.pdf

IX. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Tuition is the same as the tuition at Boston University School of Law. Participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law.

Costs

Rent:	600 Sfr./month
Books & Supplies:	400 Sfr./month
Food:	600 Sfr./month
Local Transport	70 Sft./month

X. Visa Information

All persons who intend to stay in Switzerland for more than three consecutive months, will need authorization from the cantonal authorities and a visa from the responsible Swiss visa desk.

http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edactr/usa/embwas/WASCOA.Par.0051.File.tmp/Schengen_student%20visa%20USA_CDN_AUS_NZ.pdf

XI. Provisions for Students with Disabilities

As far as we know, Geneva is not yet fully-equipped to serve students with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please talk with Associate Dean Christine Marx or Assistant Dean John Riccardi, one whom will contact Geneva to obtain information about potential arrangements.

XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Geneva, Associate Dean Christine Marx and/or Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website.

B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for The Netherlands, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Geneva area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

In General – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

Area of Instability – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE)**. This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

Travel Warning – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for The Netherlands, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston

University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

XIII. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Office of Graduate and International Programs, before their departure, a one-page statement defining their academic goals for the semester. In addition, to receive credit for foreign study, all students will be asked to submit:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences.

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.