

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Walter, please tell us...



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

Uganda. Prior to the Programme; I completed a Master of Laws Degree (L.LM) in International Law at the University of Cape Town; a Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, Italy and a Bachelor of Laws Degree (L.LB) at Uganda Christian University in Uganda.

Why did you apply?

Through undergraduate and postgraduate university courses I completed in International Public Law (mainly International Trade Law and International Investment Law), I attained considerable theoretical knowledge of: international trade, the multilateral trading system, the WTO (its place in the global governance architecture, legal and policy frameworks) etc. I sought to reinforce the above with relevant practical work experience. The WTO was the only place for this – the China Accessions Programme was a gateway into the WTO.

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

- a) *Co-Secretary for the accessions of: Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia to the WTO; Analysed the respective legal regimes and laws of the countries; Supported the drafting of WTO accession related legal documents; Supported organisation of accession related meetings, informal consultations, seminars and workshops*
- b) *Researched, Analysed and appraised the Division on significant political, social and economic developments in the above acceding countries*

- c) *Researched and developed literature for the “Trade for Peace” Initiative (collaboration between the WTO and Fragile and Conflict Affected countries on how trade can be leveraged for sustainable peacebuilding)*
- d) *Supported the drafting and formulation of communication material: speeches, talking points, project proposals, etc... on issues within the Division's purview for senior management, outreach activities and partnerships*
- e) *Supported the creation and management of partnerships between the Division and external partners i.e. Nestle, Paris Peace Forum and the Graduate Institute.*

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

Working at WTO while participating in the Programme was professionally rewarding. In addition to gaining the practical insights and experience that I sought prior to joining the WTO (discussed in paragraph 2), I built personal and professional relationships with some of the leading global experts and professionals in international trade and related areas.

What have you done since?

I am pursuing a PhD in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Thank you, Walter!