

Young Advocates Programme 2018

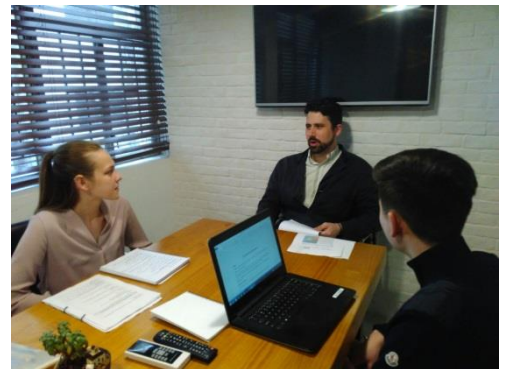
Information Sheet

ABOUT JUSTICE CENTRE HONG KONG

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit organisation working to help Hong Kong become a fairer and more inclusive society. Justice Centre assists some of the most vulnerable people in Hong Kong – survivors of torture, human trafficking, and forced labour, as well as refugees – by enabling them to realise their rights through legal and psychosocial support, policy, advocacy and research.

WHAT IS THE YOUNG ADVOCATES PROGRAMME?

The **Young Advocates Programme** (“YAP”) is a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in a non-profit human rights setting. Young Advocates are immersed in all areas of our work, from the provision of legal and psychosocial support to refugees, to anti-human trafficking research and advocacy. Young Advocates also receive one-to-one personal coaching and mentorship from our highly-qualified international staff lawyers and policymakers, helping students develop important skills, knowledge, and experience as they begin applying for university courses.



PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Justice Centre has extensive experience in leading international legal clinic and internship programs with universities around the world, including **Harvard University** (U.S.), **Columbia University** (U.S.), **University of Hong Kong**, and **Chinese University of Hong Kong**.

In 2012, our legal clinic model was re-developed for high school students, and launched as YAP to a select group of exceptional young students.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Spring Programme 2018 (2 weeks):

April 2 – 13, five days a week (excluding 2 public holidays), 10AM – 4PM.

Summer Programme 2018 (3 weeks):

June 11 – 29; July 2 – 20; July 23 – August 10, five days a week, 10AM – 4PM.

The Spring Programme will be intensive and introduce Young Advocates to the essential elements of our work, while the Summer Programme allows Young Advocates the opportunity to engage with the work in greater depth. Both programmes will equip Young Advocates with invaluable skills that they will take with them as they apply to universities and progress into professional careers.

Our Spring Programme Young Advocates will be introduced to the basics of legal research, international human rights and refugee law, assist with client assessments and delve into basic advocacy and policy research. Our Summer Programme Young Advocates, in addition to engaging in these areas, will be guided through more intensive and varied legal tasks (such as analysing legal decisions), engage in external meetings and events, learn about creating human rights campaigns and work on their own project, taking what they learn beyond the programme and back to their schools and communities.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Each Young Advocate in both the Spring and Summer programmes will receive the opportunity to get involved across our teams. The schedules for the Summer Programme particularly will be tailored to suit each Young Advocate's specific areas of interest.

With our legal services team, the Young Advocates will undertake varied legal work which may include:

- assisting with conducting assessments of protection claimants;
- observing an interview with clients;
- shadowing a lawyer providing individual assistance to a refugee or torture claimant;
- drafting/editing legal testimonies;
- undertaking country of origin research and producing packages of information to support refugee and torture claims;
- compiling refugee and torture case studies; and
- field visits to partner NGOs, HK Legislative Council or pro-bono corporate lawyer events.

Young Advocates will also support our advocacy and policy team in their work to help raise awareness and bring about change in the area of refugee and human trafficking policy in Hong Kong. Tasks may include:

- media monitoring in English/Chinese;
- researching and presenting successful human rights campaigns;
- quantitative research tasks to support our ongoing research projects;
- literature reviews and background research for advocacy reports and briefings; and
- contributing to our newsletter, writing press releases and social media work.

Young Advocates will also develop their own independent project that they can implement in their schools.

Furthermore, Young Advocates will be given continuous coaching throughout the intensive program. Each Young Advocate will participate in daily check-ins and weekly catch-ups with the programme coordinator. Assessment will be given verbally & those who perform exceptionally well will be given a letter of recommendation signed by the Executive Director of Justice Centre.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the programme, Young Advocates will have:

- Developed their research, analytical and argument skills.
- Enhanced their presentation and writing skills for diverse purposes and audiences.
- An international understanding of refugee rights, refugee law and human rights.
- A comprehension of refugee and human trafficking issues in the Hong Kong context.
- Enhanced knowledge of achieving social change by devising robust advocacy & awareness-raising materials and campaigns.
- Gained hands-on practical experience of working within a human rights NGO.
- Built a network of contacts across NGOs and corporate law firms within Hong Kong.
- An ongoing relationship with Justice Centre after the completion of their programme.

WHO CAN APPLY?

YAP is open to select students who have Hong Kong residency and are aged between 14 – 18 years old. Young Advocates should have a keen interest in human rights law, NGO management and refugee rights. The programme is aimed at students interested in a career in law, human rights, politics, social policy, or NGO management generally.

TESTIMONIALS FROM YOUNG ADVOCATES

Over the past 5 years, many of the Young Advocates who have completed the programme, have gone on to volunteer further in this sector and study subjects such as law, anthropology, politics and international development. Young Advocates have been accepted into internationally renowned universities such as the University of Cambridge, Columbia University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

“What does it mean to be a Young Advocate? For me, working as a Young Advocate allowed me to step into the life of individuals to support and assist them, in ways that I could not have possibly imagined....During a very intense two weeks, I worked on in depth research, interviewed clients, and shadowed Justice Centre workers representing those who had been persecuted or marginalized in their home countries.... For me, it was life-transforming and challenging all at the same time. I am privileged to have had this opportunity to listen to and learn from not only those working alongside me at Justice Centre, but actual clients themselves.”

– Hanna, Spring Programme, 2017