



*International University College of Turin*

**The IUC**  
**Clinical Legal Education Program**

**2017**

The IUC Clinical Legal Education Program attempts to bridge the gap between classroom education and the reality of professional practice, emphasizing the sensitization of students as future professionals to the problems of social justice and to foster a sense of social responsibility. It has two primary objectives: first, to encourage students throughout their clinical experience to envisage how legal institutions and practices can be reformed and reorganized to best serve the society and secondly, to provide the much-needed pro bono legal assistance to under-represented individuals and organizations within Turin's area, complementing the already existing support provided by local organizations working for the benefit of migrants, asylum seekers and vulnerable people.

The IUC Clinical Legal Education Program, directed by Ulrich Stege, represents in fact the frame for a variety of actions and activism led mainly by students as main actors under the supervision of academics, professionals and social actors and following the general IUC philosophy, which specifically looks to engage students and young scholars from all over the world in analysing the relationship between theory and practice, favoring actual experience and empirical findings over the black letter law. In a spirit of social activism, the IUC Clinical Legal Education Program is motivated by the desire to evolve from traditional forms of legal education and to create an academic tool for systematic social change. As it is the case also at the other courses of the IUC master programs, the clinical program explores law in action (in particular in the field of migration and asylum), investigating the myriad of legal and non-legal factors which influences the social, legal, political and economic arrangements in society, while preparing at the same time students for the rigorous demands of public or private practice as well as to synthesize their theoretical understanding with actual experience.

Main component of the IUC Clinical Legal Education Program is the **Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic (HRMLC)**, which is a one academic year program and is implemented with the support of various partnerships. The HRMLC has been established in 2011 by the IUC as first law clinic in the Piedmont region and one of the first law clinics in Italy in cooperation with the Departments of Law of the Universities of Turin and Eastern Piedmont in Alessandria. It is open to the international student's body from the IUC's Master Programs. In addition, the clinical program involves undergraduate law students from the Universities of Turin and Eastern Piedmont. It thus engages a group of selected Italian and international students (ca. 25 students per academic year) who are highly qualified and motivated. In addition, the program enhances the cooperation between these institutions by using the synergies of their different activities, competences and structures for the benefit of the students and the local migrant community. The three institutional partners play a key role for the clinic management by connecting the clinical program to the actual curriculum of the universities,

by selecting the clinical students, defining the clinical priorities, supervising the clinical activities and determining and supporting the areas of research.

Another strategic partner is the Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione (ASGI), which has proven expertise in the field of asylum and migration law in Italy. ASGI with its associated and specialised lawyers plays a key role for the clinic by advising, supporting and supervising the clinical activities at all stages. In addition, the IUC Clinical Legal Education Program has signed cooperation agreements with local and international actors working in the field of asylum and migration<sup>1</sup>.

Since the beginning, **155 students from different 33 countries** (such as: Albania, Australia, Belorussia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germania, Ghana, Haiti, India, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Porto-Rico, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Tanzania, Tunisia, UK and Ukraine) participated at the HRMLC.

The IUC Clinical Legal Education Program is pursuing the following objectives:

- To provide students (1) a window into the true operational migration and asylum law, (2) an opportunity to understand and to test the influence that the EU law and International human rights law have on the Italian migration and asylum law practice, (3) a hands-on learning experience and exposure to real-world legal problems, and (4) an opportunity to interact with local organizations and professionals.
- To offer in general (1) a contribution from qualified, motivated and supervised students to improving access to justice for migrants and (2) support to research activities and advocacy in the field of migration in its social, cultural and economic dimensions.

Beside the clear educational focus of the IUC Clinical Legal Education Program, the clinical program has in addition a strong social justice mission, which combines some broad components, such as (1) to provide support to people/communities falling out of the institutional system of support, (2) to build among students a sensitivity to social problems, promoting the role of lawyers as “social actors”, (3) to build systemic change and (4) to understand the law as a social policy tool.

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<sup>1</sup> See more about the HRMLC and its partners: <http://www.iuctorino.it/studies/clinical-education/legal-clinics/>.