

## The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, Switzerland

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### Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Semesters

#### Important Dates:

- February 22, 2016  
BU Law application deadline
- Mid-March, 2016  
Selections made
- April 1, 2016  
Graduate Institute's application deadline for  
Fall 2015
- Early September 2016  
International student orientation
- September 19 – December 23, 2016  
Fall 2016 semester dates (includes exam period)
- November 1, 2016  
Graduate Institute's application deadline for  
Spring 2017
- February 20– June 2, 2017  
Spring 2017 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.)

BU Law students will be allowed to register in the Institute's Master- and Doctoral-level international law courses. To earn 12 credits towards the BU Law J.D. degree, BU Law students must take at least five courses at the Institute. 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.

None of the grades for the Geneva semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (including the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

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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 Geneva, 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 2016 and spring 2017 semesters. You will need to state on your application which semester you prefer. The application process will occur this spring only.

### B. Credits

The program is designed to grant participating students **12** 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 institutes 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 (Master's 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 website, 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-stop flights to cities in Europe and worldwide.

### III. The Exchange Program with The Graduate Institute

#### 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. The Graduate Institute’s student handbook provides useful program details, including pre-arrival, administrative and academic information (\*the 2016-2017 handbook will be released later in the year).

[http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/students/users/studentsoffice/public/dep\\_central/student\\_handbook/guide\\_etudiant.pdf](http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/students/users/studentsoffice/public/dep_central/student_handbook/guide_etudiant.pdf)

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

Early September 2016:	Fall 2016 orientation (*exact date TBD)
September 19 – December 23, 2016:	Fall semester
February 20 – June 2, 2017:	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/files/live/sites/iheid/files/sites/cours2014-2015/docs/catalogue\\_cours\\_2014-2015.pdf](http://graduateinstitute.ch/files/live/sites/iheid/files/sites/cours2014-2015/docs/catalogue_cours_2014-2015.pdf)

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 Master 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](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Assistant Director Shannon Supitkowsky, scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.

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 22, 2016.

\* 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 is Professor Andrea Bianchi. A faculty member of the Graduate Institute since 2002, Professor Bianchi was previously Full Professor at the Catholic University, Milan, and Associate Professor at the University of Parma. Until 2002, he was also Professorial Lecturer in International Law at the Bologna Centre of the Johns Hopkins University. His publications address topics that range from international human rights, international economic law, the law of jurisdiction and jurisdictional immunities to international environmental law, state responsibility and the law of treaties. Recently he has published works on international law and terrorism and on non-state actors. He is currently focusing on international law theory, with a special interest on normativity and law making processes. Professor Bianchi's full CV can be found on the [Graduate Institute's Web site](#).

The primary academic contact at the Graduate Institute is Laurent Neury Ph.D. His contact information is:

Dr. Laurent Neury  
Admissions Office, Exchange Programmes  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies  
Chemin de la Voie Creuse 16  
Case postale 136, 1211 Genève 21, Suisse  
Tel. + 41 22 908 6261  
Email: [Laurent.Neury@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:Laurent.Neury@graduateinstitute.ch)  
<http://graduateinstitute.ch>

The primary administrative contact for incoming exchange students is Ms. Concepta Canale. Her contact information is:

Ms. Concepta Canale  
Exchange Programmes  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies  
Voie Creuse 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Case postale 136, 1211 Genève 21, Suisse  
Tel. +41 (0)22 908 5720  
Fax : +41-(0)22 908 5710  
Email : [exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch)  
<http://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

The Graduate Institute now has its own Student House, which accommodates a total of 243 people, but cannot satisfy the demands of all the students who come to the Institute. Students are advised to begin searching for housing as early as possible.

Housing information is available:

<http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/students/infoadmin/housing.html>

Other recommendations for where to find housing can be found in the student handbook (\*2015-2016 handbook will be released later this year):

[http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/students/users/studentsoffice/public/dep\\_central/student\\_handbook/guide\\_etudiant.pdf](http://graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/students/users/studentsoffice/public/dep_central/student_handbook/guide_etudiant.pdf)

Or the following website:

<http://www.newtogeneva.com/>

Also, if space is available, students accepted into this exchange program may be able to secure housing at the BU undergraduate dorms in Geneva. Further information on how to secure this type of housing will be provided to accepted students upon the receipt of their firm commitment to participate in the program.

## 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. While the conversions below are based on the December 2014 rate, the conversion rate between CHF and USDs has remained fairly stable over the last several years.

Costs	CHF/month	USD/month
Rent:	875	905
Electric & Phone:	145	165
Books & Supplies:	440	455
Food:	335	345
Local Transport:	80	82
Entertainment:	335	345
Total budget per month:	2210	2285

The Graduate and International Programs Office strongly encourages all students selected to participate in this program budget at least 2200 CHF or 2755 USD per month. However, the staff of the Graduate Institute of

International and Development Studies has indicated that a budget of 2000 CHF or 2065 USD per month “allows for a modest student lifestyle.” Please note that if you plan to travel during your semester in Geneva, you will need to budget additional funds.

## 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. Additional information on residence permits for foreign nationals is available at:

[http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/aufenthalt/nicht\\_eu\\_efta.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/aufenthalt/nicht_eu_efta.html).

Please note that while the Graduate & International Programs Office at BU Law is happy to assist students accepted into this program with immigration matters, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to work with the International Office in Geneva in order to obtain the documents required for study in Switzerland.

## 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 Assistant Dean John Riccardi, who 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, 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 Switzerland, 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 Graduate and International Programs Office, 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.