

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SAMPLE STUDENT MANUAL

This is a template guidebook for JD students interested in “international law” based on portions of University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Career Development Manual. This manual should be supplemented with the handout provided at the conference entitled: “Resources for Researching International Opportunities.”

I. Getting Started

This practice area is always of popular interest among students, which is not surprising as it offers some of the most exciting and fulfilling opportunities in law. However it covers a very wide range of practices - from working in a domestic law firm with international clients to doing human rights work in Africa. Therefore, you should really get to know what it is you mean when you say you are interested in International Law. You will be taken much more seriously by a professor if you have already done some homework and can ask specific questions related to that professor's area of expertise. Similarly, an employer is not likely to consider you as a viable candidate if you do not appear informed about that employer's international practice. After some research, you will begin to focus your search based on your interests and skills. It through this process of exploration that you will discover what you are really interested in and which opportunities best match your skills and talents.

III. Outline of International Law

The below provides an outline of the various areas of international law. Although not exhaustive, it sets forth the landscape and will help you in focusing your search and in being able to speak intelligently with professors and potential employers.

A. Public International Law

1. Introduction

Working as a law student or lawyer in public international law can be a great way to start or continue a legal career. Although often the most competitive public sector jobs to get, there are opportunities for law students and lawyers to practice in public international law. This section will discuss some of the different ways in which you can explore an international practice while in school and how best to prepare yourself to continue that practice after graduation.

Public international law is a broad category that encompasses a number of different types of practice areas in a number of different settings. Public international law is distinct from other areas of transnational practice in that at least one, and often both, of the parties to any transaction or litigation are sovereign states. Areas can include international trade law, immigration, international human rights, diplomacy and international criminal law, to name a few. Settings can include governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and international courts and tribunals. The subject area in which you may choose to practice may be related to the setting in which you practice, although many subject areas cross settings.

The types of organizations and opportunities available for law students and lawyers will

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be discussed below, followed by information on preparing for a career or summer job in international law.

2. Public International Law Settings

a. Nongovernmental Organizations

Nongovernmental (NGO) organizations are nonprofit organizations created for a specific purpose, such as to advocate for AIDS funding in South Africa or to expose human rights abuses world-wide. Nongovernmental organizations can exist both domestically and abroad and range from small volunteer organizations to large, multi-country entities. There are thousands of NGOs operating in nearly every country in the world. Some NGOs are direct service organizations, while others concentrate on policy issues or reporting of human rights abuses or country conditions. Many of the organizations are not strictly legal - although they may have an advocacy component, their purpose may be humanitarian relief, health care or economic development. However, even these organizations can provide law students with valuable experiences. Domestic organizations work on issues of domestic human and civil rights, the rights of immigrants and international issues. NGOs working abroad can either be international organizations such as Amnesty International, or tied to a specific country such as the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties in India. They can also include international legal aid organizations such as Legal Aid of Cambodia or organizations in the U.S. or Europe that are dedicated to a specific issue such as the Kurdish Human Rights Project in the United Kingdom.

The larger domestic and international NGOs have formal programs for summer law students, which tend to be extremely competitive and often have early application deadlines. Additionally, some of the international legal aid organizations will hire law students for the summer. Some of these organizations work on general civil legal services issues as is the case with most domestic legal services organizations. However, many international legal organizations have a broader mission that includes human rights.

The smaller, more regional or country specific NGOs may not have ever had any kind of intern working in their offices, let alone a legal intern. Yet, these are often highly rewarding contexts in which to work as it is possible to gain a great deal of responsibility and independence in a short time. It is therefore still worthwhile contacting these organizations for a summer position. For example, if your goal is to do policy work on issues of sustainable environmental development, then working a summer with a NGO in Latin America that is doing that kind of work is a great way to get hands-on experience. However, you should be prepared for a lot of self-advocacy to get this type of summer job and to be properly utilized by the organization. Significant communication with the organization in advance to ensure shared expectations about the nature of the position and responsibilities will be very important.

Opportunities for full-time entry-level legal employment with NGOs are extremely limited and tend to be extraordinarily competitive. The most likely opportunities are with the large domestic and international programs through fellowships. Human Rights Watch has their own fellowship programs, and other domestic organizations like the Lawyers Committee for

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Human Rights may sponsor students for fellowships like Skadden, Soros or Equal Justice Works. There are more opportunities for experienced attorneys in all of these organizations. Organizations like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the International Rescue Committee, Freedom House and domestic organizations tend to hire attorneys with relevant experience in human rights or development work. Particularly in the international human rights area, entry level positions often involve (or require as a prerequisite) some time working in a hands-on context in the field. These positions may be short term or voluntary but provide an important entry point into international human rights advocacy.

When thinking about NGOs, you will eventually need to narrow your focus by geography and/or area of interest. NGOs are often most receptive to candidates who can express a credible and demonstrable interest in the type of work that that NGO is involved with and/or the area of the world that the NGO operates in.

b. The United Nations and its Entities

The United Nations formally consists of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat. The United Nations also has a system of organizations that includes the High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, among others. It is important to be persistent when looking for summer and permanent positions with the United Nations. Finding information about the different programs and the different entities that hire people with a legal background can be challenging. It is important to note that there is a quota of how many U.S. citizens the United Nations can hire in a particular year, so programs for attorneys and others with relevant experience can be very competitive.

The United Nations and its entities do have openings for experienced attorneys and some internship programs. There are several sites which lists these vacancies. Additionally, many of the United Nations' Missions around the world hire people with relevant experience. Finally, several of the United Nations' organizations, like the UNHRC, have Junior Professional Officer and other specialized hiring programs. Although there is often a formal application process, the role of networking cannot be underestimated in securing a job at the United Nations.

c. International Tribunals and Foreign Courts

The United Nations is home to several international courts and tribunals that have been set up for specialized purposes. These include the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (housed in Tanzania), among others.

There are also other tribunals not associated with the United Nations. These include bodies such as the International Criminal Court, the Central American Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Justice, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and others. Additionally, most countries around the world have appellate and other high courts.

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International Criminal Tribunals often have internship opportunities appropriate for law students. Additional opportunities may be available in the other courts and tribunals associated with the United Nations. Some of the courts not associated with the United Nations also offer internship possibilities. For example, both the European and Inter-American Courts of Human Rights have internship programs. Finally, students have been able to secure summer internships with foreign courts such as the Supreme Court of Israel.

As with many of the other United Nations bodies, the courts and tribunals have opportunities for people with a great deal of relevant experience. Opportunities are often listed on the courts' respective web sites and may be listed at the UN's official personnel site. Some foreign courts may have longer-term clerkships for graduates of U.S. law schools, especially if the graduate is from that country.

Please note that many of these organizations, in particular some of the tribunals, have early deadlines, even for 1L internships. If you want to work for a particular tribunal, it behooves you to ascertain their deadlines as soon as possible. The Yale Guide to International Tribunals and Courts is a good place to start.

d. United States Government Opportunities

The United States government is involved in a great deal of international law work through a variety of its departments and agencies. This work may involve development and humanitarian work done by organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development ("USAID") or foreign affairs and diplomacy work as done by the Department of State's Office of Legal Advisor. Other governmental departments that may be involved in international work include the Department of Justice, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Department of Labor, the Treasury Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services, among others.

USAID and Department of State both have summer internships for law students. Additionally, most of the government agencies offer summer employment to law students. For example, the Department of Justice has the Summer Law Internship Program, which is their second-year paid internships program. Other agencies also have summer programs for second-year students. The one caution is that it may be less likely that you will be placed in a unit or department that works on international issues. You should inquire about that possibility, or the possibility of getting internationally related assignments.

The Department of State has civil service programs for experienced attorneys, the Diplomacy Fellows Programs and foreign services programs for attorneys or others with relevant experience. Additionally, USAID hires lawyers through its New Entry Professionals Program and International Development Intern Program, as well as through its fellowships. USAID also hires attorneys and others with relevant experience through a variety of programs. Extremely interesting, but also highly competitive, positions in public international law are available

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through the Office of the Legal Advisor of the Department of State. Summer positions are available there during the 2L summer with employment possibilities after graduation.

The Department of Justice hires new lawyers through its Attorney General's Honors Program and experienced attorneys through lateral recruitment. Please note that the Honors Program has a deadline around Labor Day for rising 3Ls seeking a position upon graduation. Many of the other U.S. government agencies that practice some international law, like the Treasury Department and the Department of Labor, have honors and other entry level programs or hire through the Presidential Management Internship program. The Presidential Management Intern (PMI) Program is the federal government's entry level program for graduate students and a great way to get into otherwise inaccessible government positions. Graduating law students can apply for the PMI, and if selected, can choose from openings in any agency that may have them. Additionally, all agencies hire experienced attorneys through regular job openings.

e. Intergovernmental Organizations and Foreign Governments

Intergovernmental agencies are multi-lateral organizations made up of member countries. They may or may not have formal relationships with the United Nations. Intergovernmental organizations may be either international or regional in their scope. Organizations in this category include the Organization of American States, the World Trade Organization and the African Union. Additionally, some foreign governments may hire U.S. attorneys, especially those candidates that are citizens of the country. Foreign courts, especially Israel, have hired US law students as law interns and law clerks.

Opportunities with intergovernmental organizations are as varied as the organizations themselves, and some may require citizenship in one of the member countries. The Organization of American States has opportunities in the Department of International Law and a graduate student intern program. Likewise the World Trade Organization and the International Organization for Migration have internships for graduate students, as well as other possible opportunities for experienced lawyers and other professionals.

Opportunities in foreign governments can be difficult to find, but may readily exist in the territories and possessions of the United States. For example, opportunities for experienced attorneys exist in offices such as the Public Defender of American Samoa and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands. Additionally, entry legal government jobs – including judicial clerkships – are regularly available in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories and possessions.

3. Developing a Career Track in Public International Law

a. One Step at a Time

Jobs and internships in public international law are among the most competitive jobs to get. It takes hard work, perseverance, the ability to search out the elusive opportunities that may

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be out there, and the ability to make connections with people working in the field. Below are some of the things you can do to position yourself for a career in public international law.

It is important to note that you may not get there in one step. If you intend to pursue a career path in public international law you may have to do it in several steps in order to get the needed experience and connections. Starting as soon as you can in law school will help you in this process.

Lawyers seeking to do public international law typically first worked domestically in many different areas, developing skills and expertise that can later be translated into the international arena. Starting at a domestic organization that works on issues of human rights, work with immigrants, refugees and detainees, or economic development can be the first step in getting to an international career. International criminal tribunals' value experienced prosecutors and defense attorneys.

If you find yourself at a law firm for a year or two, try to pick one with an international focus and one that supports *pro bono* work. You will need to be strategic in garnering assignments for paying clients related to the international practice areas. In addition, seek out *pro bono* work to get experience in subject areas relevant to the international arena such as refugee and asylum work and death penalty work. The challenge is that many firms that do international work are very competitive when it comes to hiring and the international work is often coveted. Although firms with an international practice appreciate applicants with a demonstrated interest and background in international matters, they typically have a significant domestic practice as well. Therefore, you must be able to express your interest in international work, while appearing flexible and willing to work on a variety of matters, depending on the firm's needs.

b. Specific Tips for Pursuing Public International Law

i. Courses and Programs at Law School

If you are going to pursue public international law then you should take as many law courses related to your area of interest. Like other students pursuing public sector work, those interested in public international law should consider the clinical and externship programs offered by your law school, especially the transnational clinic [if available]. If you want to do international prosecution, then an externship with the U.S. Attorney or District Attorney may give you valuable, in court experience. Likewise, clinics and externships may be helpful. Look for ones that provide international law experience. Use these as an opportunity to gain experience that can be translated into work you want to do in the future.

Two Moot Court Competitions you may participate in are the ASIL sponsored Jessup Moot Court Competition, and the Sidley-IIEL WTO Moot Court Competition which are both great ways to get experience with international issues and cases. Writing on international law topics for journals can also provide great experience with international cases.

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Finally, you should consider the opportunity to study abroad.

ii. Develop a Focus

Develop a geographic or subject area focus. If you want to do international criminal law, develop your interest and expertise in that area, rather than floating your interests in many directions. If at all possible, develop an area of expertise related to your areas of interest. Get as much experience in this area as you can. Likewise, develop a geographic focus and keep up-to-date with political, economic and social developments in that region or county. This sort of focus can add legitimacy to your application to work on particular issues or within certain regions. One caution - being too rigid in your area of interest can make you too narrow of a candidate. Although it sounds contradictory, try to have a broad view of your area of focus.

iii. Networking

Yes, networking is the way many people get jobs in public international law. The jobs and internships in this area can be difficult to find out about - you will need inside information to catch the opportunities as they become available. So what does this mean? How can you put yourself in the position to network?

a. Get involved in Associations

You can begin networking at law school. One of the best ways to meet people doing the type of work you are interested in doing is to search out those associations and committees to which they belong. Get involved in law school organizations and network with your peers. Attend their speaker events and other programs.

There are countless opportunities beyond the walls of the law school. The American Bar Association (ABA) has a Section of International Law and Practice. Public International Law is part of this section and within Public International Law are many different committees. Research those committees and contact the chairs of the committees most of interest to you. You can also join the committees of your choosing - you will need to be a member of the ABA, but if you want to be involved in public international law, then it is worth paying the membership fee. In addition, various local state Bar Associations have international sections.

Likewise, the American Society of International Law (ASIL) has a number of Interest Groups and Networks that you can join at a student rate. Even without joining, the coordinators and chairs are listed on the ASIL web site - you can contact these people to immediately start building your network.

b. Attend programs

Your law school [may host] hosts numerous speakers and panels relating to international law throughout the year. The International Law Society at American University Washington

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College of Law sponsors an International Career Forum each fall. The program features panels speaking about strategies, as well as discussions of different areas of public international law. Additionally, the ASIL and the ABA have programs and conferences to which their members are invited. You should also research and seek out local international organizations that host speeches and conferences on international law related topics.

c. Students and alumni

Current students as well as alumni have had a variety of international experiences before, during and after law school. Students and alumni may be able to put you in touch with organizations and others working in the field.

[If the law school has an LLM program] Additionally, your law school has an outstanding LLM program for international lawyers. The LLM class of 2010 is comprised of 92 foreign-trained lawyers from 45 countries, including judges, NGO leaders, government officials and others. Most of the students are practicing attorneys in their home countries.

To contact alumni, you can link to the alumni network. [insert details of your alumni programs and database]

iv. Obtain International Work and Volunteer Experience

Most international employers want to hire law students and graduates who have some relevant experience. It does not necessarily have to be legal experience. You may have gotten some experience before law school that demonstrates your interest and competence in international work. Additionally, you will want to get relevant experience during your summers, and if possible, through volunteer work during the school year.

a. Summer employment

If you want to work internationally upon graduation, you should spend some time during your summers working internationally, and if possible, doing work similar to what you want to do after graduation. There are a number of ways to get international summer work - many of the opportunities available to law and graduate students are discussed above.

It is also important to keep in mind that there are ways of getting relevant experience without leaving the United States. For example, you can work with an organizations like Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and some government agencies, where you will be exposed to international legal issues and get experience in areas relevant to work you may want to do in the future. Additionally, if you are interested in human rights and refugee issues you can work with an organization that works with immigrants, refugees and detainees.

v. Write and Publish

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Writing about issues related to public international law is a great way to get exposure to the issues, to gain experience researching legal issues, country conditions and other related matters, and to get experience that can go on your resume. Consider joining a journal at the law school. Alternatively, (or in addition) hook up with a professor at the law school or university, a private attorney, a group like ASIL or an NGO and work on a project that may eventually be published. Working on an article with an attorney or interviewing practitioners involved in international law is an excellent networking opportunity.

vi. Obtain Additional Education

If you are interested in making a career out of international law or related international fields you can either use relevant education you have had in the past (e.g. an undergraduate or graduate degree in international affairs), or you can consider continuing your education. If your undergraduate or previous graduate degree is not related to an international area, you might also consider a specialized LL.M. degree that will give you the experience and skills necessary to pursue an international law practice. American University Washington College of Law has a specialized LL.M. in International Legal Studies. Additionally, Columbia University School of Law has a Human Rights Fellowship that leads to an LL.M. degree, and Notre Dame has an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law. These are just some examples of LL.M. degrees. You can also look into Masters degrees or other related LL.M. degrees relevant to your area of interest both in the United States and abroad.

vii. Obtain and Improve Foreign Language Skills

It is always a good idea that you pursue proficiency in a language in addition to English. Work at many U.N. organizations is done in French, English, and sometimes Spanish. However, you should, if possible, make your second (or third) language specific to the region in which you are interested.

viii. Other Personal Qualities and Skills

In addition to a relevant language, experience and focus, you will need to have other qualities and skills that demonstrate your desire to do public international work. Qualities that can be important when working abroad include flexibility, a sense of adventure, independence, open-mindedness and ability to deal with ambiguous and often chaotic situations. These are qualities that can be demonstrated by previous time spent living abroad and extensive travel.

It is also important to remember that public international employers, like domestic employers, are looking for good lawyers. Although the other experiences and skills mentioned above are important, if you want to do legal work you need to hone your legal skills while in law school, through your internships, and in your postgraduate work. Use every experience possible to develop good lawyering skills such as analyzing, negotiating, research, writing, persuading, ability to deal with complex issues, problem solving and oral advocacy, to name a few.

4. Public International Law - Conclusion

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The opportunities for students and attorneys to work in public international law are growing and are becoming a bit easier to find. However, as with any job in public service, seeking work in the international arena is a self-directed endeavor that takes creativity, perseverance and an entrepreneurial spirit. This publication was meant to give you some ideas about the opportunities available for law students and lawyers and resources for seeking that type of work.

B. Private International Law

1. Introduction

When asked to define “Private International Law” some practitioners will say that you have the NGO’s, Governments and Courts described above, and then there is everything else. As with public international law, you have to think carefully about whether you are interested in international legal issues as a topic – such as laws impacted by treaties, or criminal disputes heard in actual international tribunals, or if you are just talking about law practice involving parties from more than one country.

In some parts of the world, international practice may not be markedly different from a N.Y. lawyer assisting a company from Maine in establishing a business on Lexington Avenue. That lawyer would need to advise his client on tax matters, commercial real estate matters and insurance requirements in the “foreign” jurisdiction of New York. She would have to make sure that the company was complying with the business laws of both states, and any federal regulatory agencies that applied. Many private international lawyers are assisting clients with their business needs across international borders. They are essentially corporate lawyers, but have to consider the business, tax, real estate and other needs of their global client. Much of the work of “private international law” is done domestically – from your corporate law office in the U.S.

This section seeks to guide you through the various paths to practicing private international law – here or abroad, and has a brief discussion of working in another country. One thing to keep in mind as you consider your own job search is that there is no one path to success. You are not likely to find this job by responding to a neatly posted ad on the law school web site. Rather, you will do a little of each of the things suggested here.

2. Private International Settings

The most common settings in which to practice law for clients with international needs are:

- Large U.S.-based law firms with international offices;
- Boutique firms established to deal with specific international issues such as customs, or international anti-dumping laws;
- In-house counsel position for corporations here or abroad.

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Your work will generally be in one of the following categories:

- Domestic legal work on behalf of foreign clients;
- Foreign work on behalf of domestic clients;
- Work involving International law, or laws of multiple jurisdictions.

Within the U.S., much of the private international work is being done in large cities on the coasts (N.Y., D.C., L.A.) with some other cities throughout the country having some international legal work (Philadelphia, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis). If you are interested in serving private clients with international issues, you are not likely to do that work out of Indianapolis or Nashville.

Another common interest among students is to get experience working in a foreign country. Typically, it is much easier to obtain a position with the foreign office of a U.S. firm than with a “local” foreign law firm. While it is not impossible, you should be prepared for some obstacles including:

- The need for business level fluency in several languages;
- The need to understand the business culture of the foreign jurisdiction in order to be successful at securing clients’ trust;
- Access to the licensing of other jurisdictions without a local law degree;
- Lower pay scale for lawyers in foreign countries. In many countries, the law degree is an undergraduate level degree, and starting salaries for lawyers are much lower on average than US lawyers;
- The perception on the part of the foreign employer that you are just looking for a short term employment in a foreign country. You bear the burden of convincing them that you are actually interested in building a career in their country.

Those who are successful at obtaining a law job in a foreign country have often spent several years networking and building their skills and ties to that country so that they are attractive candidates. Law is a highly regulated profession all over the world and most other countries have restrictions on the practice of foreign-qualified lawyers and on foreign law firms operating in their jurisdiction. Even English-speaking, common-law countries will have very different local laws and will often require an exam or even further study for a foreign lawyer to gain a full right to practice.

3. Developing a Career Track in Private International Law

Developing a career track in private international law is not that different from developing a successful career track in private practice generally. This section will discuss the common elements of developing your qualifications and expertise, and networking with an eye towards your goal of working on international deals.

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a. Developing Your Qualifications

Similar to getting a job with a corporate firm to do domestic work, the firms or companies you may be targeting will look for excellent academic credentials such as good grades, participation on a journal or moot court activities, and evidence that you are working to develop and refine your legal writing skills. (This can be demonstrated by choosing courses in which you write seminar papers, publishing a comment or doing an independent study with a professor.) You may also consider taking some courses such as comparative law, or any corporate course that spends at least some part of the semester studying cross-border issues.

In addition to the academic qualifications, you should begin developing your interest in the country or practice areas that you wish to work in. For example, if you are interested in working in the area of corporate law or finance domestically, you should likely read the *Wall Street Journal* regularly to keep abreast of business developments. If you are interested in a particular country or region, you should research and find out what lawyers and business people are reading there to stay current, and get a subscription. This is how, over time, you will develop business understanding and cultural fluency for another country.

b. Developing Your Expertise

The practice areas that are most helpful for International firms are generally corporate (not litigation) areas of practice such as: intellectual property, international transactions, project finance, energy and banking. In some ways, it is helpful to think “inside” the box when considering the practice area that would be useful for an international client. For example, many employers will consider it more important that you have taken corporations, securities law, mergers & acquisitions, and perhaps a finance course at the Wharton school than to have taken a course with the title “international law.” In addition to focusing your law school studies in the correct direction during the J.D., some attorneys interested in international practice also consider doing an LL.M abroad in EC (European Communities) law, or on a comparative law topic.

In addition to developing your expertise while in law school, many law firms will require that you develop some practical expertise in the U.S. before you are invited to work on cases involving international deals or to work in a foreign office. Your value in that foreign office is often having a solid grasp of corporate law practice in the U.S. to bring to the team of experts in the foreign jurisdiction.

c. Laying the Groundwork

While you may not be able to expect to work directly as an attorney in a foreign market, or have your first involvement in a deal be for one with multi-national issues, it is often worthwhile to get some experience living and working in a foreign country. You may have already done so by studying or working abroad during college or graduate school. That is great experience to include on your resume.

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Gaining employment at a law firm abroad or a firm that does a significant amount of international work for your 2L summer takes significant planning and strategy. Typically, law students are hoping to gain an offer of permanent employment from their 2L summer employer. Much of the hiring has traditionally taken place in the late summer and early fall through on campus recruiting. Students bid for firms over the summer, screening interviews take place in late August and very early September and callbacks follow shortly thereafter. The process is fairly compressed and to maximize your success, you should research firms over the summer and consult with your career counselor before you place your bids. The challenge is that many firms that do international work are very competitive when it comes to hiring and the international work is often coveted. Although firms with an international practice appreciate applicants with a demonstrated interest and background in international matters, they typically have a significant domestic practice as well. Therefore, you must be able to express your interest in international work, while appearing flexible and willing to work on a variety of matters, depending on the firm's needs.

Although only one or two students typically spend their entire 2L working for a law firm abroad, a growing number of students who work in a firm abroad do so as part of their summer, with the other part of the summer spent in the U.S. office of that firm. These positions are generally obtained through on campus recruiting. If you're interested, you should research those firms that have an international presence in the country you are interested in, and you should then read about their summer program to see if they have sent students to a foreign office. The time to request splitting your summer with a foreign office of the law firm is after you do a callback and receive an offer from that firm's domestic office.

Honing your language skills is another long term project that you should be working on. If you are already fluent in more than one language, you will want to work on learning the language and vocabulary well enough to conduct business in that language. If you do not speak a foreign language already, you are not likely to get to a business level of proficiency in the few years of law school. You may consider practicing international law domestically, working in an English speaking country, or practicing European Community Law which is primarily conducted in English. If you are going to do that in a foreign country, you may want to begin learning the language such that you would be comfortable conversing at least casually with your clients in their language, even if your business transactions are conducted in English.

4. Private International Law - Conclusion

The opportunities for students and attorneys to work in private international law are very competitive, but will likely expand as the practice of law becomes more global. On campus interviewing can also yield international opportunities for students during their 2L summer, but careful planning is essential. In addition, to be successful in international practice, domestically or abroad, you will need to create your own contacts, develop your own cultural and language fluencies, and forge your own path – in some instances building your own cadre of clients.