



The Australian Institute of International Affairs

Media Release



Call for applications: 2017 Nygh Internship

The Australian Institute of International Affairs and the Australian Branch of the International Law Association call for applications for the 2017 Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship.

Awarded annually, the Nygh internship offers a postgraduate student or graduate of an Australian law school the exciting opportunity to undertake an internship at The Hague, Netherlands in the area of Private International Law. Successful applicants receive a contribution towards living expenses for the duration of the internship and travel costs to the Netherlands. Applications for the 2017 Nygh Internship close on 30 September 2017. Prospective applicants should visit the [AIIA's website](#) for selection criteria and instructions on how to apply, or email Nicola Nygh at Nicola.Nygh@rllawyers.com.au for further information.

The Hague Conference is a global intergovernmental organisation with over 80 members (including the European Union) representing all major regions and legal systems. It addresses the challenges arising from differences in law between jurisdictions by developing and implementing global legal conventions. Coordinated by a multinational Secretariat – the Permanent Bureau – in both English and French, the Conference develops interstate consensus across a range of legal fields to provide legal certainty for individuals and businesses engaged in cross-jurisdictional activities.

So far Nygh interns have worked on projects in fields including family law, evidence and access to justice; cross border flow of personal data; migration; civil liability for trans-boundary harm and commercial dispute resolution. For many interns, the opportunity to observe the negotiation of an international convention first hand has been a highlight of their internship all whilst living and working in The Hague, home to many of the world's leading international law institutions.

Derek Bayley described his experience working at The Hague Conference as the 2015 Nygh intern as, “a dream come true.” During his internship, Derek worked on a number of projects, including the “Judgments Project,” designed to facilitate international enforcement of commercial and civil judgments. Through the internship Derek experienced “an unparalleled, first-hand insight of how an intergovernmental body works to foster and achieve international cooperation amongst legal systems,” and developed new networks in the international community. The internship has also provided an invaluable avenue for past interns to develop careers in private international law. In 2011 the inaugural Nygh intern, Zoë Justice was awarded a Hugo Grotius Fellowship to undertake a Masters in Law at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, specialising in private international law. The 2013 Nygh intern Brooke Marshall commenced a PhD in private international law at the University of Hamburg.

The Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship is an award in memory of the late Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM, a leading international lawyer and former judge of the Family Court of Australia. Dr Nygh was also an Australian delegate to, and a rapporteur of The Hague Conference. In 2002, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in part “for service to international law, particularly through honorary assistance to The Hague Conference.”

Dr Nygh's family donated funds to establish the Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship. An additional \$50,000 was donated by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, and Resolve Litigation Lawyers generously supports the administration of the award. Further donations are being sought to support this initiative. All donations are tax deductible.

Click [here](#) for an article about the first five years of the Nygh Internship. Further information can be found [here](#).

Background information

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (www.internationalaffairs.org.au) was established in 1933 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in, and understanding of, international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1,300 members across seven State and Territory branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, and educates and disseminates ideas via its journal The Australian Journal of International Affairs and book series including Australia in World Affairs. The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) is the AIIA's Honorary Visitor and Patron.

The Australian Branch of the International Law Association (www.ila.org.au) promotes:

- the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private;
- the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law;
- the study of comparative law; and
- the unification of law.

The International Law Association has over 50 branches worldwide and a growing membership of academics and practising professionals with an interest in international law. Membership is available to all persons interested in international law. The Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM was a past president of ILA (AB) and was also active in the international organisation of the ILA. While president of the ILA (AB) he promoted co-operation between the ILA (AB) and the AIIA.

Further enquiries

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