

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Lizaveta, please tell us...



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

I come from Minsk, Belarus.

Why did you apply?

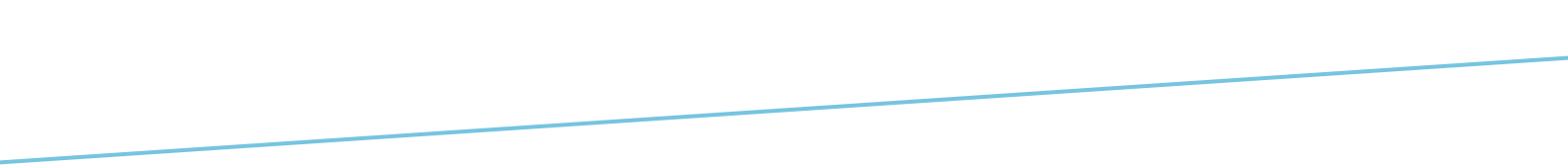
I always had passion for international economic law, a subject that I majored in during my master's degree in the UK. I also enjoy when my work has impact on the society. These two prerequisites coincided in the China Accessions Internship Programme. The internship provided me with the opportunity to apply theoretical frameworks of my favorite subject in practice and, at the same time, contribute to the societies of acceding governments.

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

I was a co-secretary of the Working Parties on the accession of Belarus, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this role, I worked with colleagues on updating working party reports and other related documents. I also participated in the meetings with chief negotiators and other representatives of acceding governments and WTO members, prepared protocols, briefing notes and correspondence as well as contributed to a number of flagship publications, such as the Annual Report on Accessions and the WTO Annual Report.

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

Back at the university, my professor was repeatedly telling us that "the WTO is a member-driven organization". Even though it is a clear statement, I did not realize how it works until I experience working in the organization from the inside. As an intern at the Accessions Division, I gained a chance to observe the multilateral trade negotiations in action and got to



understand the role of the WTO Secretariat therein. I also observed clashes of opposing national interests and how they can be overcome to achieve an overarching objective. This experience reframed my understanding of how things work when many states decide on something important to each of them. I believe this is a unique experience one could obtain thanks to the China Accessions Internship Programme.

What have you done since?

After working at the WTO Secretariat, I joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the role of a legal analyst working closely with the Belarusian government to establish the Foreign Investment Council. Recently, I joined the World Bank in Washington D.C., where I deliver consultancy services for the Development Economics Vice Presidency.

Thank you, Lizaveta!