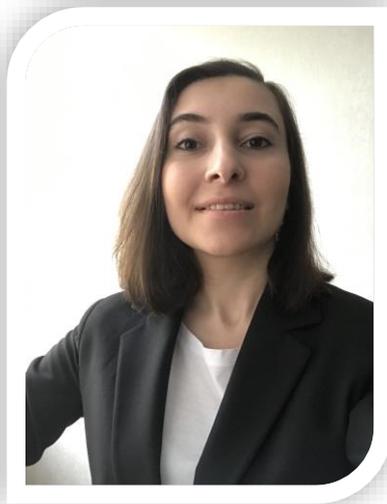


CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Sariyya, please tell us...



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

I am Sariyya Bunyatova, from Azerbaijan. I studied law in my bachelor's degree in Baku, Azerbaijan and did my master's degree in International and European Trade and Investment Law in Lyon, France.

Why did you apply?

I was looking for international trade law and policy related experience after my LLM graduation. And of course, the WTO was the first option on my list. As someone coming from an acceding country, the China Programme provided an opportunity for me to secure an internship position at the WTO.

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

I got involved in different aspects of the Accessions Division's work starting from assistance to the Accession Working Parties to research and capacity building activities, among others. More specifically, I assisted the Working Parties on accessions of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Iraq. I contributed to various research projects of the Division, including the update of the Accessions Handbook and participated in organization of different capacity-building and outreach activities, such as the seminar on WTO Accessions Rules and annual China Roundtable. I also used my time to follow WTO's work on agriculture which was of particular interest to me.

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

I believe that the work experience at the WTO enhanced my understanding of trade policy matters and helped me grow as a trade professional. It gave me an excellent opportunity to observe first-hand how the multilateral trading system functions during this challenging period and what benefits it offers to its members. The work at the Accessions Division taught me many things about the accession process and documentation enabling me to help my country, Azerbaijan in WTO accession negotiations.

What have you done since?

After returning to Baku, I started working as a consultant in donor-funded international projects in the areas of international trade and food safety assisting government authorities and private sector. I am also an adjunct lecturer in International Economic Law teaching bachelor level economics students about international trade and investment regimes.

Thank you Sariyya!