

Young Advocates Programme: Information Sheet

ABOUT JUSTICE CENTRE HONG KONG

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit human rights organisation working to protect the rights of Hong Kong's most vulnerable migrants: refugees, other people seeking protection, and survivors of torture, human trafficking and forced labour.

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 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.



"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....For me, it was life-transforming and challenging all at the same time." – **Hanna, Spring Programme, 2017**

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Justice Centre has extensive experience in leading international clinical legal education and internship programmes with universities around the world, including the **University of Cambridge, Columbia University, University of Chicago, Stanford University, University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, University of Hong Kong, and Chinese University of Hong Kong.**

In 2012, our model was re-developed for high school students and launched as YAP to a select group of exceptional young students. Over the past eight years, many of the Young Advocates who have completed the programme have gone on to volunteer further in this sector and been accepted into internationally renowned universities such as the University of Cambridge, Columbia University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

"One of the things I found most inspiring about Justice Centre was how committed everybody was to the cause of human rights. Even though the odds of a case being successful are very low, I found it extremely admirable how every single lawyer and staff member at Justice Centre always devoted their full efforts to every single protection claimant, truly believing that there is hope for each person."
– **Jonathan, Spring Programme, 2018**

DRIVING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY

PROGRAMME DETAILS

We run four programmes per year; one in the spring and three in the summer.

- **Spring Programme 2020 (2 weeks):** (i) 2 – 13 March*; (ii) 6 – 17 April
- **Summer Programme 2020 (3 weeks):** (i) 15 June – 3 July; (ii) 6 – 24 July; (iii) 27 July – 14 August

*We introduced our early Spring Programme following the announcement to extend school closures in response to COVID-19. Significant precautions are being undertaken to minimise risks and to ensure that our office is a safe place to work.

The programme will run five days a week (excluding public holidays), from 10AM – 4PM each day.

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 our work in greater depth.

Young Advocates will be given continuous coaching throughout the programme. Each Young Advocate will attend daily check-ins and weekly catch-ups with the programme coordinator. Verbal feedback and assessment will be provided, and those who perform exceptionally well will be given a letter of recommendation from our Executive Director.

Young Advocates will have the opportunity to work with our legal and psychosocial services teams, and support our research, policy and advocacy team in their work to help raise awareness and bring about change in the area of human rights policy in Hong Kong. Young Advocates will have the opportunity to engage in varied and rewarding work, including:

Legal Services	Policy and Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting with conducting assessments of protection claimants; • Observing an interview with clients; • Shadowing a lawyer providing individual assistance to a refugee; • Drafting/editing legal testimonies; • Undertaking country of origin research and producing packages of information to support refugee claims; • Compiling refugee case studies; and • Attending field visits to partner NGOs, the HK Legislative Council or our partner corporate law firm events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media monitoring and analysis 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.

"On the first day of the Young Advocates Program, Piya told me Justice Centre wanted to help us make our own kind of change, and that was really reflected in the way we were treated. Putting us through our paces with courtroom simulations and pitching fundraising ideas highlighted the significance of good human rights advocacy.

I strongly hope asylum seekers eventually find a home in Hong Kong." – Ruth, Spring Programme, 2018

DRIVING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme will equip Young Advocates with invaluable skills that they will take with them as they apply to universities and progress into professional careers. 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 understanding of international refugee law and human rights;
- an understanding of refugee and human trafficking issues in the Hong Kong context;
- enhanced their knowledge of achieving social change through robust policy-making and advocacy work;
- 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; and
- an ongoing relationship with Justice Centre after the completion of their programme.

WHO CAN APPLY?

YAP is open to students who have Hong Kong residency and are aged between 15 – 18.

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, psychology, social sciences, human rights, politics or NGO management generally.

TOTAL COST

Spring Programme 2020: \$50,000.00 HKD (including non-refundable deposit of \$25,000 HKD)

Summer Programme 2020: \$80,000.00 HKD (including non-refundable deposit of \$40,000 HKD)

Your contribution will allow us to dedicate staff time and resources to run the programme. Places are limited to four Young Advocates per programme in order to allow us to offer a tailored experience to each Young Advocate and for our staff to dedicate one-on-one time to mentoring and coaching them. Any further proceeds from the YAP will directly contribute towards our vital services for people seeking legal protection and our advocacy work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- [22 January 2020](#): Open evening and information session at Justice Centre for prospective applicants
- [22 February 2020](#) Deadline for Spring & Summer 2020 Programme applications
- [28 February 2020](#): Release of acceptance results for Spring & Summer 2020
- [13 March 2020](#): Deadline for non-refundable deposit to confirm place for Spring & Summer programmes

To apply, please complete and return the attached application form to us via e-mail (yap@justicecentre.org.hk).

All YAP applications must be sent to us by **22 February 2020**.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email (yap@justicecentre.org.hk).

DRIVING CHANGE FOR A FAIR AND JUST SOCIETY
