

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

7 February 2011

NUS Law first in Asia to link with World Bank and International Court of Justice

Prestigious Fellowships will be offered to NUS Law Class of 2011

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law has concluded agreements with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and World Bank to offer prestigious fellowships for law graduates to work at each institution beginning this year.

The move opens up to two fellowships at the international bodies, which already have existing programmes with select North American and European law schools such as New York University, Yale and Oxford. With the intent to reach out to Asian institutions as well, the International Court of Justice and the World Bank decided to extend an invitation to NUS to set up a similar arrangement.

NUS was pleased to accept the invitations. "These new fellowships offer our graduates an outstanding opportunity to gain experience in the most important international legal institutions," said Professor Tan Cheng Han, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law.

The internships are anticipated to be one of the most sought-after opportunities as well.

The World Bank's two-year Legal Associates Programme is only open to students with a master's degree (LL.M.) while top-ranking LL.B. students may apply for the six- to twelve-month Legal Internship Programme. Both set students on a path that includes working in the World Bank Legal Vice Presidency and receiving a salary paid by the Bank.

The ICJ programme puts a successful applicant in the chambers of one of the judges, but also demands a working knowledge of the Court's second language, French, while an excellent command of English is a given prerequisite.

Nonetheless, a Singaporean is presently clerking at the International Court of Justice. Gérardine Goh, a 2001 graduate of the NUS Faculty of Law, clerks for British Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood.

Ambassador-at-large, Professor Tommy Koh, who played a leading role in Singapore's successful case before the Court during the Pedra Branca dispute with Malaysia, supported the initiative. "The ICJ and the World Bank encourage peaceful resolution of disputes and international development. It is entirely appropriate that they are reaching out to a leading Asian law school to encourage greater participation from this region."

The ICJ position is unpaid, but the Faculty of Law will provide a modest stipend in support of a successful student.

Both fellowship programmes will be overseen by Vice Dean for Graduate Studies Professor Simon Chesterman. "As someone who has dedicated his teaching and research to public international law," Prof Chesterman said, "it's wonderful to create new avenues for our graduates to put these ideas into practice."