

Young Advocates Programme 2021: 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: refugees, other people seeking protection, and survivors of torture, human trafficking and forced labour.

Justice Centre has assisted over

1 in **3**

of all those whose claims for protection have been accepted in Hong Kong

We are a founding member of the **Hong Kong UPR Coalition**, and have made three appearances before the United Nations



For more details of our work, please see [our website](#).

YOUNG ADVOCATES PROGRAMME

The Young Advocates Programme (“YAP”) is a unique opportunity for high school 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 receive one-to-one personal coaching and mentorship from our highly-qualified international lawyers and policymakers, helping students develop key skills and knowledge, experience as they begin applying for university.

Hands-on experience of real cases

- **Work directly on claims** for protection in Hong Kong.
- **Make a difference** to the lives of people seeking protection in Hong Kong.

Learn from internationally qualified lawyers

- In depth training and supervision by our **internationally qualified lawyers**.
- Gain insight into **starting a career in human rights law**.

Develop essential skills for university and beyond

- Learn how to **research and apply the law** to build your case.
- Practice **interviewing and presenting**.
- Participate in **group projects** and challenges.

Programme developed for University of Cambridge, HKU and CUHK

- We have extensive experience in leading **international clinical education and internship programmes** with universities around the world. Model redeveloped in 2012 for **exceptional high school students**.
- Previous Young Advocates have been **accepted into internationally renowned universities**.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

The YAP a two- or three-week programme, **run within our in-house legal team**, under the supervision of Jessica Alam. Jessica is a UK qualified lawyer with international legal experience and she is responsible for our development programmes. Students will also **support our research and policy team** in their work to bring about change in the area of refugee and human trafficking policy in Hong Kong.

Three programmes are running in 2021:

Spring YAP	29 Mar – 9 Apr	(2 weeks)
Summer YAP 1	19 Jul – 6 Aug	(3 weeks)
Summer YAP 2	9 – 27 Aug	(3 weeks)

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.



This program was eye-opening, engaging, and so much fun. Throughout the three weeks, I learned a whole new set of skills, met interesting people, and got amazing opportunities to further my learning. I really enjoyed being at Justice Centre this summer.

– Allison, 2020 Summer YAP

The Young Advocates Programme is a wonderfully immersive, fulfilling and enjoyable experience. The hands-on legal experience I was able to gain is unrivalled by any similar programmes I have attended in the past and the lectures I was able to attend went into extreme detail and was delivered by the extremely qualified staff of the Justice Centre. The staff at the Centre are extremely friendly and supportive, and are readily able to provide their expert opinion on any question I may have had. I was also able to meet some of the most ambitious and talented individuals in my fellow Young Advocates and the friendships and connections I've made during the Programme will definitely follow me as I prepare for higher education.



– Jessie, 2020 Summer YAP



One of the most unique programs I've been to. It provides a special balance of experiencing this line of work, which is not often found for high schoolers, as well as developing a nuanced view of the refugee situation not only in Hong Kong but around the world. It's definitely something I'll remember for a long time. I would highly recommend it.

– Nicholas, 2020 Summer YAP

CONTENT, LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SUPERVISION

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**. Each Young Advocate will be guided to design and develop their own personal interest project, which we encourage to be implemented in real life after completion of the programme. Young Advocates will engage in **varied and rewarding work**, including:

Legal services and policy tasks	Policy and advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with conducting assessments of protection claimants' cases. • Observe client interviews. • Undertake legal and country of origin research and producing packages of information to support refugee and torture claims. • Shadow a lawyer providing individual assistance to a refugee. • Attend field visits to courts, partner NGOs, the HK Legislative Council or our partner corporate law firm events. • Compile case studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media monitoring and analysis in English/Chinese. • Research 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. • Contribute to our newsletter, writing press releases and social media work.

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.

Supervision and feedback

Young Advocates will be given **continuous coaching** throughout the programme.

- A clear development plan will be set at the start of the programme to identify students' goals and agree objectives.
- Each Young Advocate will attend weekly catch-ups with the programme coordinator.
- Verbal and written feedback and assessment will be provided.
- Those who perform exceptionally well will be given a letter of recommendation.

COST

Two-week Spring YAP 2021: \$50,000 HKD¹
(including non-refundable deposit of \$25,000 HKD)

Three-week Summer YAP 2021: \$80,000 HKD¹
(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 six 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

The YAP is open to students who have Hong Kong residency and are **aged 15 – 18**.²

Applicants should have a keen interest in issues facing asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants. The YAP is aimed at students considering careers in **law, psychology, social sciences, human rights, politics or NGO management**.

This is a highly competitive programme and a **maximum of 6 students** per programme will be selected to participate.

To apply, please complete and return the application form to us via email: yap@justicecentre.org.hk.



Applications will be considered on a rolling basis; we strongly recommend submitting applications early, due to the high level of interest and limited spaces available.

REMOTE WORKING AND OUR RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Throughout 2020 we continued to run our student programmes by offering flexible working, delivering training online and taking practical measures in response to the pandemic. We are confident that we will be able to do the same in 2021.

We take a number of precautions to ensure our offices are a safe and healthy place to work (hourly sanitisation of bannisters and door handles etc., daily deep cleans, temperature checks, health declarations and hand sanitisers for all staff). Please be assured that we will continue to monitor the public health situation closely and will always prioritise the health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, clients and stakeholders.

If any changes to the way the YAP is run are necessary, all applicants will be kept informed and we will respond pragmatically to any issues raised.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email:

yap@justicecentre.org.hk

KEY DATES

19 Feb Deadline for applications to Spring YAP.	28 May Deadline for applications to Summer YAP 1 & 2.
26 Feb Release of acceptance results for Spring YAP.	11 Jun Release of acceptance results for Summer YAP 1 & 2.
12 Mar Deadline for non-refundable deposit to confirm place for Spring YAP.	25 Jun Deadline for non-refundable deposit to confirm place for Summer YAP 1 & 2.
29 Mar – 9 Apr Spring YAP.	19 Jul – 6 Aug Summer YAP 1.
	9 – 27 Aug Summer YAP 2.

¹ Our fees have not increased since 2014.

² We will consider applications outside this age bracket on an exceptional basis.