

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Amanda, please tell us...



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

I am from São Paulo, Brazil. Before joining the China Programme, I studied International Relations for my bachelor's degree at the University of São Paulo (USP) and specialized in International Trade in the master's degree in International Affairs at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID).

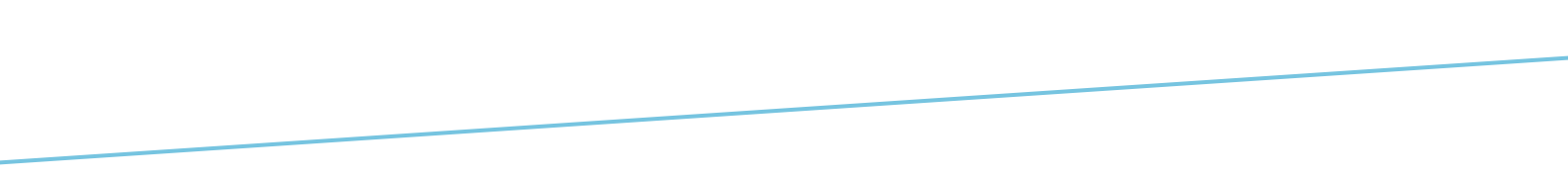
Why did you apply?

I developed a strong interest and passion for international trade by participating in the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in 2020-2021, when I had the opportunity to delve into trade issues from a legal perspective. This experience first introduced me to the WTO universe and the complex debates linking trade to development, environment, public policy considerations and much more. I had also heard about the very positive experience that the China Programme brought to young professionals, and I applied because I saw it as a chance to learn more closely about how the organization worked, the specific needs of acceding governments, to have a comprehensive view of the process of complying with WTO rules and to better grasp the dynamics of negotiations.

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

During the internship, I supported the accession files of Algeria, Bahamas, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, and Sao Tome et Principe, as well as contributed to research work in reports elaborated by the Secretariat, in particular examining the trade and economic performance of Article XII Members. In addition to assisting in the preparation of meetings (e.g., Informal Group of Acceding Governments) and events (e.g., China Round Table), I also contributed to the Trade for Peace Programme, which was one of the most rewarding parts of my internship experience.

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



I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work in the WTO, especially in the Accessions Division. It was an intensive learning experience from day one, which broadened my views and understanding of trade and politics, and introduced me to very competent, talented, and inspiring professionals, who became mentors and friends. The China Programme was a very important experience in my career and the close work with acceding governments and Members was a daily reminder of the great purpose of the organization to raise living standards worldwide, while aiming for universal membership.

What have you done since?

Since the end of the internship, I continued working in the Accessions Division as a Junior Legal/Economic Affairs Officer and further pursued my studies in law.

Thank you!