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Institute of International
Shipping and Trade Law



Making waves in shipping and trade for 25 years

Internship Opportunities Provided to Our LLM Students 2025-26



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWANSEA LLM STUDENTS

The Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law (IISTL) has long-standing links with leading international law firms and organisations across the commercial, maritime, energy and legaltech sectors. These connections give our LLM students excellent access to a wide range of internship opportunities.

Internships are an integral part of the Swansea LLM experience. They provide valuable exposure to professional practice, help students build meaningful networks, and offer hands-on experience in their chosen fields. Each year, particularly over the summer, many of our students undertake internships with prestigious organisations across the sector.

Below are some of the internship experiences of students from our most recent cohort (2025–26), highlighting the breadth of opportunities available and the impact these placements have had on their professional development.





Aslihan Asman-Arvas
Gard UK Ltd, London

One of the highlights of my LLM at Swansea was the opportunity to take part in Gard's summer internship programme at their London offices, an opportunity introduced by IISTL. During the internship, I attended meetings with different teams, which gave me invaluable insight into the marine insurance market. I also had the chance to visit Lloyd's of London and attend an ongoing arbitration.

Studying at Swansea also opened up other remarkable professional opportunities. I attended the Shipping & Trade Moot at DWF's London offices and was honoured to receive the HFW Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air Prize. Both experiences provided excellent networking opportunities. At DWF, we took part in a moot competition before a distinguished panel, while the HFW Prize ceremony allowed me to meet leading practitioners and celebrate alongside Professor Leloudas and fellow students.

Beyond these experiences, I will always cherish the warm and welcoming academic culture at Swansea University. We were supported and welcomed as part of this academic community, and I am very happy that future students will also have the opportunity to be part of such a special place.



Mark Carlos Chikhalikar
DWF Marine, London



I chose to pursue an LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University. Coming from a maritime background with no prior law studies, I was pleased and surprised when Swansea accepted my application to begin this journey at such a prestigious university. I was excited, but also a little afraid of doing something so unfamiliar.

From day one, the exceptional and reassuring faculty, headed by Prof. Soyer and Dr Tabettha, calmed me down and guided me throughout this journey. The experience, knowledge, skills, enthusiasm, and genuine regard for the cohort's well-being, along with the exciting and engaging discussions during classes, seminars and get-togethers, gave me confidence, academic growth and knowledge that have had a profound impact on me.

With my background as a Master Mariner and my education in Maritime Law, I was recruited for a one-week work experience with the Marine Department at DWF in London. Through this experience and the wonderful people I met there, I gained an inside view of the shipping industry from the perspective of a lawyer and a law firm. It enabled me to combine what I had learnt academically with my professional expertise as a Master Mariner, and gave me a window into how legal practice works in the world of shipping.

I am sincerely thankful to the professors at Swansea University for their mentorship and encouragement: Prof. Soyer, Dr Kurtz-Shefford, Prof. Baughen, Ms Nicholas, Prof. Tettenborn and Prof. Leloudas. A special thanks to my mentor, Ms Nicholas, for her steadfast support during my times of self-doubt.



Bose & Mitra & Co.

LAWYERS FOR SHIPPING & TRADE

Lakshmi Priya

Bose & Mitra & Co., India

The LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University gave me the academic foundation I needed to pursue a career in maritime law. Learning alongside a diverse cohort from across the world was both academically and personally enriching, as it exposed me to different perspectives and experiences within the maritime industry.

Receiving the Bose & Mitra Prize in Maritime Law and the opportunity to intern at Bose & Mitra & Co. in India have been particularly valuable. The internship has allowed me to see how the concepts I studied during my LLM translate into practice, giving me a better understanding of the Indian maritime legal industry and the work involved in handling real matters. It has been an eye-opening experience that has helped me gain clarity on my career direction and the confidence to pursue further opportunities in the field.

Overall, the combination of academic learning, international exposure and practical experience at Swansea has been an important step in shaping my career aspirations in maritime law.



BIMCO



Wenjie Hou BIMCO, Shanghai

Swansea University is a great place for students interested in the maritime industry, and BIMCO provided me with a valuable opportunity to experience the real world of shipping and trade. During my internship at BIMCO Shanghai, I took part in several projects, including helping organize BIMCO forums and events. These experiences allowed me to gain a better understanding of how the industry works in practice.

I also had the opportunity to meet and communicate with many experienced professionals in the shipping industry. Their insights and experiences gave me a different perspective on the industry and actually helped me become a better observer and learner.

My internship at BIMCO was a meaningful experience that made me connect what I learned at Swansea University with real-world practice and encouraged me to explore the maritime industry further.



Ibadat Kaur

West of England P&I Club, London

WEST.

My LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University gave me a rigorous grounding in marine insurance, international commercial arbitration and the legal frameworks that underpin global shipping, within an academic environment that encouraged both critical thinking and professional ambition.

In August 2026, I took part in the West of England P&I Club's Work Experience Week in London. Over five days, I was introduced to the structure and role of a P&I Club through sessions led by senior members of the Claims, Defence, Underwriting and Loss Prevention teams. The programme covered collisions, cargo and FFO claims, people claims including stowaways and crew injury, offshore operations, salvage and wreck removal, and pollution response, with a session delivered by ITOPF. The week concluded with a hands-on claims workshop, where I applied what I had learned to practical scenarios alongside the club's heads of claims.

This experience brought my studies in marine insurance to life, showing me how P&I cover operates in practice and strengthening my commitment to a career at the intersection of maritime law and insurance.



Varvara Kazantzi

Stephenson Harwood LLP, London

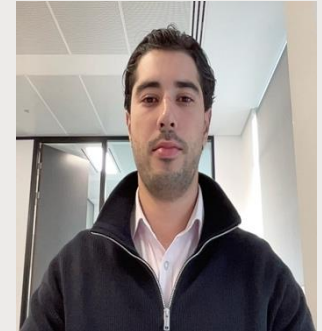
My time at Swansea University was both academically rewarding and professionally formative. As an LLM student in International Maritime Law, I developed a strong foundation in the legal and commercial frameworks that govern global shipping, supported by faculty whose expertise and encouragement made complex principles engaging and accessible.

I was honoured to be awarded the Star Pupil Prize, which led to an internship with Stephenson Harwood LLP in London. There, I worked alongside leading practitioners in shipping law, gaining first-hand exposure to the practical and commercial realities of maritime practice and applying my academic knowledge to live matters.

This experience enabled me to bridge the gap between academic study and professional practice and strengthened my ambition to build a career in maritime law at the international level.

**STEPHENSON
HARWOOD**

Alexandros Marinos
Hannaford Turner LLP, London



During my passage from the family of Hannaford Turner LLP, I had the opportunity to get an insight on topics that I had not dealt with during my time in Swansea based on my module selection. I was introduced into sale and purchase of vessels contracts as well as shipbuilding contracts and their general philosophy running their provisions. Apart from that, I got also a useful exposure to the side services of the company, like the process agency services that Hannaford Turner LLP provides through a subsidiary company, which expanded my knowledge beyond the typical shipping matters.

In summary, it was an amazing opportunity being around such experienced people willing to help me and introduce me into professional practice.

**HANNAFORD
TURNER LLP**

STEPHENSON HARWOOD

Victora Spinerova

Stephenson Harwood LLP, London

I will forever treasure my time at Swansea University. Coming straight from an undergraduate LLB programme to pursue an LLM in Oil, Gas and Renewable Energy Law, I had very little professional experience and no prior exposure to the industry. At first, I naturally felt somewhat out of my depth, but the incredible support of the faculty, the structure of the programme, and the encouragement I received throughout my studies gradually gave me the confidence to grow both academically and professionally.

Through Swansea University's strong industry links, I was fortunate to be awarded the Stephenson Harwood Offshore Energy Internship Prize. This opportunity gave me invaluable insight into industry practice and marked my first real step into the professional world. During the internship, I had the opportunity to work alongside Cathal Leigh-Doyle, a Partner at the firm. It allowed me to build on everything I had learned during my LLM, gain greater confidence in a professional setting, and begin to understand the kind of lawyer I hope to become.

My time at Swansea has given me so much more than I expected. It has given me confidence, direction and an opportunity I could not have imagined when I first arrived. I will always be grateful to the faculty for their support and encouragement throughout my journey. I leave Swansea not only with memories I will always treasure, but with a stronger sense of who I am, what I am capable of, and the confidence to carry everything I have learnt into the next chapter of my life.



Why Choose Swansea?

Our LLM students benefit from:

- Strong links that we enjoy with leading international law firms and other organisations
- Internship opportunities with prestigious employers in London and beyond
- A supportive and welcoming academic community
- Teaching by leading academics who have international reputations
- Practical experience offered as part of our employability classes designed to connect classroom learning with practice





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