Externship Program
Getting Experience and Solving Real Legal Problems

By placing students with host organizations throughout the greater Boston area and, in the case of a Semester-in-Practice, anywhere in the world, the Externship Program helps students develop their legal skills and substantive knowledge of the law, improve their ability to solve legal problems in real-life situations, learn the “day-to-day” of legal practice, generally and at the specific placement, and learn to engage in reflective practice to improve for the future.

Externships permit students to gain either full-time or part-time legal experience under the direct supervision of an attorney. Placements may be in the public or private sector, including with:

- corporations;
- courts;
- government agencies;
- nonprofit organizations; and
- small and mid-sized law firms.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
All students participating in an externship complete two components: the field placement with a host organization and the reflective seminar.

Part-Time Externships: Seminars include Corporate Counsel, State and Local Taxation, Judicial Externships, Legal Externship/Ethics, Legislative Externship, Health Law, Learning from Practice, Criminal Justice, and Cannabis Law. In limited circumstances, students also have the option of doing an independent study under faculty supervision. Recent externship placements include: SEC, the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, the ACLU, and Partners in Health.

Semester-in-Practice: Students are at their placement full-time and take a focused Semester-in-Practice seminar. Recent placements include: UN Department of Peace Operations, The Hague, and CPCS Immigration Unit.

Credit Hours: Students earn one ungraded credit for every 50 hours at their placement. Students in part-time placements may work anywhere from 12-36 hours/week, earning 3-9 fieldwork credits. Most students spend 16-20 hours/week at their placement (4-5 fieldwork credits). Students earn 1-3 additional credits for the seminar.

We warmly welcome all applicants and remind students that Boston University policy prohibits discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military service, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, or because of marital, parental, or veteran status, and acts in conformity with all applicable state and federal laws. This policy extends to all BU Law academic programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Students work at a wide range of organizations, from multi-national corporations to boutique law firms to government agencies. No matter the type of placement, students can expect to integrate legal theory and practice in a real-world setting, developing the legal foundation and professional skills they will need to succeed after they graduate.

PROGRAM STATISTICS
In 2020-2021, over 130 students participated in part-time externships in Massachusetts. Students participating in Semester-in-Practice were placed domestically (including Florida, Philadelphia, NY, and DC) and internationally (including The Hague, Geneva, and London). Many BU Law alumni supervised externship students, and students provided over 37,000 hours of pro bono legal services to NGOs, government agencies, and courts in the US and abroad.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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bu.edu/law/clinics-apply