

To: Students enrolled in The Hague Summer Program for 2018
From: Professor David Sloss, Program Director
Re: News Bulletin #1 for the 2018 Program
Date: March 12, 2018

Welcome to the 2018 Summer Program in The Hague. The program provides a great combination of fun, excitement and learning in a very inspiring setting. Many past participants have thought the experience “life changing.” We will be observing trials and learning about international criminal prosecutions at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL). We will also visit other legal venues in The Hague as time permits.

Included at the end of this Bulletin is a tentative schedule for this year’s program. The availability of scheduled lecturers will depend upon court schedules that have not yet been released. I am giving you the tentative schedule so that you have a sense of the program, but please note that it is not a final schedule. We may have to switch the speakers or even courts on some of the days. However, the beginning and ending dates are firm, so you may make travel plans accordingly. The program orientation will take place on Sunday, May 27 in the afternoon; please plan to arrive in The Hague no later than Sunday morning. I will be arriving on Saturday, May 26. Our last class will be on Friday, June 8. Since the schedule for June 8 has not yet been finalized, please plan to spend that Friday night in The Hague. There will not be any classes June 2-4 (Saturday to Monday), so feel free to plan a trip out of town on those days.

Arrival

Amsterdam is the closest international airport. Transportation from the Amsterdam airport to The Hague is very easy. You can board a train for The Hague at the airport and it will take you to the Central Station in The Hague. The trip takes about one hour and the trains run quite often. The cost is about 11 euro one way. It is easy to buy the tickets from a machine if you have a credit card with a chip. Otherwise, you will need to go to the counter to purchase your ticket.

When you arrive at the Central Station in The Hague, I recommend that you pick up a map of the tram lines and a ticket that allows you to ride on local trams and buses. The public transportation system in The Hague is excellent and the cost is very reasonable. See <https://www.htm.nl/english/>. You may buy a clip card and add money to it; later you can top it off. For the very first time, if you have luggage, you may want to hail a taxi at the train station.

We will be spending four days during the program at the ICC. The ICC is at Oude Waalsdorperweg 10, 2597 AK Den Haag. Bus number 22 stops right in front. The easiest place to catch Bus 22 is at the Central Station. The MICT is on tram line #1. The tram stop for MICT is called World Forum. I recommend that you use a map app to explore the area before you reserve housing.

Housing:

You are free to make whatever hotel or housing arrangements you think will be most comfortable and affordable for you. In past years, students were generally pleased with the following alternatives. However, please note that the situation on the ground may have changed significantly since last year.

A good starting point is this site: <https://denhaag.com/en/>. It will give you a sense of the city and suggest places to stay. Follow the “Tourism and Conventions” hyperlink, then follow the “Look and Book” hyperlink to see other suggestions. Scheveningen is a beach resort area close to the ICC and the MICT. We will be in Europe early in the season, so bargain rates are often available. Finding housing close to transit should be a priority unless you enjoy walking.

1. Aan de Zeekant. Family owned apartments on the beach at Scheveningen. One bedroom apartments with bathroom and a living/dining room area. Two twin sized beds, fully furnished. Small extra cost for linens. Four tram stops from MICT.

Website: <http://www.aandezeekant.com>.

2. Stayokay Den Haag. A Hostel with dormitory and private rooms available. Clean and secure, internet access and laundry facilities.

3. Hotel Bor. A string of six apartment houses all close to Tram Line 1 in Scheveningen. Some are big enough to accommodate 3 or 4 sharing.

Website: <http://www.hotelbor.nl>, and email info@hotelbor.nl.

4. Many students found good, affordable housing through Airbnb. If you use Airbnb, please do check the ratings carefully.

Communication:

The law school has established a Facebook Group for our program; I encourage you to add yourself to the group if you have not already done so. The Facebook Group will provide a helpful tool for students to get to know each other better, even before we arrive in The Hague.

I do not use Facebook, so the best way to communicate with me is by e-mail. My e-mail address is dlsloss@scu.edu. Feel free to contact me directly with any of your questions. I will have a cell phone in Europe. I will provide that phone number to you as soon as I know it. I will be staying at the Novotel Suites Den Haag City Centre on Grote Marktstraat. The phone number there is 31 708-505-180.

Reading

I know this is a busy time in the semester for all of you. Even so, if you have some time before you leave, I encourage you to do some reading to prepare for the experience of observing the trials. All the tribunals have excellent websites. There is even a running video feed from the courtrooms available online. All documents relating to each of the cases is also available online. The ICC website is at <http://www.icc-cpi.int>. The MICT website is at <http://www.unmict.org/en>. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon is at <http://www.stl-tsl.org/>.

There are some excellent books available for background reading about the war in the former Yugoslavia. I recommend *Blood and Vengeance: One Family's Story of the War in Bosnia*, by Chuck Sudetic (Penguin, 1999). It focuses on the massacre at Srebrenica. Chuck Sudetic is also the co-author of *Madame Prosecutor*, Carla Del Ponte's account of her tenure directing the Prosecutor's Office at the Yugoslav tribunal. Also highly recommended are *Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation*, by Laura Silber and Allan Little (Penguin, 1996) and *The Key to My Neighbor's House*, by Elizabeth Neuffer (Picador, 2001).

Next month, you will receive a PDF of materials to bring with you to The Hague. We will post it in the online portal (international.scu.edu) due to the length; please make sure you have access. The materials will include some general information about the ICC and the MICT. If possible, we will also include some information about the cases we will be observing. I strongly encourage you to print the PDF file and bring a paper copy with you. It will be very useful to be able to review the documents while we are attending court sessions. You will not have access to an electronic copy in court because laptops and phones are not permitted during courtroom sessions.

Packing Tips:

There will be no need for suits or ties. The dress for the program is business casual. Shorts and tee shirts are not appropriate, but slacks or skirts with shirts or blouses will be acceptable for all court visits and dinners. For men, collared shirts please, no T shirts. Be sure to pack sweatshirts and/or jackets. The breeze from the North Sea can be quite chilling in May and June. Rain gear is recommended because it does rain in the summer. The Hague is a good walking city, but there are many pebbled streets, so please consider your footwear accordingly.

Conduct:

If you bring laptops, cameras or cellphones, you **will not** be permitted to bring them into the courtrooms. They will need to be left with security, which really slows down our admission to the courts. This will not be a problem for our orientation or for any of our social events. I will let you know when cameras are permitted. But please do not bring any of this equipment to the courts. The courts are very strict about this. You will be going through a metal detector each day. Paper and pens are the way to take notes. Hence why it's a good idea to bring printed reading material.

When we visit the courts, please be respectful of the rules. There will be times when the court goes into closed session and we cannot see or hear. Even at those times, though, we are expected to remain quiet as long as the court is in session. We are there as guests and we want to be invited back. Our entry into each courtroom for observation is strictly timed. We cannot wait for late arrivals because we are required to enter as a group. Therefore, please spend time in advance to figure out how to get to the courts. I will give you more guidance during orientation. For most days, after the court proceedings, we will have time to eat a lunch on or off the premises before we start our afternoon briefings. You will need your passport (original) each day. Those who do not have it will not be admitted. This is the court's policy.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday, May 27 for orientation and dinner. The event will be at The Penthouse, Rijkswijkseplein 786. I will provide additional details closer to the date.

Professor David Sloss, Program Director

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, May 27	Orientation and Dinner
Monday, May 28	Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
Tuesday, May 29	International Criminal Court (ICC)
Wednesday, May 30	Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)
Thursday, May 31	Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)
Friday, June 1	Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)
Saturday to Monday	Free time
Tuesday, June 5	ICC
Wednesday, June 6	ICC
Thursday, June 7	ICC; Closing dinner/social
Friday, June 8	To be determined