



## **General Background**

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL - [www.iihl.org](http://www.iihl.org)) is an independent, non-profit, humanitarian organisation founded in 1970. Its headquarters are situated in Sanremo, Italy, on the Italian Riviera. The main purpose of the Institute is to promote international humanitarian law, human rights, refugee law, migration law and related issues by organizing specific training programs (courses, workshops, etc.), international conferences, thematic seminars, and round tables.

Thanks to its specific, well-tested experience, the Institute has earned an international reputation as a centre of excellence in the field of training, research, and the dissemination of all aspects of international humanitarian law. Considering the aims it pursues, the Institute works in close collaboration with the most important international organisations dedicated to the humanitarian cause, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It has operational relations with UNESCO, NATO, OIF (*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and participatory status with the Council of Europe.

The Institute offers prospective interns the opportunity of spending the Summer assisting in the preparation and execution of its teaching activities. Considering the breadth of legal topics taught, and the diverse experiences of the students, the internship promises to be very fruitful and constructive. The minimum duration of an internship is 10 weeks.

## **General Background of the Military Department**

The Military Department of international humanitarian law (IHL)/law of armed conflict (LOAC) was created in 1976 to support governments' military institutions and organizations in providing specific training in the field of IHL/LOAC, in order to fill the gaps in knowledge and to enhance the capacities of military institutions and organizations engaged in situation of armed conflicts and international operations.

The Military Department provides a structured approach to building an in-depth knowledge of IHL/LOAC, addressing different levels of prior experience, developing from foundation to advanced levels with specialised courses to cover specific topics in greater detail. Training courses provide a sound understanding of fundamental issues and deliver practical and experience-based instruction, supported by exercises and case studies to reinforce the participant's understanding. Course Leaders and participants come from across the world, ensuring a unique environment with a diverse, challenging, and stimulating international perspective.

All of the training courses and workshops organized within the Department share the following overarching objectives:

- To increase participants' ability to apply the relevant international norms underpinning the crucial issues relating to the protection of non-combatants in armed conflicts;
- To encourage the sharing of different nations' perspectives with regard to interpretation of LOAC principles, policies, operational constraints, and monitoring mechanisms;

- To provide military officers, including operators and military lawyers, as well as civilians, with the opportunity to learn how to apply the principles and rules of IHL/LOAC;
- To promote the respect and implementation of the relevant corresponding IHL/LOAC frameworks and instruments.

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

The intern will work under the supervision of the Director of the Military Department, and in close coordination with the US Army JAG Corps Fellow.

In this capacity, he/she will perform the following functions:

- Contribute to the design and preparation of overall courses, including individual modules and IHL practical exercises;
- Contribute to developing and improving the overall curriculum and courses offered;
- Assist members of the Military Department with their own IHL research and writing projects;
- Participate as a student in select Institute course offerings such as Emergent Issues in IHL, the Advanced IHL Course, or the Summer IHL Course;
- Research and prepare a short paper on an IHL subject;
- Provide support to overall course logistics and web related content where necessary.

### **Eligibility**

While there is a preference for 2Ls who have taken relevant courses, exceptional 1Ls will be considered. Strong candidates will demonstrate:

- Strong legal research, analytical, and drafting skills;
- Excellent oral communication skills, knowledge of a foreign language is helpful;
- Experience or interest in international law and military operations;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, as well as within a team;
- Good time management skills;
- Adaptability to live and thrive abroad;
- A high level of computer proficiency, with familiarity with electronic databases preferred and proficiency with Microsoft Excel required.

### **Fellowship support**

This position is part of the UMN Human Rights Center's Fellowship Program. IIHL cannot cover any salary, living, or moving expenses for its interns. Thanks to the generous support of the UMN Human Rights Fellowship Program donors, the selected student will receive a fellowship award stipend of \$5,000 through the UMN Human Rights Center.

### **To apply**

Submit to the Human Rights Center:

- the HRC fellowship application form (available online);
- a cover letter addressed to the IIHL describing your interest in the internship;
- your resume;
- your unofficial law school and undergrad transcripts; and
- one letter of recommendation (optional).

You must submit a complete application to the HRC by **Monday, February 11, 2019 (5:00pm)** to be considered. Applications should be submitted in a single pdf to [humanrts@umn.edu](mailto:humanrts@umn.edu). Letters of recommendation can be in a separate email. Please contact the Human Rights Center with any questions.