

LL4356V/LL5356V/LL6356V/LLJ5356V

International Economic Law Clinic

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What is the International Economic Law Clinic?

The International Economic Law (IEL) Clinic module offers a unique opportunity for students to apply theory to practice in the field of international economic law.

Students will work in small groups (“Project Teams”) under the close supervision of professors and invited experts (“Expert Mentors”) on specific, real-world legal questions for “real clients” (“Beneficiaries”), such as governments, international organizations, or NGOs.

At the end of the semester, the Project Teams will submit written legal memos and orally present their projects in class to the Beneficiary, Expert Mentors and other invited guests.

The Clinic is part of TradeLab, a global network of international economic law clinics at leading universities around the world, including the Geneva Graduate Institute, Georgetown University Law Center, University of Ottawa, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA) in Tanzania, Queen Mary University of London, University of São Paulo, among others. For more information about TradeLab and the participating universities, please see <https://www.tradelab.org/>.

Who leads the Clinic?

The Clinic is taught and supervised by Prof Jansen Calamita and Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos.

N Jansen Calamita is the Head of the Investment Law and Policy Programme at the Centre for International Law (CIL). He is also Research Associate Professor (CIL) in the Faculty of Law.

Prior to entering academics, Prof Calamita served in the Office of the Legal Adviser in the US Department of State (International Claims and Investment Disputes Division), representing the United States in international investment matters, and in the Office of Legal Affairs in the United Nations in Vienna. He began his career in private practice in New York (international

arbitration and commercial litigation). He holds a Juris Doctor *magna cum laude* (Boston) and a Bachelor of Civil Law (Oxford). He is on the board of editors of the *Yearbook of International Investment Law & Policy* (OUP) and is series co-editor (with L Malintoppi) of *International Litigation in Practice* (Brill). He advises governments and international organizations on matters relating to international investment law and dispute resolution.

Charalampos Giannakopoulos is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL), an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the NUS Faculty of Law, and an associate editor of the *Asian Journal of International Law (AsianJIL)*. His areas of research focus include international investment law, international adjudication, treaty interpretation, and legal theory. In the past, Dr Giannakopoulos has been a Visiting Research Consultant at CIL and a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School. He has also worked as a legal consultant at UNCTAD (Investment Agreements Section), and as a trainee in the cabinet of the European Commissioner for maritime affairs and fisheries.

Dr Giannakopoulos holds a Ph.D in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), an LL.M in Public International Law from University College London, and an LL.B from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He is admitted to the bar in Athens, Greece.

What kind of projects will students develop in the Clinic?

The Beneficiaries of the Clinic are typically governments, international organizations or NGOs. They may ask for information on negotiations, compliance or litigation. Tasks to be completed in this context may include: research and analysis for treaty negotiations, compliance assessments of domestic or foreign/international laws, assessment of legal claims or defence strategies, the drafting of party and third-party legal submissions, preparation of *amicus curiae* briefs, or research on cutting-edge trade and investment law questions. Given the sensitive nature of some of the projects, Beneficiaries may sometimes ask that their identities be kept confidential.

Illustrative examples of past projects completed by the NUS Clinic include:

- Bosnia & Herzegovina – [Reform Options: Bosnia and Herzegovina's Bilateral Investment Treaties](#)
- Philippines – [Prohibitions on Performance Requirements in Investment Treaties](#)
- [Confidential Beneficiary & Report] – *The Application of Investment Disciplines to Changes in Environmental Regulation*
- Thailand – [Compulsory Licenses and International Investment Treaties](#)
- OECD – [Safety and Continuity of International Civil Aviation During Pandemic](#)
- Czechia – [Assessing the Effects of "Sustainable Development" Provisions in BITs](#)

What is expected from students?

Students are expected to fully engage with their projects and treat their Beneficiaries as if they were real clients. The seminar will meet for 3 hours each week during the semester but students will also need to set aside time outside of class to meet with their Expert Mentors, Beneficiaries and their team members.

As a practical module, there will be no assigned readings or homework as such. The workload is the project itself and will therefore vary from beneficiary to beneficiary. The objective is to produce an output tailored to the Beneficiary's needs.

Students will submit three interim drafts and one final version of the written output (i.e., memo, brief, report). They will also deliver two oral presentations in class.

Note that due to the nature of the course, students are expected to be enrolled and attend all sessions from the beginning. Dropping the course will be prohibited after the day of the first session.

Who is eligible to take this module?

The module is open by application to undergraduate and graduate law students. Students may find it beneficial if they have previously taken courses on International Investment Law, International Trade Law, International Dispute Settlement, Public International Law, Multinational Enterprises, IP Law, or any combination thereof, or have relevant experience in lieu of.

Only accepted applicants may enrol.

What is the mode of assessment?

This being a clinical module, the mode of assessment is 100% Continuous Assessment. Within that rubric, assessment will comprise Class Performance (30%) and Final Project (70%).

What is the application process?

Students should apply by sending an email expressing their interest **no later than 15 December 2023** to Dr Charalampos Giannakopoulos, at cilcg@nus.edu.sg, with the subject line “**IEL Clinic application**”.

The email should include a single attachment containing the following:

1. **A Curriculum Vitae (CV).** The CV should include:
 - (a) Personal particulars and contact information;
 - (b) Educational qualifications, including your subjects in law school **and your grades**;
 - (c) Relevant work experience (e.g., attachment with a law firm);
 - (d) Awards or honours;
 - (e) Extra-curricular activities in law school;
 - (f) Student exchange experience, if any, and if so, the details;
 - (g) Previous degrees obtained, if any, and if so, the details.
2. **A Personal Statement.** The personal statement should be of no more than 250 words and should state:
 - (a) Why you want to take the Clinic;
 - (b) The skills, personal attributes and experience which will make you a valuable member of the Clinic.

Short-listed students should expect to be interviewed during the week of 18 December 2023. Acceptance decisions will be made immediately there-after.