AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE of LAW

WAR CRIMES
RESEARCH
OFFICE

Summer Law Program at the Hague

Each summer, the War Crimes Research Office offers law students the unique opportunity to study international justice issues in the city of peace and justice, home to the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court

Applications open on November 1st, find out more here:



2027 Summer Program in The Hague: International Criminal Law & International Legal Approches to Terrorism

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE of LAW
WAR CRIMES RESEARCH OFFICE

ASSER INSTITUTE
Centre for International & European Law

Celebrating the 21st Edition!

Program dates: June 2027 (TBD)

The Summer Law Program in The Hague offers students an opportunity to engage with Hague-based practitioners and experts to explore critical issues in international criminal law and international legal approches to terrorism.

This Program is the product of collaboration between the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) of WCL — established to promote the development and enforcement of international criminal and humanitarian law — and the T.M.C. Asser Institute, one of the most prominent research institutes of international law in Europe.

In addition to AUWCL faculty members, you will hear from judges, prosecutors, and other staff from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court ICC), the UN International Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), the Dutch Court of Appeal (DCA), and other organizations. Past guest lecturers have included:

- **Christine Van den Wyngaert** - International Criminal Court (ICC)
- **Judge Guénaël Mettraux** - Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC)
- **Paolina Massidda** - International Criminal Court (ICC)
- **Laurel Baig** - Senior Appeals Counsel, International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT)

Connect with the WCRO!

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Courses (6 credits)

International Criminal Law In Search of Accountability provides an introduction to international criminal law and explores the various ways in which national, international, and so-called "hybrid" criminal courts and tribunals have attempted to enforce criminal responsibility for serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law. The course also examines the role of states, their obligations under international law, and the obstacles they face in bringing to justice those responsible for international crimes.

International Legal Approaches to Terrorism in the 21st Century examines counter-terrorism measures from an international and comparative law perspective and considers the interrelationship between these measures and the obligations of states under international human rights and humanitarian law. The course explores the status of different international players under international law and addresses questions in counterterrorism.

Activities & Networking Opportunities

The program includes visits to international tribunals and legal institutions where students have an opportunity to learn about the institutions making history in these areas of the law today. The program also includes a career panel with WCL alumni and other practitioners now working in the Hague who can serve as valuable resources to the students in their job and internship searches. The Asser Institute will offer intercultural sessions with their staff to introduce students to Asser and life in Hague. The WCRO and Asser have research assistant opportunities available after the program. In addition, program staff can work with students on individual basis in support of their career goal.

Applications will open on November 1st









"Best classes I have taken at WCL thus far and a perspective-changing experience." - 2026 Hague Program Alumni

2025 Hague Class Video

For full details on eligibility, registration, tuition, and more, please visit wcl.american.edu/hague
Questions? Contact hagueprogram@wcl.american.edu



Summer Law Program in the Hague 2027

Dear Students,
We are thrilled to announce that the application process for the Summer Law Program in The Hague 2027 will open this fall.

The Summer Law Program in The Hague is the product of a unique collaboration between the **War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) of American University's Washington College of Law** and the **T.M.C Asser Institute**, one of the most prominent research institutes of international law in Europe. In addition to an intensive and dynamic 6-credit course of study in International Criminal Law and Counterterrorism, the Program provides students with opportunities to network with leading practitioners and experts in these fields through **guest lectures, site visits to Hague-based institutions shaping these fields, a career panel, and intercultural exchanges.**

As the comments below indicate, student reviews from the 2026 in-person Summer Program indicate the Program's excellence!

On the Lectures



Judge Christine Van den Wyngaert
Judge
Kosovo Specialist Chambers

"Judge Van den Wyngaert was an amazing start to the program by having someone with so much personal experience in the field."

"She was an incredibly compelling and powerful individual. I appreciated her criticisms of the system and her overview. I thought it was a great way to begin the sessions."

"Judge Van den Wyngaert provided an exceptional foundation for the course."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.

"Mr. Townsend delivered a masterful overview of the hybrid tribunal model."

"Gregory was one of the most engaging speakers that we had all week, as well as one of the most honest about the field now and where it is going."

"I really enjoyed his lecture, we covered so many tribunals."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.



Gregory Townsend

Former ICC Advisory
Committee on Legal Texts



Christine Keller

Legal Officer
UN IRMCT

"An incredibly structured and engaging breakdown of some of the most complex modes of liability in ICL."

"Extremely engaging speaker, knew her stuff, and had a fantastic presentation that I felt like I really learned from."

"Very knowledgeable and excellent at explaining in a way beneficial to a law student."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.

On the Visits

International Court of Justice

"It was a dream come true with an incredible speaker as well!"

"An absolute highlight of the program. Visiting the Peace Palace and understanding the inner workings of the ICJ bridged the gap between academic study and the highest level of international legal practice."

"The visit exceeded my expectations."

"It was fascinating to hear directly from someone who works at the ICJ and be in the actual courtroom!"



2026 Hague Program Alumni.

Hague Court of Appeals

"This was my favorite site visit!"



"I really enjoyed learning about domestic prosecutions. It made it feel much more tangible."

"A fantastic practical experience. Observing the proceedings at the domestic level provided a concrete understanding of how international and national legal frameworks interact in practice when prosecuting complex crimes."

"Interesting to hear about the cases they are working on and how domestic legal systems can be used to try international crimes."

"Incredible opportunity to see how the system is set up."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.

International Criminal Court



"Appreciated hearing from the WCL Alum (Eric Iverson) and learning about the current cases from a law clerk perspective."

"Witnessing the inside of the ICC was amazing, especially sitting in the public gallery. Getting the perspective on the American prosecutor was also exciting."

"I loved visiting the courtroom and hearing from Eric Iverson."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.



On the Career Panel

"The career panel was absolutely amazing!"

"Good selection of participants. All of them seemed very passionate about their work and willing to interact with and help students."

"The career panel was very helpful, hearing from an array of practitioners who all had different paths to get into ICL."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.



Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Marie O'Leary, Susana SaCouto, Emma Brandon, Gregory Townsend

Overall Thoughts



"Best classes I have taken at WCL this far and a perspective-changing experience."

"I really enjoyed the site visits. The networking opportunities were fabulous."

"Most of the lecturers were chosen well, and I enjoyed learning from different experts in the field."

"Love the Asser team."

"The program was ran extremely efficiently. I think Asser is an outstanding host and it was obvious they put a lot of work in to make the program successful."

"Gives you everything you need: knowledge, contacts, and job exposure."

2026 Hague Program Alumni.

For more information about the program, registration process, and expenses:

For questions contact *hagueprogram@wcl.american.edu*