



Universität Bayreuth, 95440 Bayreuth

Bayreuth, 18.01.25

### Rwanda Justice Sector Internship Program

The University of Bayreuth through the International Legal Studies Program and the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD) in Rwanda have developed an internship program to be offered at the Judiciary in Rwanda.

The ILPD is the only institution mandated to offer professional postgraduate programs in law in Rwanda and will also coordinate the internship program through placing students at different institutions, including the Judiciary of Rwanda (Supreme Court), and monitor their supervision.

This program is an offer and a response to the need of engaging students with international legal contexts in practice. Through the internship program, the students will learn about the judicial and legal processes of high-level national institutions in Rwanda in international contexts. This unique, hands-on opportunity will be given to two ILS students per annum.

During the six-week program, the students are given the opportunity to develop valuable legal skills such as case research, case analysis, and understanding the role of courts in interpreting and applying national and international law. Yet, participation in the program requires little to no prior knowledge.

## 1. Selection Criteria

Internships are awarded according to the following criteria:

- Enrollment in the additional study program "International Legal Studies"
- Successful completion of the "Zwischenprüfungen"
- Academic excellence
- Relevant experience: Previous experience in legal research, writing, and analysis can be beneficial. This could be evidenced through coursework, previous internships, moot court competitions or participation in other legal projects or activities.
- Language skills: Proficiency in English, the primary working language of the Supreme Court, is essential. Additional skills in French or Kinyarwanda are beneficial.

Preference is given to students who have taken courses related to Module Area B or D in the ILS program, as they align closer with the operations at the Judiciary of Rwanda.

## 2. Mode of Application

The applicants must submit the following documents by **email** to [internationallegalstudies@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:internationallegalstudies@uni-bayreuth.de) by **February 28**. The attachments must be combined and sent in a single pdf document. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

- A signed curriculum vitae
- A one-page letter of motivation
- A transcript of records
- Proof of language proficiency
- Any other supporting documents

## 3. Selection Procedure

Online interviews will be part of the selection process to assess the applicant's interpersonal skills, motivation, and ability to articulate their interests in the program. For these interviews, we invite the shortlisted candidates in good time. The interviews shall take place in the period of March 24 to March 30.

#### **4. Content of the program**

In 2025, the program lasts from August 25 to October 5.

The interns will work primarily within the Judiciary of Rwanda and their tasks will be specified in the daily activity plans of the host institutions. The expected working hours are approximately from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m./6 p.m. The interns will work from a dedicated office and will be supervised by a permanent contact person. Moreover, the presence of other interns fosters a collaborate environment. Each intern will be assigned a mentor within the Judiciary who will provide oversight and guidance throughout the program. The dress code is business and the interns are expected to wear ties, dress shoes and suits.

For a more detailed overview of what to expect, see the experience report by Karl Wachtel.

#### **5. Funding**

The applicant must ensure individually that sufficient financial resources are available for the internship. However, the Chair of African Legal Studies and the International Office of the University of Bayreuth provide assistance in applying for a scholarship.

There are many scholarships out there that offer support for an internship abroad. Applications for the PROMOS partial scholarship can be submitted until June 01 of each year. In addition, the Begabtenförderungswerke usually support stays abroad.

For an overview over possible funding, take a look at the website of the [International Office](#).

#### **6. Logistics and Accommodation**

The ILPD will assign a staff member from the International Students Office to assist finding appropriate accommodation. However, the final decision lies with the students.

Kigali is a well-connected city. For transport, the students are encouraged to use the Move application from Volkswagen to rent a vehicle or hire a taxi. Motorbike taxis are not to be the first choice due to their regular implications in road accidents.

Moreover, Kigali was named the cleanest city in Africa by the United Nations. According to the Federal Foreign Office and other international security sources, the security situation in Rwanda can be rated as good. The crime rate, especially in Kigali, is relatively low compared to other Metropolitan cities.

German citizens entering Rwanda for internship purposes are granted entry facilitation at the airport. The host institution will then help them apply for a visa by issuing a recommendation during their stay. Application fees of 50,000 Rwf will be charged.

## 7. Assessment and Evaluation

After successful completion and submission of an end-of-program report (1 DIN A4 page per week), the internship program can be accredited with 5 ECTS for the ILS. The internship can also be credited towards the weeks that must be completed as part of the compulsory internship for the First State Examination.

Please note that if students wish to receive credit for the internship under ILS, the free attempt for the First State Examination cannot be granted. If the students wish to receive the free attempt for the successful completion of the ILS program, the internship cannot count towards the 30 ECTS required for completing the study program but still as a compulsory internship for the First State Examination.

## 8. Contact

For further questions, feel free to contact the ILS-Team.

E-mail: [internationallegalstudies@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:internationallegalstudies@uni-bayreuth.de)

Phone: +49 (0)921 / 55-4326