



International Justice Delegation
The Hague, Netherlands
January 3–13, 2021

Program Description

The “International Justice Delegation” brings together young people from around the world for a unique and intensive 11-day program exploring ***international justice, human rights, peace, and international law***. Rather than study these subjects only through textbooks, participants experience real-life cases of international justice coming to life in The Hague, Netherlands, the [“legal capital of the world”](#) and [international city of peace and justice](#).

Guided by a seasoned legal professor and practitioner, delegates get a unique opportunity to experience in person and first-hand the international courts, institutions confronting global challenges, and interact with an international judge, courtroom practitioners, advocates, and senior officials, and engage in interactive dialogues.

The Hague (also known as Den Haag or ‘s-Gravenhage) is an international hub and the Netherlands’ most popular [beach town](#). The Hague hosted the peace conferences and Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the first multilateral treaties addressing the law of armed conflict. The Hague remains the preeminent venue for international actors and civil society to deal with a wide range of global issues, such as post-conflict transitional justice, humanitarian law, peace agreements and arbitrations, treaty negotiations, regional and national reconciliation, social issues, development, the environment, and mechanisms to punish violations of human rights and international law.

The Hague hosts, among others, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and a long list of international bodies and courts, including the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (now succeeded by its residual mechanism, the “IRMCT”), and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Participants in the International Justice Delegation delve intensely into ***international justice, human rights, peace, and international law***, in preparation for daily visits to these leading institutions. A field trip to a former Nazi concentration camp punctuates the first week, and illustrates the cascade of international criminal justice since Nuremberg.

Delegates see first-hand the movement of the wheels of international justice, and come to understand the politics and mechanics behind the scenes. They meet with key actors.

Participation in the International Justice Delegation also serves as an excellent primer for graduate or other further study in international relations/law/justice, human rights, politics or peace studies. Students and young professionals gain, in a very short time span, unique insight into international justice, human rights, peace, and international law.

Program learning outcomes:

By attending this course, delegates will be able to:

- Understand and explain fundamental principles and doctrinal basics of international criminal justice and the Rule of Law, especially as it applies in post-conflict contexts;
- Use this theoretical knowledge [“toolkit”] to apply to present cases and future cases;
- Identify international criminal fora and their legal and organizational frameworks;
- Critically reflect on the relationship between national mechanisms and international (and hybrid) justice mechanisms (including truth commissions, fact-finding missions, vetting processes, and judicial bodies, etc.), and;
- Identify the key challenges that hinder the universal implementation of international criminal law, the political contexts, and how these challenges are interrelated.

Thereby this course will enable students to:

- Think critically and independently, and to express their views sensitively and effectively;
- Use legal argumentation and terms of art in coursework and class to explain issues clearly and concisely;
- Develop curiosity for contemporary legal problems that require a practical resolution; respect the opinions of others; and develop transferable key skills (for example, issue spotting and legal communication) that delegates could use in international careers.

Deliverables include a short reflection paper on challenges for justice and best international practices. As a final project, delegates create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation (with their own audio-narration based on their own text) about a transitional or international justice model or mechanism they recommend for a conflict, providing a reasoned justification drawing on their coursework and experience during the program. Incorporating feedback is required for their final version. The program will encourage students to deliver their presentations at their home institutions later and post them online.

Itinerary (subject to change)

Pre-departure

Successful engagement prior to departure is key to maximizing participation in this delegation. After acceptance to the program, participants will be provided with a list of resources and guiding questions to begin preparing for the trip.

Program director also facilitates sessions via an online platform and/or teleconference. These meetings will be supplemented by recommended readings, videos, and online platforms where participants can continue to engage with each other prior to departure.

In-country (January 3–13, 2021)

WEEK 1			
Date	Description	Notes	FYI--Websites
Saturday Jan-2-2021	Last day to fly to Netherlands		Train (network); Hague transport
Sunday Jan-3-2021	Arrival. Check in hotel, settle in	Welcome dinner & get to know each other	Student Hotel
Monday Jan-4-2021	Orientation (briefly: Dutch culture). Topics: <i>International Law; Sources; Treaties; Treaty-based org's; Case study of Syria and the use of chemical weapons.</i> Visit to OPCW (afternoon)	Public transport & visit to market Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	Visit OPCW
Tuesday Jan-5-2021	Topics: <i>UN & UNSC; Int'l Justice from Nuremberg to 1993/1994.</i> Visit to UN IRMCT & RSCSL	Visit to first modern day war crimes tribunal & 1st residual mechanism	Visit: IRMCT; RSCSL
Wednesday Jan-6-2021	Topics: <i>ICC primer and Int'l criminal law (core crimes and procedure).</i> Visit to Int'l Criminal Court	Visit to first permanent int'l criminal court	Visit ICC
Thursday Jan-7-2021	Topics: <i>Human rights since WWII.</i> Visit Amsterdam and Anne Frank House	Train round trip. Museum on own. Afternoon free.	Anne Frank House
Friday Jan-8-2021	Topics: <i>Post-conflict justice and terrorism. Case study: Hariri case.</i> Visit Special Tribunal for Lebanon	Sandwiches at canal locks in Leidschendam	Visit STL
Saturday Jan-9-2021	Topics: <i>Human rights & WWII Atrocities & Human Rights.</i> Visit Camp Vught concentration camp	Train/Bus round trip from Hague & lunch	Camp Vught
Sunday Jan-10-2021	Free day		
WEEK 2			
Date	Description	Notes	FYI--Websites
Monday Jan-11-2021	Topics: <i>Peaceful settlement of State disputes; Statute of the ICJ.</i> Visit to Int'l Court of Justice	Peace Palace (Principal legal organ of the United Nations)	Visit ICJ
Tuesday Jan-12-2021	Topics: <i>Sum up & future prospects</i> Farewell dinner (or lunch/canal cruise)		
Wednesday Jan-13-2021	Final presentations and closure	Check out in morning	

Re-entry

Participants will have an opportunity to debrief the experience through program evaluations and by contributing to a final report on the program. They also join the Global Youth Connect alumni network with opportunities for continued engagement.

Practical Matters

a. Air Tickets

Student participants are encouraged to consult with a student travel agency like [STA Travel](#) or [Student Universe](#) on special negotiated fares or free financing options like “Book Now, Pay Later.” You need to arrive before mid-day on Sunday, June 3, 2021.

b. Accommodation

Program participants stay at the [Student Hotel](#) in The Hague (or similar), which is close to Den Haag [Hollands Spoor train station](#) and an incredible transport system. Moreover, the hotel provides a shared bike, which represents the best way to get around town.

c. WiFi/Communication

There is free WiFi in the Student Hotel where you can Skype, Facebook, FaceTime, etc. Students should download WhatsApp, a free texting/calling tool to communicate with people at home, and within the program. Both parties must download the app to communicate. Many people who travel to the Netherlands with a program like this simply use the free WiFi in the hotel and in other public locations.

d. Passport

Please ensure your passport has a minimum of two blank pages and is valid at least 6 months beyond the conclusion of this program. Prior to departing to the Netherlands, please send an image/scan of your passport and a JPG of a passport-like portrait photo.

e. Entry Requirements

US passport holders do not require a visa to enter the Netherlands for 90 days or less. All other passports holders are encouraged to check current entry requirements.

f. Faculty

The program is led by Prof. [Gregory Townsend](#), who hails from California, teaches law in The Hague and Paris, and spent 20 years working as an advocate at six UN-backed international criminal courts. A program assistant will support the program.