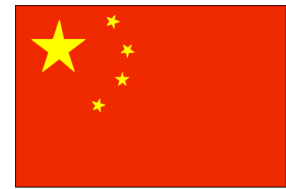




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CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ALUMNI STORIES

Alexandra, please tell us....

Where are you from, and what have you studied before joining the China Programme?

I am from Bangladesh and the Russian Federation. I have completed a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) and a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (USA).

Why did you apply?

As a recent Master's graduate, I was very interested in obtaining professional experience in both an inter-governmental organisation and in my area of academic specialisation, namely international trade and intellectual property law. Therefore, participation in the China WTO Accession Internship Programme seemed the perfect opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to the workings of a multilateral institution whilst allowing for further development of my substantive knowledge on a wide range of trade issues.

Additionally, an internship in the WTO Accessions Division was of particular intellectual interest to me in order to attain knowledge of the theories and practices of WTO compliance and the legal and institutional elements of the WTO accessions process.

What kind of work were you assigned to during your internship?

The work assigned to me during my internship allowed me to engage in both the day to day activities of the Division whilst also undertaking research into an area of particular interest to me, namely the WTO accession commitments made by Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) in the area of intellectual property law.

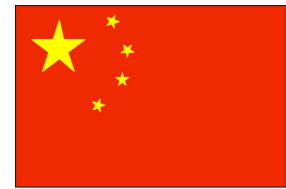
In addition my role as co-Secretary for the Working Party of Afghanistan enabled me to gain experience in drafting and work load management particularly through the preparation of Working Party Reports. During my internship, I also had the opportunity to closely follow the negotiations in the WTO LDC Sub-Committee regarding the 2011 Ministerial Decision on the Accession of LDCs which furthered my knowledge of WTO and LDC issues.

**Alexandra
Bhattacharya**
@ work as
Assistant
Program
Support Officer
in the WIPO
Division for
LDCs, Geneva,
Switzerland,
May 2015





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Looking back, what do you think of your work experience at the WTO, and as participant of the China Programme?

The China WTO Accession Internship Programme in many ways provided a "gateway" to professional opportunities in international multilateral institutions.

My experience in the WTO also enabled me to obtain a more practical perspective on the workings of the multilateral trading system and the operation of its institutions such as the TRIPS Council. Additionally, the meaningful responsibilities complemented by valuable support and guidance throughout the internship allowed for the development of research, presentation and organization skills. This experience proved to be extremely beneficial for future professional endeavours in the area of international intellectual property.

What have you done since?

Following the completion of my China WTO Accession Internship, I undertook an internship in the Innovation and Intellectual Property (IP) Division of the South Centre, an intergovernmental organisation of developing countries, where I was able to further develop my knowledge on international intellectual property issues. This experience was followed by a researcher position at a non-governmental organisation in Geneva where I had the opportunity to report and publish on intellectual property law and development issues participate in international IP negotiations and assist in capacity-building and technical cooperation for developing countries.

Since September 2014, I have been working as an Assistant Program Support Officer in the World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) Division for LDCs. My work at WIPO - a UN-specialised agency and a global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation, allows me to continue my specialisation in intellectual property law and development issues in a multilateral institution.

Thank you, Alexandra!