International and Development Law Fellowship Report 2011

Mukerrem Onur Basar
LL.M 2011
mob237@nyu.edu

Institution Visited and Dates of Attendance:

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Office of General Counsel

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
One Exchange Square
London EC2A 2JN
United Kingdom
+44 20 7338 6000
http://www.ebrd.com

Dates of Attendance: 09/01/2011-12/01/2011

Supervisor's Contact Information:

Christoph Sicking
Chief Counsel
+44 20 7338 6526
SickingC@ebrd.com

Alumni Contact Information:

Norbert Seiler
Deputy General Counsel
+44 20 7338 6143
SeilerN@ebrd.com

Enrico Canzio
Principal Counsel
+44 20 7338 6168
CanzioE@ebrd.com

Krawcewicz Aleksandra
Associate
+44 20 7338 6287
KrawcewA@ebrd.com

General Description of How I Obtained the Internship:

I believe that selection and combination of courses at NYU during the LL.M program plays an important role with regard to obtaining the internship. In the interview, the candidate should give the idea that he knows what EBRD does and how his background or his interest of area fit to the current operation of EBRD.

I have applied for the fellowship on 10th of November 2010. On 16th of December 2010, I have been informed that I have been selected for EBRD's short list. On 14th of February 2011, EBRD has offered me the place.

Overall Evolution and Description of Internship and Introduction:

The EBRD is an international financial institution that supports projects from central Europe to central Asia and invests primarily in private sector clients whose needs cannot be fully met by the market. EBRD fosters transparency and accountability in the countries where EBRD invests, EBRD supports the successful transition to a market economy.

EBRD provides project financing for banks, industries and businesses, both new ventures and investments in existing companies.

The Office of General Counsel of EBRD appointed me to one of the banking team in the Office of General Counsel. Through the internship, I have participated 3 deals at EBRD.

- Syndicated deal which provides finance for acquisition of a company through privatization
- Project finance deal which provides finance for development of a copper mine
- A senior loan deal which provides finance for construction of light rail project

In the syndicated deal, I have reviewed the legal documents with regard to security package and for the mining deal, I have participated preparation of term sheet and preparation of due diligence questionnaire. For the transportation project, I have drafted legal documents such as amendment agreement to a loan agreement and reviewed supplemental mortgage documents.

Besides the transactional work, I have done some work for further development of Turkish Law Digest at EBRD. I have also prepared memorandums on confidentiality duty of bankers from the perspective of different legal systems and memorandums on different legal issues from the perspective of Turkish law.

The feedback that I received from my supervisor is quite positive. They have fully satisfied from my performance. In this respect, please feel free to contact with my supervisor.

Through the internship, I gained experience on transactional work particularly on project finance and learned a lot. My colleagues guided me very well. I highly recommend this internship to another NYU Law student.

During my internship, I have been mainly exposed to transactional work. I can definitely say that the internship advanced my interest in the area of project finance. The main reason is why it advanced my interest in the project finance is the feeling that I had after the closure of each deal. It gives me the feeling that after every successful deal, people will have access to electricity, water or such other fundamental needs which is very important in the developing part of the world.

Paper Topic:

I have decided writing on "Secured Transactions on Intangibles". Professor Kevin Davis has also approved the paper subject. In this respect, I have talked with Frederique Dahan who is Head of Financial Law Unit in the Legal Transition team at EBRD. She guided and provided me some sources on the subject. I am currently studying on the paper.

Suggestions:

When it comes to suggestions, it is my opinion that it is difficult to come up with any suggestion. Their hospitality and guidance made me feel like a full-time member of the EBRD.

Cost of Living:

I paid 425 £ per month for accommodation and averagely 110 £ per month for transportation. The bank has its own food court, for per breakfast and lunch one pays averagely 8 £ per day.

Finding a reasonably priced accommodation is extremely difficult in London when you consider the fact that as an intern one should spend approximately only 3 months in London. My suggestion would be beginning search of any available accommodation in advance before moving to London. In this respect, one can also benefit from rooms offered by universities in London for temporary basis.

Additional Funding:

I did not receive any additional funding for the internship from any institution or organization.

12/15/2012

Mukerrem Onur Basar

Fellowship Report

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.

Maria Cecilia T. Sicangco, LLM '11, mctsicangco@nyu.edu

2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.

International Development Law Organization (Department of Research, Policy and Strategic Initiatives); September to December 2011; viale Vaticano 106 00165 Rome, Italy; +39 06 40403200; www.idlo.int

3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address. –

- Ilaria Bottigliero, Senior Researcher, ibottigliero@idlo.int
- Thomas McInerney, Director of the Department of Research, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, tmcinerney@idlo.int

4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.

None that I know of.

5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.

In October 2010, I attended a symposium regarding the various fellowship opportunities offered by the Office of Graduate Affairs. I submitted my application a couple of weeks after. The shortlisted students were then interviewed by the Fellowship Selection Committee in mid to late November. I understand that the Committee subsequently nominated around 3 students for each of the 6 placement organizations, and the various international organizations were the ones who made the final decision. I was informed that I was the one chosen by IDLO in mid-January 2011.

6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).

VISION

- IDLO envisions a world free of poverty, where every human being lives in dignity and under the rule of law.

MISSION

- IDLO supports efforts by developing transitional countries to strengthen the rule of law and good governance in order to stimulate sustainable economic and social development and to alleviate poverty.[1]

VALUES

- IDLO is committed to improving the lives of the people of the developing world
- IDLO encourages multicultural understanding and harmony
- IDLO performs its work with political neutrality and independence
- IDLO does not promote one legal system over another
- IDLO fosters development that is demand-driven and involves multiple stakeholders
- IDLO seeks to achieve enduring results

Source: http://www.idlo.int/english/WhoWeAre/Pages/Home.aspx

7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.

- Edited and actively took part in the publication of *Consumer Protection and Microfinance – Country Reports*, a book that discusses the current state of the microfinance industry in India, Colombia, Kenya and Cameroon and sets forth legislative and policy recommendations to better protect microfinance consumers;
- Updated the Rule of Law Database, which aims to make foreign aid effective by mapping out rule of law related initiatives in, and national justice sector strategies of, developing countries; and
- Researched and collaborated with Tom McInerney in an academic article regarding the international normative and administrative drivers of domestic rule of law.

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

The provision of feedback from my supervisors in the Research Department was actually pretty consistent – they let me know their thoughts soon after I submitted my output. The feedback I got was very positive, for which I have the Westlaw access arranged by NYU (c/o Lourdes Marshall of the Office of Graduate Affairs) to thank. (Google is extremely useful in research, but only goes so far – as any law student knows.) As for supervision, I spoke with Tom (to give him updates, etc.) perhaps once a week. I personally prefer this kind of management style, since it allowed me to work very independently on the projects assigned to me.

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[1] "IDLO works with judicial and legal professionals, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations toward achieving five main strategic objectives that contribute directly to development:

- National Strategies & Frameworks
- Legal Empowerment
- Global Challenges
- Networks
- Knowledge Generation"

Source: http://www.idlo.int/ENGLISH/WHATWEDO/Pages/Home.aspx

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

I HIGHLY recommend the internship, especially to someone interested in development work. I had a wonderful and insightful time at IDLO, and greatly appreciate having had the opportunity to immerse myself in both international law and development law. The IDLO Rule of Law Directory, for instance, is an initiative that aims to collate information on the justice sector strategies of developing countries, as well as donor projects and initiatives concerning the rule of law. The goal is to spearhead knowledge generation about what aid strategies work and do not work, and what kind of project actually has an impact on both the grassroots level and the policy-making level. The hope is that the provision of aid to developing countries becomes more effective and efficient with the kind of data put out by IDLO. It is very humbling to know that my work can possibly help uplift the lives of people, as well as strengthen governments, around the world.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

Even before my internship, I already knew that I wanted to be in the international law field. My IDLO experience solidified that interest.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

I already had a general topic in mind prior to starting the internship.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

While I loved my experience, I would have appreciated more opportunities for the interns and regular staff to interact and get to know each other. IDLO's departments seem to be very streamlined and quite independent from each other; consequently, contact with individuals from other divisions at times seems few and far between.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale. –

Rome was pretty expensive, somewhat comparable to living in New York City. My main expense was rent – I secured an apartment at 900 Euros per month, utilities included. (A colleague of mine was shocked when she found out how much I was paying for a one bedroom apartment; then again, I had to pay a premium as I rented it out only for approximately 4 months, instead of the customary 1 year term.) I searched for my apartment online, because I figured it would be extremely (1) stressful to have to find an apartment upon arrival, and (2) difficult, considering I spoke no Italian. This was my apartment: www.tripadvisor.com/VacationRentalReview-g187791-d1792595-or3-Tube_Linea_A_Colli_Albani-Rome_Lazio.htm. It's not exactly in the center of Rome, but Metro Line A is just 300 meters away from my apartment building. Ottaviano, the station closest to the IDLO HQ, is 13

stops away. Transportation within Rome is pretty cheap. The monthly pass (covers all trains, buses and trams within Rome) is just 30 Euros.

Additionally, if you don't speak Italian, consider investing $8.95 in Rick Steves' Italian Phrase Book and Dictionary. That was probably the single most important thing I brought to Rome with me. (Disclosure: I am neither related to, nor affiliated with, Rick Steves in any way… just a happy customer!)

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

No, I did not.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP REPORT

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.

Vyoma Jha, LL.M. Environmental Law Class of 2011, vyoma.jha@law.nyu.edu

2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.

Organization: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Team: Investment and Sustainable Development

Dates: August 16, 2011 – November 10, 2011

Address: IISD
Geneva Office
International Environment House 2
9 chemin de Balexert
1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 917-8683
Fax: +41 22 917-8054
www.iisd.org

3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder
Program Leader and Senior International Lawyer
Investment and Sustainable Development
Phone: +41 22 917-8856
nbernasconi@iisd.org

4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.

No NYU alumni at this organization

5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.

I obtained this internship through the NYU International Finance and Development Fellowship. The application for the fellowship was submitted in November, followed by a short-listing and an interview in December. It was only after this stage that my name was forwarded to the organization. I had a telephonic interview with my supervisor at IISD (mostly to determine the duration of the internship) in February. The internship was finalized in March.

6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).

IISD's work on investment and sustainable development focuses on this critical linkage, and provides new approaches to ensure that investment law and policy will make a positive contribution to sustainable development.

7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.

Conducted legal research and analysis in international investment law. Prepared legal memoranda, case briefs and journalistic reports on international arbitral awards for IISD's Investment Treaty Newsletter. Assisted in the preparations for the Fifth Annual Forum for Developing Country Investment Negotiators. Prepared a legal brief and background documents for the Forum.

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

The supervision was very valuable as there was a good level of responsibility given while researching and writing and the feedback was very hands-on. It helped a great deal to get feedback on most assignments in a very timely manner. Overall, the team was extremely happy and satisfied with the work performance.

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

Very good learning experience for somebody interested in sustainable development issues, as IISD does cutting-edge work on the interaction of investment and sustainable development. Highly recommend the internship to an NYU student, with the caveat that they must have a background and interest in international investment law.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

The internship has cemented my plans to continue doing public interest work internationally and in my home country, India. My next move will definitely involve a bit of both public interest work and the academia.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

Yes, the internship did provide me with a topic for my substantial writing requirement. Given that I was working closely on matters relating to international investment law for three months, I have chosen a topic related to that and my interest area of climate change policy.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

Suggestion to the student would be to have some knowledge and interest in the field of international investment law and sustainable development to maximize on the opportunity of working with IISD.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.

I was in Geneva and it is an expensive city to live in, sometimes a little more expensive than NYC. The hardest part is finding an accommodation, as very few places are available for a three-month stint. A room on rent will be in the range of 1000-1500 CHF. So, living expenses are in the rage of 1500-2000 CHF (approx. $1700-2200) The fellowship amount mostly covers this, but if one is interested in travelling then they can save a little extra and use it to travel instead. The best site for looking for accommodation is www.glocals.com

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

No, I did not have any additional funding.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Francis Chukwu (LL.M. '11)

My Selection

I was selected by New York University School of Law in the fall of 2010 for the 2011 International Law and Development Fellowship (the Fellowship) with a placement at the International Monetary Fund (the Fund). I was subsequently interviewed by on two separate occasions by the Administrative Unit and Country Unit respectively of the Legal Department of the Fund. I was later informed of my final selection for the Fellowship by the Fund in the spring of 2011.

My Placement

I started the Fellowship on May 31 and completed it on August 5, 2011. I worked with the Country Unit of the Legal Department of the Fund, and most closely with the working group on sovereign debt and corporate/household insolvency. The Head of the Country Unit is Mr. Ceda Ogada Gambo (Assistant General Counsel) but my primary supervisor was Ms Yan Liu (Senior Counsel and coordinator of the working group). My work description consisted primarily of research and (where necessary) advice on various issues handled by country lawyers on their various countries, particularly the countries whose sovereign debt, corporate or household insolvency issues the working group worked on.

My Work

In the course of my Fellowship, I was able to complete the following memoranda (with necessary advice where required):

1. The new German Bonds Act introducing the use of Collective Action Clauses in corporate bond issues, and the impact of the law reform on German corporate finance business.

2. Household insolvency and law reform in the wake of the global financial crisis in Latvia, Hungary, Ukraine, and Iceland.

3. The impact of Portuguese law reform on enforcement of judgments and service delivery in the judicial system.

4. The legal regime for regulation of securities issued by international financial institutions in the United States, with emphasis on the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the African

Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the European Development Bank.

5. A review of the working groups' Vienna workshop synopsis on corporate insolvency in Europe.

6. Comparative study of the legal regime for fraudulent bankruptcy filings and treatment of affiliates in bankruptcy, with specific focus on the bankruptcy laws of Spain, Mexico, Netherlands, Germany, France, and Romania.

7. A review of the Fund's amended articles of agreement.

The Office Environment

I found the working environment very friendly and accommodating. There were weekly meetings at which we were all encouraged to air our views on topical issues being handled by the country unit, and to discuss issues we found challenging in the work we were doing. There were also occasional bi-unit meetings between the country unit and the financial and fiscal law unit, and with the financial integrity unit. There was also one meeting of the entire legal department in the course of my fellowship. At each of these meeting views from all staff were encouraged and issues of relevant interest on both professional work and life were tackled.

My Lessons from the Fellowship Experience

The Fellowship experience was very rewarding for me. It gave me the opportunity to work on some of the most interesting issues I had earlier studied on sovereign debt and corporate/household insolvency on a global scale and from the perspective of one of the world's most important public institutions and lender of last resort. It was also my first work experience in a public institution, and it afforded me valuable insight into the work culture, ethics and philosophy of a public institution, which I find to be interestingly not too different [except perhaps in approaches and goals] from what I had experienced working for a private law firm. It also gave me the opportunity of living at the Washington DC environs and experiencing its lifestyle – it is not New York (!) but it has its peculiar (and interesting) fun.

Challenges

The only professional challenge I encountered was that there were strict limits to what information or task I handled as a Fellow. I thought I could have done a lot more work given more challenging tasks and even more important information, although I also understood the very sensitive nature of the work done and information handled at the Fund relative to my position as a short-term vendor employee.

The non-professional challenge I encountered was that the Fellowship stipend was barely enough to pay my rent for the three months I required let alone take care of my other needs.

Post-Fellowship Endeavor

I have accepted a contractual appointment as a Research Officer at the Legal Department of the Fund until the expiration of my current work permit on my F1 Visa, renewable in the event that I wish to stay on at the Fund after the term. I am looking to evaluate my career aspirations and prospects at the end of the term and make an informed decision.

Gratitude

I am grateful to the Graduate Affairs and New York University School of Law for the Fellowship award.

Francis Chukwu

August 19, 2011

Fellowship Report

1. Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.

Matthew Moorhead, LL.M. 2011, mmoorhead@worldbank.org

2. Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.

World Bank, June 6 to September 30 2011.

3. Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.

Vikram Raghavan, Senior Counsel, 202 744 4976, vraghavan@worldbank.org

4. Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.

Aris Panou, Legal Associate, 646 392 6939, apanou@worldbank.org

5. Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.

I applied for the fellowship, then called the International Law and Development Fellowship, through the law school. The applications were due in November, I think.
Vikram gave me a phone interview. He was particularly interested in candidates that could demonstrate strong English writing skills and good research experience. He was attracted to my background as a judge's clerk, and asked me to provide an extra written reference from a judge.

6. Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).

The World Bank is the world's foremost international organization with a mission for reconstruction and development. Relatively recently, it's expanded its role from giving out loans to being a source of knowledge and data.

7. Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.

Vikram gave me excellent exposure to really interesting work. I reviewed project proposals and loan applications from all over the world, and prepared memoranda on the Bank's policies in post-conflict situations. Vikram also took care to give me work that would be useful experience when I was considered for a post-fellowship position. To that end, I helped edit and collate a book of constitutional law in developing countries.

8. An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.

Vikram does exciting work for the Bank, and is happy to delegate interesting tasks. He takes care to be thorough in his feedback and clear in his instructions. At the same time, within sometimes tight deadlines I was free to manage my own time.

9. Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?

Extremely highly. This was a wonderful experience.

10. How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?

The fellowship led directly into a paid contract position at the Bank, working as a researcher for the Deputy General Counsel in charge of research and knowledge production. This was not assured, and was only confirmed in the final week of my fellowship. Employment decisions in the Bank are made slowly, by many people, and are opaque, even to insiders. That said, having a foot in the door is a huge advantage if your goal is to get a real job or contract at the Bank.

11. Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.

My time was almost completely taken up by my assigned responsibilities, which I prioritized because I was focusing on keeping everyone happy and getting a job at the end of the fellowship.

12. Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.

The best advice is what everyone says about most internships, I think. Focus on keeping your supervisor 100 per cent happy with your output and responsiveness, but make time to get to know as many people as you can. Concentrate on appearing competent and agreeable, and network, network, network. At the Bank, that means make coffee dates with whoever you can, and show your face at training and information seminars. The networking culture in DC came as a shock to me, but it can't be helped. You have to do it. It can be an enjoyable way to meet interesting people. Or it can be an almost unbearable social torture made barely tolerable by alcohol.

13. If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.

The housing situation in DC isn't nearly as dire as I'd been led to believe. Because I was organizing everything on the run from New York, I went for a slightly more expensive housing option and arranged a sublease through an agency that does subleases for visiting businesspeople. The agency is called Signature Properties, and they were fine.

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

I did not. I did have to request that the full funding be released to me before the end of my fellowship, because my fellowship was extended to the end of September and I was running out of money.

Fellowship Report

1. **Your name, year of graduation and e-mail address.**

Name: Diego Javier Aranda Teixeira
Year of Graduation: 2011
Email: dat287@nyu.edu or diego.arandateixeira@googlemail.com

2. **Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization, FULL address, telephone number and website.**

Organization name (including division or project, if applicable), dates of work at organization,
FULL address, telephone number and website.

Organization name: WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization
Division: Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications division
Dates of work: 23.5.11 to 30.7.11

Address: 34, chemin des Colombettes, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Phone number: Switchboard: +41 22 338 9111 (Monday to Friday 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. CET)
Website: http://www.wipo.int/

3. **Your supervisor's name, title, telephone number and e-mail address.**

Supervisor's name: Martha Friedli
Title: Head of Trademark Law Section, Brands & Designs
Telephone Number: (not available at present – internal
WIPO directory not available externally)
E-Mail: Martha.Friedli@wipo.int

4. **Name, title, telephone number and e-mail address for any NYU School of Law alumni who work there.**

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To my knowledge, no NYU alumni work in WIPO – I made efforts to find out if any did, and it seems there were none.

5. **Description of how you obtained the internship, including any application and interview tips (such as unusual questions you were asked). Please also include the timing of your search and when you secured the internship.**

I obtained this internship through applying to the International Human Rights and Development Scholarship Program. I had an interview in Singapore (where my LLM was based) with no unusual questions – all I did was emphasize my interest in IP and in particular projects WIPO was handling, and noted that my experience as a research assistant would make me a good intern.

My main recommendation would be to apply early and to research your organization well to ensure you target your application adequately.

6. **Brief description of the work and mission of the organization (you can copy from website).**

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible international intellectual property (IP) system, which rewards creativity, stimulates innovation and contributes to economic development while safeguarding the public interest.

WIPO was established by the WIPO Convention in 1967 with a mandate from its Member States to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states and in collaboration with other international organizations. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The Director General is Francis Gurry.

* How WIPO works
* WIPO - An Overview - An introduction and cross-section of recent activities
* Visit WIPO
* A brief history of WIPO

Strategic Goals

WIPO's revised and expanded strategic goals are part of a comprehensive process of strategic realignment taking place within the Organization. These new goals will enable WIPO to fulfill its mandate more effectively in response to a rapidly evolving external environment, and to the urgent challenges for intellectual property in the 21st Century.

The nine strategic goals were adopted by Member States in the Revised Program and Budget for the 2008/09 Biennium [PDF]. They are:

* Balanced Evolution of the International Normative Framework for IP
* Provision of Premier Global IP Services
* Facilitating the Use of IP for Development
* Coordination and Development of Global IP Infrastructure
* World Reference Source for IP Information and Analysis
* International Cooperation on Building Respect for IP
* Addressing IP in Relation to Global Policy Issues
* A Responsive Communications Interface between WIPO, its Member States and All Stakeholders

* An Efficient Administrative and Financial Support Structure to Enable WIPO to Deliver its Programs

The Strategic Goals will provide the framework for WIPO's six year Medium Term Strategic Plan (2010 - 2015).

7. **Description of the specific duties you performed, including a list of major projects.**

I speak a few languages, and ended up doing a lot of translation, mainly from English to Spanish, Spanish to English and French to one of those two languages. I also did some administrative document assembly, minute-taking and email-sorting work.

More substantively, I performed research on both the international trademark regime (regarding heraldic signs and national insignia mainly) and particular countries' regimes, such as the US trademark system. I also did work for the Industrial Design unit, on the US design patent system.

8. **An assessment of the supervision and feedback received. In particular, please focus on overall feedback on your work product and skills, as it is rare to receive feedback on every individual assignment.**

Supervision was ad-hoc – we received projects and comments made by permanent staff at the division on the work produced. There was no overall feedback on my work product or skills.

9. **Overall evaluation of the internship experience, with an explanation for your choice. Would you recommend this internship to another NYU student, a) highly; b) with some reservation; or c) not recommend?**

I would recommend this internship with some reservation. It is a very expensive internship to pursue due to the nature of living in Geneva for a short period of time, and the internship system is rather disorganized, so you go through long periods of inaction which is rather frustrating.

This is not my specific department's fault – speaking to other interns, all of WIPO interns face a similar situation.

10. **How did the internship influence your career plans? For example, did it advance your interest in a) the type of work in particular; b) public interest work in general; or c) pro bono work while in the private sector?**

This internship made me even more determined to work in IP, as I felt truly happy doing work in the area of law that I am interested in. However, the nature of WIPO's work disillusioned me somewhat as to the nature of work in a public international institution, since it is so given to bureaucracy and unnecessary self-limitation due to concerns about what is appropriate for the legally trained to do.

11. **Paper topic: did the internship provide you with any ideas for topics for your substantial writing requirement or a Note and if so, please briefly describe.**

The internship only provided me with ideas for my topic very indirectly – the work I did was very narrowly focused on trademarks and my substantial writing requirement involves copyright instead. For a person working on work that the division does, however, I see it possible

12. **Suggestions for the employer and/or students on how to improve the experience.**

The internship should be more structured, and interns should be provided with larger projects and with more feedback. One starts to feel useless at the WIPO office on inactive days.

Also, I was asked to come in at an awkward time which made me have to delay my taking of the New York Bar – for no good reason it seemed, as there was little work for me to do in WIPO when I got there. More flexibility needs to be shown to interns in timing unless there are very good reasons to ask them to come at specific periods because it can be very costly for them to come at a particular juncture and can mean that they have to compromise other plans – it is galling for this to happen without good cause.

13. **If you worked outside of New York City, an approximate accounting of the cost of living including housing and any tips about finding short-term rental housing, and any other information that would be useful for others wishing to spend a summer in that locale.**

Housing is very expensive in Geneva and the surrounding areas. So is the cost of living in general, so you need to plan very carefully.

It's easiest if you go alone – therefore you can stay at one of the student hostels in town (such as St. Boniface) for around 1000-2000 SFR a month (still very expensive, but one of the cheapest options). But places go quick – you should start doing research and sending applications to these places the second that you have your ILD fellowship acceptance notice.

An alternative, particularly useful if you go together with any spouse you may have or partner, is to stay across the border in France – you should ask WIPO to send out an advertisement on your behalf in the WIPO and UN online noticeboard so that people know you are looking for a room. I stayed in Ferney Voltaire for 850 euros a month in a small studio apartment.

As to living costs in general, even being conservative I ran through the entire ILD fellowship stipend and around $2000-$3000 more, not counting air tickets. I lived with

my wife, but we did not go out clubbing or ate out more than once or twice (things that would be much moree expensisve to do as a single person in Geneva than my having brought my wife to live with me).

Therefore expect to spend as a single person, being very conservative with your money, your entire ILD stipend of $6500 if you count air travel. If you go out with your fellow interns, and eat, and travel a bit, you may end up spending double that amount. As I said, it is very expensive.

The core advice to bear in mind is to be very conservative with your money and start to save up seriously the second you decide you may want to go to WIPO since you will spend a lot of money there.

For general information: French will be very useful for you to have under your belt, particularly if you will live over the border in France. But WIPO works in English, so it is only for practical purposes that you will use French, outside of your internship.

14. Did you receive additional funding for the internship? If so, please describe how you found out about the funding and any special steps you took to secure funding.

I did secure additional funding – I was awarded the Ella Cheong Intellectual Property Scholarship in Singapore. I found out about it through internal law faculty advertising at NUS (I was on the NYU@NUS program). Having specialized in IP and been on good terms with IP faculty to recommend me, I was fortunate enough to get this scholarship.

Outside of this, I looked for scholarships in general, but this was tricky for me as I was based in Singapore (so one is not exactly immersed in offers of money to do an internship in Geneva).