



Hague Summer Program 2023:

The 17th Annual Hague Summer Program was held from May 29 to June 24 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The program, based on a long-term partnership between the [War Crimes Research Office](#) of Washington College of Law and the [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#), was held in person for the first time since the pandemic, and drew 30 students, 24 from WCL and six from other law schools including George Washington University, Columbia University, and University of Missouri in the United States, and Coventry University in England. The program's primary focus was the comprehensive study of international criminal law and the contemporary legal framework pertaining to counterterrorism in the 21st century. Distinguished practitioners and experts in these fields of international law served as instructors, including former judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Christine Van den Wyngaert, Senior Appeals Counsel at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunal Laurel Baig, Director of The Hague Office of the International Development Law Organization Fabricio Guariglia, former ICC Judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, Principal Counsel of the ICC Office of Public Counsel for Victims Paolina Massidda, the Head of International Law at the Dutch Ministry of Defence Hans Boddens Hosang, National Senior Public Prosecutor of the Netherlands Simon Minks, and Human Rights *in Practice* founder and Professor of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Leiden University Helen Duffy, among others.

Integral to the program were site visits to eight prominent international institutions in The Hague, including the ICC, the Kosovo Specialist Chamber, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, International Court of Justice, Eurojust, The Hague Court of Appeal, The Global Counterterrorism Forum, and the International Commission on Missing Persons. The visits gave students an opportunity to meet and spend time with practitioners, and to observe hearings, including one in which a victim from the conflict in Darfur gave moving testimony about his experiences during and after the conflict.

Another pivotal component of the program was a career panel, featuring WCL alumni Brianne McGonigle, Anad Shah, Marie O'leary, and Jared Green, who imparted valuable perspectives on navigating a career in international criminal law and the various trajectories available in the field in Europe. Complementing the academic curriculum, the Asser Institute organized intercultural sessions to introduce participants to the Institute's research endeavors, events, and collaborative initiatives. Additionally, the Institute outlined potential career pathways within its organizational framework, including internships and research assistant roles.



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Visit to the International Criminal Court (ICC)



Visit to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunal



Amsterdam Canal Boat Tour