Berger International and Comparative Legal Studies Summer Fellowships

Due Date to Cornell Law School April 15th 2027

Description

The mission of the Berger Summer Fellowship Program is to give students an opportunity to engage international law practitioners and researchers, and to build collaborative partnerships with public, non-profit and non-governmental agencies addressing critical issues in relevant areas of international law such as international human rights, international criminal law, and international trade law.

The main objective of this program is to enhance and reinforce academic learning by providing students the opportunity to actively engage with individuals and organizations directly involved in the policy and practice of international law. It is designed to: deepen students' understanding of the practice of international law and, acquaint students with a collaborative field experience related to international law. Students will gain valuable international work and research experience and, at the same time, contribute to the work of the organization they intern for, by providing the host-organization with a detailed policy review, research paper or professional report relevant to the host-organization.

Students identify and make arrangements for their own internship placement, which should include a focus on areas of international or comparative law and may be based in the U.S. or abroad.

Students will be advised by a supervisor at the place of internship. At the end of the internship period, students will be required to submit to Cornell a report of their experiences.

Eligible Applicants

All J.D., LL.M. and J.S.D. students, with a preference to those with a demonstrated interest in international or comparative legal studies

Grant Amount and Fellowship Duration

Pro-rated, based on length of internships, from 4 weeks up to 12 weeks (e.g., $2500 for 4 weeks; $5000 for 8 weeks). The internships are designed to last between four to twelve weeks. Students should specify their desired length of stay in their application.

Please note that the Berger Fellowship may supplement partial (but not full) PIF grants up to the maximum pro-rated amount. If the internship is a paid position, the fellowship will be reduced by the amount of compensation.

Application Deadline

April 30, 2027

Application Instructions

Students are expected to find internship placements themselves, in advance of applying. Once a placement is found, submit the following materials by email attachment to international.law@cornell.edu **with the subject line Berger Summer Fellowships.**

- Your resume
- Your transcript (you may send this via Cornell's Secure File Transfer for heightened security)
- A cover letter that includes the following:

1. Describe the organization or agency, the legal work it does, and the clients it serves. Include the web site address, and, if available, a description of the summer legal internship program. Please also explain how your work will engage international or comparative law.

2. Your desired length of stay at the organization.

3. Discuss your motivation for applying. Describe how a public international summer internship with the particular employer you will work for (or hope to work for) facilitates your long-term legal career goals.

4. Any other information that you feel is relevant.

Selection Process

Decisions are expected to be made within 2 weeks of the application deadline. Applicants may be interviewed by the selection committee as part of the selection process.