Harvard Law School has a singular commitment to international and comparative law. We stand apart from other U.S. law schools in treating this area as equal to all other first year offerings, providing every J.D. student the choice of an array of international legal studies courses specially crafted for 1Ls. Our students (from some 75 countries) take advantage of an upper year curriculum that includes scores of classes taught by leading experts from across the globe, extraordinary opportunities abroad during our unique January term and throughout the year, and an unparalleled alumni network around the world.

Here is a sampling of the amazing ways in which Harvard students can explore international legal studies.

**Madison Condon '14 | international environmental law; international trade**

As a student in a concurrent degree program, Madison earned both a J.D. at HLS and a masters in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. She took HLS courses in international environmental law, international trade, and investment law, and made the most of opportunities to conduct research and publish her work. During a summer internship in France with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Madison worked on the trade/environment challenge, later co-authoring a paper on it. She also explored issues of water rights during two HLS-sponsored winter terms: conducting research about the Indus River in Pakistan, and creating a documentary film on water scarcity in India. After graduation, Madison clerked for the Federal Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

**Julian Hill '14 | international development; foreign direct investment**

While at HLS, Julian concentrated on issues related to international development and foreign direct investment. To develop his regional expertise, he drew on previous work in Africa and Latin America and spent a summer interning at the International Law Institute in Uganda; engaged in clinical projects focused on Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic; and traveled to Costa Rica for an HLS course on the Inter-American human rights system. He later spent a semester in China studying law and language at Tsinghua University and conducted research for an independent paper analyzing Sino-Ugandan foreign direct investment. Following graduation, Julian returned to Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where he had been a summer associate, to join the firm’s Latin America practice group.

**Lindsay Henson '14 | gender violence; criminal justice reform**

Lindsay came to law school interested in issues of gender-based violence in developing countries, aiming to learn more about how criminal justice systems could be improved to better protect women and children. She took courses in gender-based violence, criminal justice, human rights, and social change. Through HLS clinical opportunities and by cross-registering for complementary courses elsewhere at Harvard, she broadened her skill set and assisted in the prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual violence. Lindsay spent two summers abroad, in India working on behalf of displaced slum residents, and in Bangladesh helping to examine newly-established domestic violence and human trafficking laws. Following graduation, Lindsay headed to South Africa to work for the non-profit organization Lawyers against Abuse.

**Stephen Lam ’13 | commercial law; financial regulation**

At HLS Stephen was eager to delve into legal and economic issues related to emerging markets, with a focus on market reform and regulation in Asia. He took an array of courses in international and corporate law and gained valuable practical experience. During one summer Stephen worked for an infrastructure development fund in Singapore; the following summer he split his time between the New York and Hong Kong offices of a major law firm. He also went abroad over two winter terms, conducting research on clean energy development in the Philippines and on the internationalization of the Chinese currency. Following graduation, Stephen became an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions and financial services regulation.

**H. Nanjala Nyabola ’14 | international human rights; legal philosophy**

Nanjala came to HLS seeking exposure to litigation and to deepen her understanding of advocacy for marginalized communities. Her courses at HLS dealt with international law, human rights, and law and social movements. She spent one summer conducting work on death penalty cases in the U.S. and another assisting victims of sexual violence in Haiti. Nanjala took advantage of HLS’ exchange programs and spent a semester at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Both there and at Harvard she further developed her interest in legal philosophy to better understand the ethical frameworks and moral responsibilities underpinning international legal advocacy. Following graduation, Nanjala accepted a position with Catholic Relief Services in Madagascar.

**David Back ’12 | international business and entrepreneurship**

David’s primary emphasis while at HLS concerned the legal framework that surrounds international entrepreneurship. He supplemented his study of business law with courses that dealt with financial aspects of globalization, and engaged in independent research on topics of comparative and cross-border entrepreneurship. He spent one summer working for the Kaufmann Foundation and another with McKinsey and Company, examining policy issues related to, respectively, immigration and health insurance. Through involvement with the Harvard Innovation Lab and utilizing other HLS resources, David developed the blueprint to found his own company, a car-sharing service in India. After completing his degree, David moved to India where he works full-time as the president of ZoomCar.

**Hedayat Heikal ’09, S.J.D. candidate | comparative constitutional law; administrative law and theory**

Hedayat came to HLS with a broad interest in international and comparative law which she honed during her J.D. studies and later as a doctoral candidate. She took courses in constitutional law, Islamic law, human rights, and family law, and helped an HLS professor develop a curriculum on family law in Egypt and the U.S., later co-teaching the course at the American University in Cairo during the HLS winter term. Hedayat also traveled to Namibia for clinical work on transitional justice, spent one summer working for Human Rights Watch in Lebanon, and another summer in the New York and Paris offices of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. After completing her J.D., Hedayat worked at Cleary as a litigator for nearly four years and then returned to HLS to earn her S.J.D.
“My work in Pakistan on the management of the Indus River and my work in India making a short documentary on water rights were both locally focused, though coursework and professors at HLS helped me to see how they related to one another as well as fit in the broader global context.”
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“While in Brussels, I worked on an antitrust case that was both intricate and engaging. Working with a team of truly phenomenal European attorneys challenged my thinking and helped me develop my analytical writing. Sitting in on meetings and seeing how those attorneys leveraged their years of experience to consider context and next steps provided a judicious model.”
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Clinical Work

Knowing he wanted to work in the international sphere, before law school Julian spoke to Professor Tyler Giannini about human rights and associated litigation work at HLS. Upon arriving at HLS after deferring his acceptance to spend a year with Teach for America, Julian was able to work directly with Professor Giannini and the International Human Rights Clinic. Julian assisted with research on the approaches taken in amicus curiae briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of and against Nigerian petitioners seeking to hold oil companies liable for human rights violations in Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.

In his second year at HLS, Julian utilized his knowledge of Latin America to contribute to a project assessing conditions in Brazilian prisons, and participated in a clinical course on The Doctrine and Practice of the Inter-American Human Rights System. These practical experiences provided him with perspective and skills that he later applied in his summer position with the Latin America practice group of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton.

Summer: Taking advantage of an opportunity to return to East Africa, where he had lived before HLS, Julian obtained HLS Summer Public Interest Funding and an HLS Chayes International Public Service Fellowship for work in Uganda. At the International Law Institute-African Development Society on a project about effective legal regimes for water management.

Post-HLS: Julian returned to Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton to work in the Latin American practice group, focusing on private companies interested in raising capital in the United States.
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“I structured my legal education to go beyond simply learning the law, instead taking courses that would challenge me to think critically about how the law could be used as a tool for institutional reform and systemic change. As I took classes in the areas of criminal justice, gender-based violence, international development, and social change, my professors helped me develop analytical frameworks for thinking through these challenging questions.”
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Coursework: Lindsay studied applied mathematics at University of California, Los Angeles, and then worked at a litigation consulting firm and with a non-profit organization based in the Philippines which sparked her interest in international sex trafficking and criminal justice reform. At Harvard, she took Professor Gabriella Blum’s Public International Law, a course especially developed for 1Ls that provided foundational knowledge of international law generally and international human rights and humanitarian law more specifically. In addition she chose Child, Family, and State as an elective.

Summer: To hone her legal focus on human rights, Lindsay spent the summer working with the Human Rights Law Network in India. (Click for more detail)

Cross-Registration: Lindsay took two classes at the Harvard Kennedy School: Getting Things Done: Management in a Development Context, examining a new approach to creating systemic change; and Sparking Social Change, exploring strategies and platforms for driving social change. In her 3L spring, Lindsay took Managing Financial Resources in Non-Profit Organizations at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, which addressed mission alignment and using financial information to make strategic decisions. Lindsay explained: “If I’m going to a small non-profit, the more hats that I can wear, the more value I can add.”

Coursework: Lindsay’s courses included Criminal Investigations / Police Practices; Criminal Adjudication; Gender Violence Legal Policy in the Fall she worked in the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, headed by Deakin ’91, gaining a thorough understanding of the scope (and limitations) of the criminal justice system. In the spring she interned at the Victim Rights Law Center, which provides civil legal services to victims of sexual violence. Lindsay also wrote a paper on various legal strategies and lawyering styles used to combat gender-based violence. She also took a number of courses at other Harvard schools. (Click for more detail)

Winter Term: With the help of the HLS Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs, Lindsay planned a 3L independent clinical placement with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office. To gain the necessary practical skills, she enrolled in the Trial Advocacy Workshop during her 2L winter term.

Summer: With her previous advocacy work in India in mind, and to continue developing regional expertise, Lindsay secured a placement at the Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers’ Association. (Click for more detail)
“My legal training during my first year at HLS was great preparation for the work I did at InfraCo Asia. In terms of understanding key legal issues when working with commercial contracts, bilateral tax treaties, and project proposals, the 1L curriculum provided me with a solid foundation going into my internship and allowed me to hit the ground running from the very beginning.”

1L Coursework: Before law school, Stephen earned a degree in international politics from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and then worked as a management consultant. Given his longstanding interest in Asia, Stephen chose Professor William Alford’s Comparative Law: Why Law? Lessons from China for his 1L international course. He also enrolled in Regulating Financial Stability, a seminar that provided an excellent foundation for subsequent work in financial regulation. As well, he signed up for a reading group on Challenges Facing Emerging Economies. (Click for more detail)

Student Organizations: Stephen became a member of HLS’ Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and the Harvard Business Law Review.

Summer: Stephen conducted an internship with InfraCo Asia, a Singapore-based infrastructure development fund focused on energy and infrastructure in Asia. He sought out this placement in order to work on economic development projects and was excited to be able to draft term sheets, financing agreements, and shareholders agreements for a toll road project in Thailand and a wind farm in the Philippines.

2L Coursework: In order to pursue his interest in finance and prepare for work in the corporate sector, Stephen took Corporations; Regulation of Financial Institutions; Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation; International Finance; and Mergers and Acquisitions. He also cross-registered for Chinese language courses through Harvard’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

Student Organizations: As a board member of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Stephen was involved in organizing the National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Policy.

Winter Term: As a follow-up to his summer work, Stephen traveled to the Philippines to conduct research for a paper on prospects for clean energy development.

Summer: Stephen worked for a major law firm, splitting his summer between the New York and Hong Kong offices. He conducted due diligence and reviewed agreements for capital markets and mergers and acquisitions transactions involving financial institutions and natural resource companies in Asia and South America.

3L Coursework: Stephen took courses in Corporate Finance and Mergers, Acquisitions, and Split-Ups to round out his study of corporate law.

Winter Term: With the support of an HLS Cravath International Fellowship, Stephen traveled to Beijing and Hong Kong to conduct research and interviews on the legal and policy issues affecting the internationalization of the Chinese Renminbi. His paper examined legal and regulatory developments associated with currency convertibility in relation to trade settlement, foreign financial investment, and international reserve currency status.

Post-HLS: Stephen became an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell where he works with the mergers and acquisitions and financial services groups. He has found it helpful to draw on the perspective he gained while at HLS and to consider how other countries handle issues of economic and financial regulation, which has helped him significantly when working on cross-border transactions.
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Connections to the World of Practice

For Stephen, one of the best things about his time at HLS was taking classes with faculty members who were not only scholars but had practical experience. Prior to HLS, Stephen conducted an internship in the Office of the United States Trade Representative where Professor Mark Wu had served as the director for intellectual property. When Stephen arrived at HLS, he was excited to enroll in a reading group with Professor Wu, and to learn that he was the faculty advisor for the Harvard Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. In his 3L year, when he wanted to write an independent paper on an aspect of the Chinese economy, Stephen knew that Professor Wu would be an excellent supervisor.

Stephen also took courses with Professors John Coates and Hal Scott and felt that their real-world experience brought valuable perspective to the classroom. Stephen appreciated that Professor Coates’ connections from his prior practice and HLS’ strong alumni connections meant that the Mergers and Acquisitions class included guest speakers who connected theory with practice. Two who stood out for Stephen were Douglas Braunstein ’86, vice chairman of JPMorgan Chase & Co., and Raymond McGuire ’83, head of global banking at Citigroup.

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“My summer work in Haiti forced me to think very critically about what it means to be an advocate. It made me realize the importance of stepping back so that the groups that you’re advocating for can have their say. Marginalized groups know what they want and from whom; our job as advocates is simply to articulate that, as accurately and respectfully as possible.”

Coursework: Nanjala’s interest in international human rights was an outgrowth of her experience growing up in Nairobi, Kenya, and her previous work with refugees. With degrees in refugee and forced migration studies and in African studies from the University of Oxford, where she had been a Rhodes Scholar, Nanjala was eager to add a legal framework to her existing knowledge. In the spring of her 1L year she enrolled in Public International Law. She also took Lawyering for the President to gain a sense of the practical challenges of the legal profession.

Student Organizations: Nanjala joined the Harvard African Law Association. Her involvement with the organization continued over her three years at HLS and included helping to organize the group’s study tours to Kenya and Senegal.

Summer: Since her prior study and work had been outside the U.S., Nanjala spent her first summer working for the Northern Virginia Capital Defender’s Office. She conducted legal research on death penalty cases and concluded “It was one of the best professional experiences I’ve had. I learned about the enormously difficult context in which public defenders work in the U.S., and the amazing dedication that many of them have.”

Coursework: In the International Human Rights Clinic and associated seminar The Promises and Challenges of Disarmament, Nanjala considered the role of treaty law. She learned procedure and developed practical skills through Evidence and the Trial Advocacy Workshop. Law and Social Movements provided critical perspective for thinking about the challenges of marginalized groups while Philosophical Analysis of Legal Argument proved helpful in understanding legal reasoning and how to break down judgments.

Winter Term: Nanjala wrote a paper on the topic of non-American social venture funds seeking to incorporate in the United States, expanding her knowledge of tax law while retaining a focus on non-profit organizations.

Summer: Nanjala spent her second summer again advocating for marginalized communities. She secured HLS Summer Public Interest Funding and an HLS Human Rights Program summer fellowship to work with a small organization in Haiti, the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux. After an intensive class in Creole, she began work with BAI’s Rape Accountability and Prevention Project. Nanjala was involved in collecting information and developing strategy for litigation as well as working directly with rape victims, most of whom were children.

Summer Abroad: Nanjala went straight from Haiti to Switzerland, where she spent a semester at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, with which HLS has an exchange program. She also took Philosophy and Literature: The Problem of Consent she wrote a paper on the philosophical dimensions of law, and commented “I think the time abroad forced me to take a step back and really consider the macro-dimensions of the work we do as international advocates.” She also took Indigenous Peoples in International Law for perspective on the role of protected groups.

Post-HLS: Nanjala accepted a position in Madagascar as an international development fellow with Catholic Relief Services, undertaking community organizing in the mining population as well as liaising with government officials and mining companies to draft a document that represents the needs of all involved.
H. Nanjala Nyabola ‘14

international human rights; legal philosophy

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Winter Term: Nanjala remained in Geneva to work on her winter project under the supervision of Professor Deborah Anker. She wrote a paper on the philosophical dimensions of law, and commented “I think the time I forced me to take a step back and really consider the philosophical dimensions of the work we do as international advocates.”

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David Back '12
international business
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1L

Coursework: Prior to attending HLS, David earned a degree in diplomatic history from the University of Pennsylvania and then founded a company to commercialize a new type of generator to convert waste heat into electricity. At HLS, he began to explore the legal aspects of business and supplemented his required 1L courses with an elective on The Legal Architecture of Globalization: The History and Institutional Development of Money and Finance taught by Professor Christine Desan.

Student Organizations: As a 1L, David became involved with the Harvard Association for Law and Business (HALB) which, at the time, was a small student group. By the time he graduated from HLS, HALB was the largest student organization on campus. David organized trips for students to visit venture capital funds and produced a newsletter listing events and resources about entrepreneurship all over the Boston area.

Summer: David worked in the General Counsel Office of the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, where he conducted research on the effect of immigration policy on entrepreneurship.

2L

Coursework: David took Corporations; Law and Economics; Analytical Methods for Lawyers; Business Strategy for Lawyers; Entrepreneurship and Company Creation; and International Law Workshop: Law and Development. He also cross-registered for a Harvard Business School course on Globalization and Emerging Markets. Under the supervision of Professor Christine Desan, he wrote an independent paper on whether the U.S. should sell gold reserves, and one with Professor William Alford as his faculty advisor contrasting the process of starting a company as a foreigner in India and China.

Winter Term: Over the winter term he enrolled in the Negotiation Workshop and, since starting his own company, has had ample opportunity to draw on a variety of negotiation techniques.

Summer: David worked in the San Francisco office of McKinsey & Company, analyzing possible methods to reduce spending on public employee health insurance while maintaining quality.

3L

Coursework: David took Taxation and National and International Security Law Workshop: Covert Operations, Espionage, and Intelligence Gathering. He wrote another independent paper, this time examining corporate structures for cross-border entrepreneurship, under the supervision of Professor Jon Hanson. David also worked as a teaching assistant for courses on globalization taught by Faculty of Arts and Sciences Professor Niall Ferguson and Harvard Kennedy School Professor Lawrence Summers who had served as president of Harvard University as well as U.S. secretary of the Treasury.

Winter Term: David’s academic exploration took a practical turn when he traveled to India to examine the specific legal and other steps necessary for creating a car-sharing company in India. With the support of a winter term international travel grant, he was able to meet with lawyers, venture capitalists, government officials, business associations, and even car manufacturers in India. The knowledge and insights that David gained were critical not only for the paper he wrote, but for his subsequent work with the Harvard Innovation Lab and as an entrepreneur.

Post-HLS: David is the co-founder and president of ZoomCar, India’s first company focusing on “self-drive” car rental. Before Zoom, nearly all car rental in India came with a chauffeur, with no option for customers to drive themselves. The company has grown considerably since launching in February 2013 and by December 2014 had more than 500 vehicles across Bangalore, Delhi, and Pune.
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Leveraging Harvard University Frameworks

As the HLS student representative on the board of the Harvard Innovation Lab when it was created in 2011, David had a voice in the project from its inception. The i-lab was designed as a resource for Harvard students interested in entrepreneurship and innovation in a variety of forms. Since the i-lab included faculty from across the University, David was able to engage with and receive advice from many professors including those at the Harvard Business School. In the spring of his 3L year, David submitted his blueprint for Zoom, a car-sharing company in India, to the Harvard President’s Challenge for Entrepreneurship, was selected as a finalist, and received the first funding toward the establishment of the company. As a finalist, David was able to meet Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, and discuss with him the challenges of starting a company in South Asia.

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Harvard’s Doctorate in Law

The HLS S.J.D. program (Doctor of Juridical Science) supports a group of over 70 young legal scholars from all over the world. Doing extensive reading to gain grounding in her selected fields, with the guidance of HLS and other Harvard faculty members, Hedayat honed her research objectives and began work on her doctoral dissertation. To advance her work on questions of governance and administration in the Middle East, she also benefitted from the insights of her fellow students in the S.J.D. program’s diverse intellectual community. Hedayat has especially appreciated the weekly colloquia at which S.J.D. candidates and HLS faculty members gather to give feedback on students’ scholarly projects at different stages in their development.

Summer: After her 1L year, Hedayat took advantage of Summer Public Interest Funding to work for Human Rights Watch in Lebanon. During the following winter term, Hedayat traveled to Namibia with the International Human Rights Clinic in order to support a project on the subject of family law in Egypt and the U.S. She chose HLS because she felt that the diversity of her experience would be valued and the curriculum would enable her to concentrate on topics of international and comparative law. She took International Law; Introduction to Islamic Law; Israel / Palestine Legal Issues; European Union Law; Human Rights Advocacy; The Regulation of the Household; and Comparative Law: Globalization of Law in Historical Perspective. After cross-registering for courses in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, she worked as a teaching fellow at Harvard College for Modern Arabic Narratives: Self, Society, and Culture.

Post-J.D.: After completing her J.D., in order to gain practical experience with private and international law, Hedayat worked for nearly four years in New York (and briefly in London) as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, focusing on matters related to international transactions, arbitration, and enforcement. She gained a deeper understanding of regulation and regulatory governance in a transnational context. Given her love of research and teaching, four years after earning her J.D., Hedayat enrolled in the HLS S.J.D. (doctoral) program, so she could pursue an academic career that would build on her practical experience.

Having worked closely with a number of faculty members during her J.D. studies, Hedayat had a sense of the impact that professors could have and, in particular, how dedicated HLS professors are to the S.J.D. program. Since returning to HLS she has continued her own scholarship in several fields integrating Islamic and comparative law, constitutional law, and administrative law and theory, under the supervision of Professors Noah Feldman, Duncan Kennedy, and Mark Tushnet. Hedayat is writing her doctoral dissertation on the place of judges and judicial review in the governance of Middle Eastern countries.