General Information

Internship Title: Trade policy – Intellectual Property

Non-Academic partner: Trade Policy Group, Department for International Trade

Role/Sector: Government

Location: Central London (Westminster)

Duration: 3 months minimum

Start date: tbc

Full or Part time: Potential flexibility, but we expect that the candidate would get the most out of the experience if they were full time

Who are you going to work with

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is a department for the whole of the UK. We have overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our shores, under the leadership of the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon Liam Fox MP.

We are a specialised body with significant trade negotiating and trade promotion activity. We have oversight of the Defence and Security Organisation and UK Export Finance is an integral part of DIT’s operations and strategy.

The Department’s vision and mission are pursued under four key objectives:

- Support and encourage UK businesses to drive sustainable international growth.
- Ensure the UK remains a leading destination for international investment and maintains its number one position for international investment stock in Europe.
- Open markets, building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair.
- Use trade and investment to underpin the Government’s agenda for a Global Britain and its ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.

How do you expect to spend your day

The protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights are longstanding components of international trade policy and negotiating objectives. Countries (including the UK) attach great importance to them in their trade policy. The Intellectual Property team look at getting the balance right on IP policy; we want to protect UK IP overseas and open markets to IP-rich exports, while promoting innovation and public interest. This is done through free trade agreements (FTAs) and the World Trade Organization’s TRIPS Council.
In developing the UK’s IP trade policy, we need to understand more about different potential global trading partners and the capabilities of their IP regimes. The UK is considered to have a world leading IP and enforcement regime, and often sets a standard for developing countries to match. We are interested in understanding the capabilities of developing countries’ IP regimes and the implementation of IP enforcement provisions.

Project 1: Develop a model to assess the capabilities of IP regimes in different developing countries. This would include:

- Analysing existing IP regimes in different countries and assessing how these align with domestic UK policy;
- Looking at growth in research and development expenditure and implementation of measures that go beyond the minimum standard required in international agreements on IP;
- Identifying and analysing growth in patent and trade mark filing, development of copyright registers, growth in management of rights, implementation of IP enforcement provisions;
- Looking for any gaps in IP provisions in different countries where we believe we can improve standards;
- If time allows, developing a project plan to initiate a dialogue between the UK and developing countries, to raise awareness of how SMEs can effectively protect their IP in both the UK and other jurisdictions.

Project 2: Assessment of IP enforcement provisions in existing FTAs and comparison with UK domestic policy. This would include:

- Analysing current IP enforcement provisions across various existing FTAs;
- Assessing how these align with domestic UK policy;
- Analysing how FTA clauses on enforcement of IP rights can be and have been enforced through international mechanisms, such as the WTO;
- Analysing how these provisions have been enforced by Parties in recently ratified FTAs.

Objectives (How do you expect the intern to spend his/her day) (bullet points – max 150 words):

The intern would be a full member of an exciting and fast-growing IP team. They would also gain exposure to the wider Department and government environment. Trade Policy offers ample opportunities for learning and development including working with in-house analysts, attending government events and meeting external speakers.

A typical day might include:

- Team meetings, discussing the progress of team members’ priority projects and wider Departmental strategies;
- Meetings with external stakeholders to gather information and opinions which will inform the work of the team;
• Meetings with other government departments to explain the project and seek ideas (the DIT IP team works very closely with the Intellectual Property Office, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs);
• Desk research;
• Reviewing projects with DIT analysts and DIT lawyers;
• Reviewing projects with other members of the team.

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

The candidate should be proactive in research and getting to know a complex and technical subject area. They should be confident to work collaboratively and engage with a variety of stakeholders. They should feel confident in leading on their project and being able to adapt to a changing and dynamic environment. The project will be challenging and rewarding, and we would expect the candidate to be able to analyse complex and often conflicting data and evidence, providing reasoned conclusions.

It would be desirable for the candidate to have knowledge or experience of international relations and trade and/or IP.

Essential skills / competencies required:

• Independent research and report-writing
• Development and delivery of presentations
• Ability to understand a complex and technical area at pace
• Self-starter who also works well collaboratively
• Flexible communication style, suited to a wide variety of colleagues and stakeholders
• Adaptable to fast-changing policy environments

Wat are the benefits of Interning at this project

DIT is a relatively new organisation, formed following the 2016 European Union membership referendum to take forward the task of developing a trade policy for an independent UK.

It is currently undertaking a variety of projects which are high on the political and public agenda and the candidate would be exposed at first-hand to many of the issues which are frequently discussed in both the press and academia.

We would undertake to provide a wide-ranging experience of working in the Civil Service and developing public policy. Depending on the candidate’s preferences and career aims, we would work with the candidate to ensure that they take home
skills which benefit them in future – be that how to give academic research a higher impact on public policy, or how to make the transition from academia to the public sector.

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed application form and a CV to esrcdtp@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant’s PhD supervisor.

**The application deadline is Sunday 2 June 2019**