

2025 United Nations internship programme

Below are the details of the University of Westminster's 2025 United Nations internship programme with the United Nations Migration Agency – also known as the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This will be the fourth year of this successful, funded internship programme that has been described as 'life-changing' by our previous interns, many of whom now work as full time staff at IOM following the completion of their internships. This year we have 19 exciting IOM internship positions available across the world, from Geneva, Switzerland to Botswana, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Senegal and much more! And the posts are open to students from various disciplinary background, from Politics and IR, to Psychology, Languages, Data Sciences, Sociology, and more – see the details of each vacancy.


Below you will find **vital information** about the internship programme and the application process:

1. About the UN/IOM internship programme
2. The 2025 internship positions
3. Important information about the internships and the application process
4. How to apply

1. About the UN/IOM internship programme:

This internship is part of the University of Westminster's internship programme with the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM). These internships, located in exciting headquarter, regional and field offices of IOM in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, provide an excellent opportunity to work with a UN agency and gain high-level professional experience. These annual internship opportunities are *exclusive* to the University of Westminster students thanks to an [agreement](#) signed between our University and this important UN agency in 2022. You can read about the inspiring experiences of our [2024 IOM interns](#), as well as our [2023](#) and [2022](#) IOM interns.



These UN-IOM internships are open to **ALL** University of Westminster students (undergraduate and postgraduate), **except those in their first year of undergraduate studies**.

Prior to applying, you can watch  [this recording](#) of a recent information session about the IOM internships, where you can learn more about the IOM, hear from some of our current interns, and have all your questions answered (funding, application process, etc).

2. The 2025 internship positions

This year there are **19 internship positions** available across Europe, Africa, Central America and the Middle East. **You can apply to as many positions as you like.** If you apply for multiple internship positions, you should write a separate and tailored cover letter for each position. You can click on the links below to view each position's Terms of Reference (also attached):

	Internship position title	Host division/unit	Duty Station
1	 Climate Change and Human Mobility	Program support	Luanda, Angola
2	 Climate Change and Migration	Migration, Environment, Climate change and Risk Reduction (MECR)	Gaborone, Botswana
3	 Translation Services	French Translation Unit	Geneva, Switzerland
4	 Innovation and Knowledge Management Unit	Innovation and Knowledge Management	Geneva, Switzerland
5	 Protection	Policy Unit - Protection Division (PXD)	Geneva, Switzerland
6	 Project Development and Knowledge Management	Programme Support Unit	Harare, Zimbabwe
7	 Peace and Recovery	Community Stabilization	IOM Libya in Tunis, Tunisia
8	 Labor Migration Research and Programme Support	Labour mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) Division	Amman, Jordan
9	 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	MHPSS Unit- PXD	Geneva, Switzerland
10	 Regional Immigration and Border Governance	Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Unit	Vienna, Austria
11	 Protection	Protection Division	Vienna, Austria
12	 Global Policy Network	Protection Division	Geneva, Switzerland
13	 Social Media	Department of Media and Communications	Geneva, Switzerland
14	 Programme Support	Programme Unit	Freetown, Sierra Leone

15	 Data and Information Management	Migrant Protection and Assistance	Dakar, Senegal
16	 Ethical Recruitment and Migrant Worker Protection	Protection, Ethical Recruitment	Geneva, Switzerland
17	 Migration Health	Migration Health Division	Dakar, Senegal
18	 Programme Development and Donor Engagement	Programme Support	San José, Costa Rica
19	 Transition and Recovery	Programmes	Bujumbura, Burundi

3. Important information:


- About the IOM:** IOM is the leading global organisation promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all since 1951. It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and has more than 100 regional and country offices around the world. You can read more about the organisation [here](#). *It is important that you show an understanding of the organisation, its objectives and values, and those of the specific country office/team you are applying to when drafting your cover letter.*
- Duration of the internships:** The internships are normally for 4-9 months. As mentioned below (under ‘How to Apply’) you need to mention the duration of your availability in your CV.
- Start date of the internships:** The internships are full time with an **approximate start date of May/June 2025** (you need to mention your availability dates in your CV). The exact start date will be discussed and agreed between each country office and the successful candidate. It’s preferable to go with the start date requested by the IOM country team, but in some cases the successful candidate could discuss an alternative start date if that works for the specific IOM country office (e.g. successful postgraduate applicants could potentially discuss with their relevant country office a start date after the submission of their dissertations).
- Funding:** The University will finance the vast majority of the internship costs, covering a return flight and living expenses during the course of the internships. The funding will come from the University’s donor funds as well as the [Turing scheme](#). The exact amount of funding that you will receive will depend on the guidelines on living expenses at the location of the internship and your personal circumstances. Candidates from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are entitled to some additional financial support. The university funding will also come with a health insurance policy. The funding provided by the university has been sufficient to cover the living expenses of the previous years’ interns in various part of the world. If you have some personal funds or savings they will be useful to supplement the funds you receive from the University.

- **Visas and Logistics:** As a UN agency, IOM will facilitate a diplomatic visa and work permit at your duty station for the duration of your internship. They may also be able to assist you with some of the logistics of your internship (e.g. accommodation advice) but you are responsible for finding out about the country you're applying to and organising your travel and accommodation. IOM interns will be covered by UN's safety and security protection.
- **International students:** The internships are open to our international students and we have had international students being successfully selected into the programme in recent years. However, when applying it is important for international students to check the implications for their UK visa. According to the university's visa compliance office, international students are restricted to 20 hours of work per week during term time, but can work full time in the University's official vacation period. They can also work full time in the final 4 months of their visa after they complete their course. Undergraduates can work full time on a placement during the summer vacation. For postgraduate students, summer is not a vacation period, so they could only commence full time work once their course was complete. It would be important to clearly state in your CV and cover letter your availability based on your UK visa restrictions. To get more information, please contact visacompliance@westminster.ac.uk
- **Application process:** 1) submit application documents by the below deadline; 2) all applications are forwarded to the relevant IOM teams for processing and shortlisting (University of Westminster is not involved in the selection process); 3) *only* the shortlisted candidates will be contacted directly the relevant IOM office for an interview (this normally happens in Feb/March); 4) Successful candidates will be informed by IOM (this normally happens in late March-early April); 5) onboarding formalities and funding procedures will be arranged for the successful candidates (April/May); 5) interns start their internships (May/June).

4. HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE: End of day, Friday **24 JANUARY 2025**.

To apply you need to send your CV and cover letter to Dr Sahar Taghdisi Rad (s.rad@westminster.ac.uk), the programme lead for the UN internships - ***please read the below application instructions carefully:***

- **CV:** please only use  [this CV template](#) and tailor it to your details. Your CV should be max 2 pages. At the top of the CV, please mention your availability period (e.g. if you are a second year student, mention: May-September 2025 (4 months). Please do not include a photo in your CV.
- **Cover Letter:** given that these are highly sought-after internship positions with a UN agency, make sure your cover letter reflects your serious intentions, your knowledge of IOM's work and even that of the specific country office you're applying to, your relevant experiences and skills, and your commitment to the internship. Here are a few things to remember when writing your cover letter:
 - Should not exceed one page.

- Read the ToRs carefully and tailor your cover letter to them;
 - Familiarise yourself with [IOM](#), its work and mission (including the work of the specific regional/country office you are applying to);
 - Demonstrate an interest in areas relevant to IOM programmes and activities – you can also mention if your studies (modules, dissertation or coursework) have covered related topics;
 - Elaborate on your value proposition;
 - Mention the importance of internships to your studies and future career; and
 - Mention which level of study you are at.
- **Interviews:** if you are invited for an interview after submitting your application, please prepare well for the interviews. Interviews vary from one country office to another – as our current interns have mentioned in [this](#) briefing video. Here is a fantastic interview preparation [video](#) by Michael Emery, IOM’s Director of Human Resources. The content of this video may also be useful when preparing your CV or cover letter.
- **Submitting your CV and Cover Letter:**
 - **Label** your CV and Cover Letter files as: CV-Your name-IOM office (e.g. CV-Sahar Rad-Kenya-Migration Governance Unit); Cover Letter-Your name-IOM office (e.g. Cover letter-Sahar Rad-Kenya-Migration Governance Unit)
 - In your **email title** clearly mention which internship you are applying for (e.g. "IOM Application - Kenya-Migration Governance Unit"). If you are applying for multiple internship posts, your email title can be: “IOM Application – multiple posts”).
 - Email the above application documents to: Dr Sahar Taghdisi Rad, s.rad@westminster.ac.uk