

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Angela, please tell us...



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

Born and raised in Shanghai, China, I pursued a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Contemporary Asian Studies at the University of Toronto in Canada. During my time as a China Programme intern, I was a Masters in International Affairs candidate at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), specializing in environmental sustainability and international trade and investment.

Why did you apply?

My interest in international trade law and policy was sparked by my participation in the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in the year preceding my time at the Accessions Division. Not a lawyer nor economist by training, I was delighted to discover that junior professionals with a background in policy and international relations could also contribute to the world of trade. As I sought opportunities to delve into a range of trade topics, there was no better place than the Accessions Division to learn about a diverse variety of WTO disciplines and topical cross-cutting issues. I also took an interest in trade in Central Asia, a region that later became a focus in my internship.

What kind of work were you assigned to during your internship?

During my internship, I supported the accession dossiers of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. I also assisted with research tasks (e.g. on accessions reform, the history of Eurasian accessions), webinars and events (e.g. 9th China Round Table, Geneva Trade Week), and technical assistance projects (e.g. a virtual training course on trade in

services). I had a thoroughly rewarding experience, and I am grateful to the Division for giving us meaningful opportunities to sharpen our professional skills and develop our trade knowledge.

Looking back, what do you think of your work experience at the WTO, and as participant of the China Programme?

I am humbled to have served in the WTO Secretariat and to have been a part of broader efforts to support developing countries in their journey to WTO membership. I learned an incredible volume of knowledge from my internship responsibilities, as well as from my co-interns, colleagues, and supervisors. The welcoming and purpose-driven work culture of the Division also contributed to making my internship very memorable. I am grateful for this gift that marked my time in Geneva and my transition to the full-time, virtual workplace. As I look back fondly on my ten months in the China Programme, I would highly recommend the experience to future and prospective participants.

What have you done since?

After finishing my internship, I joined the federal public service in Ottawa after becoming a naturalized citizen of Canada. I now work as a policy analyst in the Government of Canada and as a research assistant for former Deputy Director-General Wolff at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Thank you, Angela!