Human Rights & Migration Law Clinic

The HRMLC is a one year program which involves clinical students in areas from pro bono legal advice for asylum seekers and migrants to strategic litigation, down to research and advocacy activities in the field of migration.

Track requirements

A student who takes the HRMLC clinical track will have to follow the following courses:

• Term 1:
  o International and European Migration Law (Ulrich Stege) – 24h/4 credits
  o Migration Law in Practice (Maurizio Veglio) – 18h/3 credits
• Term 2: Clinical Practical Activities – 24h/4 credits
• Term 3: Clinical Practical Activities – 24h/4 credits

Goals of the HRMLC

The HRMLC has the following objectives:

• To provide students (1) a window into the true operation of migration law, (2) a hands-on learning opportunity for students to gain experience and exposure to real-world legal problems, that migrants in Italy are confronted with, in their social, cultural, and economic dimensions and (3) an occasion to learn from local organizations and local professionals within a particular dynamic situation regarding migration.
• To offer the migrant community (1) a contribution from highly qualified and motivated students to improving access to justice for migrants in the Turin community, (2) a contribution to the research activities in the field of migration and human rights, which aims at finding new models and ways to cope with migration issues caused in their social, cultural, and economic dimensions.
Clinical Activities

The HRMLC combines a classroom component with practical activities.

1. Course Work
The course work provides the clinical students during the entire program with the necessary theoretical background and critical understanding for the clinical activities in the areas of:

- International and European Asylum and Migration Law (1st term),
- Asylum and Migration Law in Praxis (1st term),
- Legal Research and Writing (1st term),
- Clinical Seminar/Workshop Series (1st, 2nd and 3rd term).

All elements of the coursework provide the students with a practical and critical view into the issue by focusing on using particularly active teaching methods, such as case analyses and simulations. Classes and lectures are accompanied by a Clinical Seminar/Workshop Series, where professionals who are active in the field of migration provide insight into the practical problems related to legal practice in the field of human rights and migration.

2. Practical and Research Activities
In 2016, the clinical students have the choice between different practical activities:

- **Refugee Law Clinic:** Clinical students will work on real cases in the field of asylum law. Paired as a couple, the students will provide support to asylum seekers who are awaiting their interview in front of the local asylum commission of international protection. The target is to support those asylum seekers, who would not receive legal support otherwise by their hosting centres. The students will be involved in the following activities: (1) meeting the asylum seeker (at least twice), (2) preparing the asylum story, (3) searching for all relevant Country of Origin information, (4) preparing a legal memo containing the story and an analysis of all relevant legal issues and (5) preparing the asylum seeker for the interview in concrete terms. Each couple of students will be supervised directly by an experienced asylum lawyer from ASGI.

- **Observatory Giudice di Pace:** A group of clinical students will be involved in the further development of the *Observatory on the Judicial Review of Migrants’ Rights*, in particular on decisions taken by Justices of the Peace (JPs) on the expulsion, detention and return of migrants. The aim of the project is to collect and make available the decisions of JPs in the field of migration law. The project is
motivated by the fact that most of these decisions are not published in general collections or in law journals and the only decisions available are published by lawyers representing third country nationals. The students will be supervised by former students and by the clinical staff.

- **Strategic litigation**: Clinical students will be involved in supporting a law firm (Saccucci Fares & Partners – Rome) working on a strategic litigation case in front of the UN Human Rights Committee related to the State’s duty of rescue concerning refugee boats in trouble within the Mediterranean Sea. In the first instance, the students will be involved, under the supervision of the clinical staff, in analyzing legal questions related to State’s jurisdiction and the State’s duties at sea. In addition, they will be involved in procedural and admissibility considerations related to a case in front of the UN Human Rights Committee.

- **Prison and Rights**: Clinical students will be part of a group (together with students from the UNITO law clinic on Carcere e diritti) that will be involved in writing a legal information guide to prisoners for the Prison in Asti. The students will visit the prison in Asti and will be responsible, under the supervision of the clinical staff, for the ‘migration’ section of the legal guide. Eventually, the students will also be involved in providing individual legal orientation to non-Italian prisoners.