

CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

Nosirkhon, please tell us...



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

I am from Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Prior to applying for the China Programme, I was pursuing a master's degree in European and International Trade & Investment Law at Lyon Catholic University (France). I also hold a BA in Commercial Law from Westminster International University in Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Why did you apply?

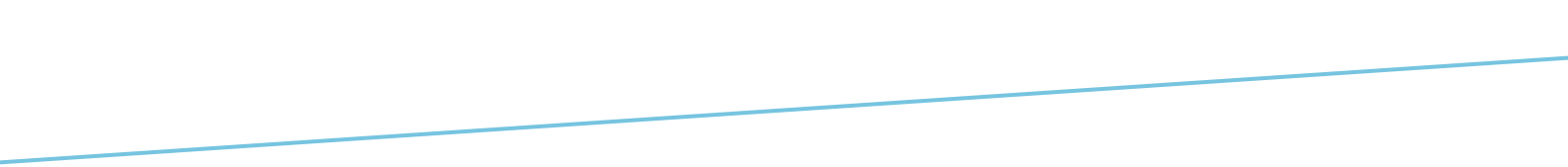
Since the internship was a compulsory part of my master's degree, I applied for dozens of internship programmes, with the WTO being on the top of my list. I saw the internship at the WTO as an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand professional experience and complement my theoretical knowledge of international trade law acquired during the master's programme.

With the resumption of Uzbekistan's accession process to the WTO and strong desire to contribute to this process, it was my chance to join the Accessions Division as an intern under the China Programme. Following a written exam and a face-to-face interview, I was successfully selected for the internship programme.

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

I served as a co-secretary on the WTO accession profiles of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Libya, Iran and Turkmenistan.

My key responsibilities under the internship were to (i) assist in preparing WTO accession documents, (ii) research on WTO accession related topics, (iii) assist in preparation for and



attending accession related meetings, (iv) digitize and register completed bilateral agreements of Article XII Members on market access for goods and services, and (v) undertake other relevant job in facilitating the negotiations between WTO Members and governments under the accession process to the WTO. When available, I also attended meetings held on the WTO premises that were of my personal interest, such as meetings of the Committee on Government Procurement.

Most importantly, the work of the interns has always been supervised by professional staff for evaluation and improvement purposes. Together with this, the interns were treated like professionals and our opinion has been important to the division.

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

I am very grateful for the unique experience and opportunities provided by the China Programme. Upon completion of the internship, I was able to acquire unparalleled understanding of the complexities of WTO accession process, as well as enhance my communication, diplomacy, teamwork and drafting skills. Along with this, I had an opportunity to be engaged in holding the 4th Working Party meeting on the Accession of Uzbekistan to the WTO, almost 15 years after the last meeting of the Working Party.

Given the international environment at the WTO, I was also able to meet many interesting people of different nationalities and expand my professional network.

What have you done since?

Since completing the internship at the WTO Accessions Division, I have been working in the “Aid for Trade in Uzbekistan” project of the UNDP Office in Uzbekistan in the capacity of WTO Coordinator. One of the main objectives of our project is to support the accession process of Uzbekistan to the WTO on the best possible terms and conditions.

Thank you, Nosirkhon!