

The ANU College of Law Announces the 2011 Recipient of the International Court of Justice Traineeship



The ANU College of Law congratulates Ellie Fogarty for being selected as the 2011 recipient of the highly prestigious International Court of Justice (ICJ) Traineeship. The ANU College of Law is the only Australian law school invited to participate in the ICJ Traineeship program, which is based at the ICJ, the principal United Nations court for resolving disputes between states, at The Hague.

A love of English and debating at high school and a 'strong social justice streak' led Ellie Fogarty to study law at ANU. In 2008 she completed a Bachelor of Arts (with a major/minor in Gender, Sexuality and Culture) and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours (with an honours thesis on prosecution of crimes of sexual violence at the International Criminal Court). Ellie completed a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at ANU and was admitted as a solicitor of the ACT Supreme Court in 2010. Rather than having it conferred, she chose to carry over credit from her Graduate Diploma into the ANU Masters of Laws (International Law). The ICJ traineeship will be credited as her final unit in her Masters degree.

Ellie applied for the ICJ traineeship because she thought it would be 'a fantastic opportunity not only to work in the field of international law, alongside some of the world's leading international law practitioners, but also because it would be a great way to gain further experience of the law in practice.'

For the past two-and-a-half years Ellie has worked in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) in Canberra. She provides policy advice to Government and senior officials on matters of national security and international policy, in particular, defence policy and the provision of civil-military assistance to States experiencing or recovering from conflict and disaster. At present, she is on secondment from PM&C at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney, where she is working as a National Security Fellow for three months.

Ellie believes that the ICJ traineeship will be a wonderful opportunity to develop her legal skills and gain a better understanding of court processes, while also working in the area of law of greatest interest to her.

'I am really looking forward to working with the two judges to whom I have been assigned. Both judges have worked on a number of significant international law cases which I have studied in various courses at ANU, so to be able to hear of, and learn from, their experiences first hand will be an honour,' Ellie said.

'I am also very excited about working with the other graduate trainees from the other universities involved in the program, and hearing about their university and professional experiences.'

'My heart lies in international law and human rights law. In the future I would really love to work with an organisation which provides development assistance or legal advice on matters relating to development, human rights and human security. Some options I would like to explore include working within Government with agencies such as the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) or the Office of International Law in the Attorney-General's Department, or working with a non-government organisation such as Oxfam or the Women's Institute for Gender Justice.'

'I think that the ICJ traineeship will be invaluable in providing me with an understanding of how international law matters are resolved in practice, and will give me a unique insight into how international institutions function at the highest level. I hope that working with, and learning from the experiences of, eminent international legal practitioners and graduates from other prestigious universities will also provide me with some great guidance on where I might go to from here, and will also help me build networks with people who share my interests,' Ellie said.