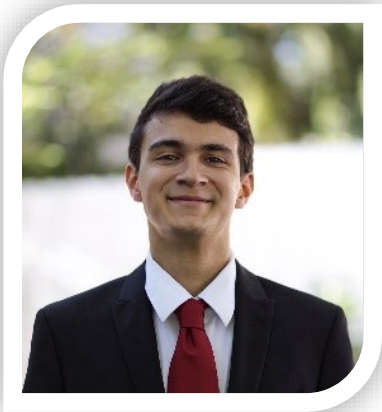


CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Alexandre, please tell us...



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

I am Venezuelan and French, raised in Miami, USA. I studied economics and international relations for my undergraduate studies and international economics for my master's degree.

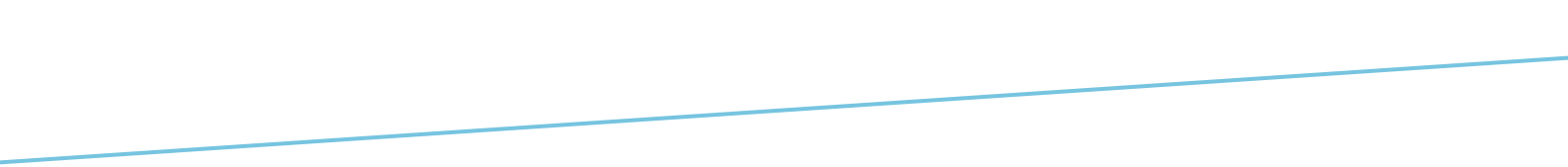
Why did you apply?

I applied because it was my dream to eventually work in an international organization like the WTO where my work could make a real difference. I just never thought I'd be working there so soon! The Accessions Division in particular greatly interested me because of the variety of ongoing work within the division – working with representatives from observer governments, designing training and capacity building events, collaborating with partner institutions and most importantly, launching projects such as Trade for Peace that have a potential to bring together key institutions and actors to enact positive development for those who need it the most.

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

I was assigned to 6 accession dossiers – Algeria, Bahamas, Curacao, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, and Timor-Leste. For these, a variety of tasks were assigned to me, ranging from assisting in the planning and carrying out of a Working Party meeting among other events, to participating in training and capacity building sessions, and giving my input on accession documentation.

Furthermore, given my background in economics, I was assigned the Economic and Trade Performance of Article XII Members section and parts of the Thematic Section of the 2020 DG Annual Report on WTO Accessions, allowing me to carry out some economic analysis on key



trade indicators as well as Article XII and observer government participation in regional trade agreements.

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

The China Programme gave me an opportunity that I would never have had otherwise, and I was truly fortunate to be a part of the WTO, particularly the Accessions Division. The launch of the Trade for Peace network remains the most important project I've ever worked on. Thanks to my experience at the WTO, I've developed skills that I never thought I'd have, while working and improving on my weaknesses in an environment where I was treated like a professional while still being mentored by colleagues with decades of experience.

What have you done since?

Since the end of the internship, I have been finalizing my thesis to complete my master's in international economics.

Thank you, Alexandre!