CAREERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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HUMAN RIGHTS JOBS

• Domestic – legal aid; public law; equality and anti discrimination; refugee & asylum work.
• International – United Nations; ICC;
• International and regional organisations:
  – UN: Office of Legal Affairs; UNEP (Environment Programme; UNHCR (Refugees); WHO (health)
  – International Court of Justice (ICJ)
  – InterAmerican Commission of Human Rights, African
• Special tribunals: Rwanda, Yugoslavia; Cambodia
More job arenas

• **Government:** Government Legal Service whose solicitors and barristers advise on a range of European matters in departments such as the MoD, DEFRA, HMRC and BIS.

• **Government:** FCO, RAF and the British Army Legal Service

• **NGOS:** Amnesty International; OXFAM; Human Rights Watch, Friends of the Earth, JUSTICE, Article 19, Reprieve and The Aire Centre

• **Academia:** UK Universities; British Institute of International and Comparative Law, The Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg), The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (South Africa), The Council on Foreign Relations and Freedom House (USA) See American Society for International Law [www.asil.org/fellowships.cfm](http://www.asil.org/fellowships.cfm).
What skills are needed?

- Flexibility to work in different settings (with fewer facilities), organisations and locations (in sparten conditions)
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi national environment
- Language Skills – French and English are widely used and are the working languages of the UN Secretariat. Additional languages will be beneficial.
- Excellent legal skills e.g. drafting, research, advocacy.
Entry points

• Entry is usually via an internship, a young professional scheme or through professional (or other) experience built up in the domestic practice of relevant areas.

• Starting a career in public international law will usually require the following: qualification as a lawyer in a legal jurisdiction; relevant language skills; international work experience e.g. a traineeship with one of the EU institutions or an overseas seat as part of a training contract; an LLM in a relevant subject.

• A career in private international law will usually require: qualification as a lawyer in a legal jurisdiction and work with an international legal dimension; relevant language skills.
Gaining experience

• Council of Europe [http://hub.coe.int/](http://hub.coe.int/) details of traineeships

• European Court of Human Rights [www.echr.coe.int/ECHR](http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR) for information on traineeships and the Assistant Lawyers Scheme (paid roles, but you must hold a minimum of a law degree from a member state)

• European Commission [http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/stages/index_en.htm) for information on summer and winter paid traineeships.
More European ......

• Council of the European Union [www.consilium.eu.int](http://www.consilium.eu.int) for information on Stages

• Court of Justice of the European Communities [http://curia.europa.eu](http://curia.europa.eu) contains information on opportunities within the court including the work of the Lawyer Linguist and Stages.

More possibilities

• UN www.un.org (general opportunities for masters/PhDs and also some in the International Trade Law Division (www.uncitral.org) and the UN Office of Legal Affairs http://untreaty.un.org/ola/)

• World Trade Organisation www.wto.org opportunities (permanent posts and stages) for lawyers and law graduates

• International Court of Justice http://www.icj-cij.org/ (students and young professionals)

• International Criminal Court (The Hague) www.icc-cpi.int/ (Young professionals)
NGO’s

- Amicus [www.amicus-alj.org](http://www.amicus-alj.org) Offers internships to law graduates (3 months, self funded)
- Amnesty International [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)
- British Institute of Human Rights – sign up for the BIHR’s mailing list to find out about future volunteer and internship opportunities. [www.bihr.org.uk](http://www.bihr.org.uk)
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law [http://www.biiclr.org/internships/](http://www.biiclr.org/internships/). For many of these you need a relevant LLM.
More NGO’s

- Centre for Constitutional Rights [http://ccrjustice.org/jobs](http://ccrjustice.org/jobs)
- Human Rights Watch [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)
- International Crisis Group [www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)
- International Environmental Law Research Centre [www.ielrc.org](http://www.ielrc.org)
And some more........

• Advocates for International Development [www.a4id.org](http://www.a4id.org) offer internships and also advertise other legal internships and placements for students and lawyers in NGOs

• International Bar Association [www.ibanet.org](http://www.ibanet.org) also offers a Legal Internship Programme for undergraduate and post graduate law students and newly qualified lawyers at the IBA offices in either London or The Hague.
• International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg) offer two types of internships – Documentation Internships and Research Internships. For the latter, you need to be working on or have already attained a doctorate in the area of human rights. [http://www.iidh.org](http://www.iidh.org)


• Redress [www.redress.org](http://www.redress.org) – internships available to recent law graduates and LLM students.

• The Mountbatten Internship Programme – 12 month placements in the USA (New York) [www.mountbatten.org](http://www.mountbatten.org)
Steps towards a job

• Get a good law degree/GDL
• Find courses: international law or Masters
• Legal qualification as barrister or solicitor, though academic and other experience may help
• Build your network of contacts: ELSA or Young Legal Aid Lawyers
• TLS International Action Team
• Build your work experience through internships, volunteering and work shadowing
• For academic careers in international law a PhD/DPhil will most likely be needed
VOLUNTEERING

- Support for lawyers at risk,
- Peace Brigades International
- Colombia Caravana international delegation seeks new members
- August 2016: monitoring mission
- [www.colombiancaravana.org.uk](http://www.colombiancaravana.org.uk)
- Colombian.caravana@googlemail.com
Really useful website
Thanks!