

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

ALUMNI STORIES

Tatiana, please tell us....

Where are you from, and what have you studied before joining the China Programme?

I am half Colombian and half Brazilian. I began my academic studies at the Ruprecht Karls Universität Heidelberg in Germany, where I acquired the required qualifications to study in this country (i.e. Studienkolleg). Afterwards, I decided to study my LL.B. in Law in Context with a Specialisation in International Law at the Technische Universität Dresden in Germany. During my Bachelor, I had the great opportunity of participating for one year in the Erasmus Programme at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, in Italy. Subsequently, I decided to study my LL.M. in Globalization and Law with a Specialisation in International Trade and Investment Law at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.



Tatiana Yanguas Acosta
@ a lecture in International Development Law, Maastricht, Netherlands, 20 May 2015

What type of work experience have you gathered so far?

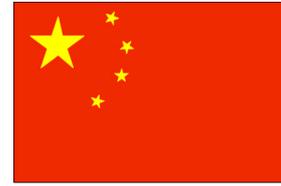
During my Bachelor, I was able to work as an Intern at the Political, HR and Media Office of the Colombian Embassy in Berlin. My principal duty was to assist the Division with all possible activities that were on the agenda. For instance, I assisted Bundestag meetings with German Members of the Parliament regarding Human Rights violations in Colombia and I contributed to the preparation of political and economic analysis and reports related to German and Colombian relations. Finally, I provided legal counselling in relation to Cooperation Agreements and Partnerships between Colombian and German cities and organisations. After this experience, I engaged in the preparation of the prestigious academic conference "Direct Democracy in Western and Eastern Europe 2013/2014" of the German Institute for Direct Democracy (DISUD).

Why did you apply to the China Programme?

I applied to the China Programme due to several reasons. First, as a citizen from two developing countries, I am deeply interested in the relationship between international trade and development. The fact that this Programme focuses on strengthening the participation of LDCs in the WTO and assists them in acceding to the Organization is fascinating to me as I would really like to understand how this works in practice, in the real world related to real problems. Second, I am very interested in International law, Economics, Politics and Diplomacy. Thus, I would like to be challenged with different legal systems, policy perspectives and economic paradigms when assisting the different



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO



Working Groups to tackle complex issues on a daily basis. Finally, and without falling into stereotypes and clichés coined in phrases such as “...my dream has always been to work at the WTO...” – that are harmful for creativity and authenticity – I genuinely believe that the WTO is the best choice we have to protect important societal values and sustainable development, while at the same time fostering economic growth. Therefore, I have decided to devote my professional career to contribute to this aim and I cannot think in a better place to begin doing so than as an Intern of the China Programme.

This year, the WTO is celebrating its 20th anniversary, what do you think of when you think of the WTO (and the WTO at Twenty)?

The WTO as a rules-based multilateral trading system faces a great responsibility: ensuring that those countries that are confronted to more difficulties, those that have not being sufficiently heard, are everyday more represented at the WTO and can participate in building a better and more prosperous future that brings development to all the regions in the world.

The WTO at Twenty is an important commemorative occasion for analysing what has been achieved and the steps that remain to be taken. The Organization faces great challenges in the present and the years to come. Today’s trade and investment universe is radically influenced by new actors and unconventional FDI trends, i.e. emerging economies, powerful MNEs and SOEs, economic groupings. This phenomenon makes consensus building more difficult to achieve. Moreover, regionalism, as a response to the lengthy advances since the beginning of the Doha Round negotiations, is threatening the very idea of multilateralism. Nonetheless, the WTO remains to be the most important forum for trade related issues and after 20 years continues to innovate, e.g. the Trade Facilitation Agreement (as a part of a wider “Bali package”) will tremendously contribute to the economic growth of developing countries, cooperation among authorities and the reduction of trade costs. Moreover, the WTO DSM is considered to be the most effective international Tribunal and to be highly appreciated as an asset of the Organization by WTO Members. Furthermore, the inclusion of activities within the WTO in which civil society is welcomed to participate, i.e. Public Forum, has positively changed the picture from the Organisation among the general public and NGOs.

What do you expect from your work/experience at the WTO?

I am eager to begin this experience because I cannot wait to put into practice all the academic knowledge that I have gained throughout my studies. I expect and I am sure that this experience will be very enriching not only professionally but also personally. I expect to deepen my WTO knowledge integrally, i.e. not only in relation to WTO law but also other disciplines, such as Economics and Politics. I would like to shape and colour my knowledge and develop a critical understanding that is only possible through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach. Moreover, I would like to experience how it is to work in an international organisation, to speak different languages and to develop professionally in a multicultural setting.

Thank you, Tatiana!