

M C B

THE MOOT COURT BENCH

ICA PROGRAM PROSPECTUS - 2023

“If everyone is **working together**,
then success takes care of itself“

- Henry Ford

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The Moot Court Bench is Sri Lanka's first fully integrated legal advocacy training platform. The main aim of the MCB is enhancing the standard of the legal profession, by delivering education of global standards for Sri Lankan law students focusing on International Commercial Arbitration, International Trade Law, International Commercial Mediation and Negotiation. The MCB aims to provide a platform for law students to develop the necessary skills in written and oral advocacy, while learning the subjects of International Commercial Arbitration, International Commercial Mediation and Negotiation, and International Trade Law in depth. This platform is targeted at providing a high standard of legal education for law students and is completely administered by passionate volunteers and alumni with no profit motive.

Taking into consideration the current development trajectory of Sri Lanka, the building of infrastructure such as the Port City and Sri Lanka's geographical positioning in the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Sri Lanka has a strong potential of becoming one of Asia's leading economies by 2040. The expected inflow of business and investment will create a need for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), as court litigation will not be accessible to all nor as effective and practical. The MCB stands to benefit the Sri Lankan Economy through catering to the vacuum which is being created for practitioners of ADR. The prevalence of ADR practice has greatly benefited countries such as Singapore and the knowledge and skills inculcated by the MCB would kickstart the promotion of ADR in the future of Sri Lanka, as it is not as prevalent in the present.

The United States Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) along with the Sri Lanka Vis Alumni Network are key partners in several of the MCB's programs.

To be **the foremost provider** of legal advocacy training to law students in Sri Lanka in multiple fields of legal study.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (ICA) PROGRAM

ICA PROGRAM

WHAT IS ARBITRATION?

Arbitration is a highly practiced form of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) globally. It facilitates a speedy, efficient, and binding method of resolving disputes away from the backlog and bureaucracy of courtrooms. The Parties to the Arbitration are represented by their respective counsels in front of an Arbitral Tribunal which has either been appointed by the parties or by the Arbitral Institution. Despite lacking the authority of courtrooms, the Arbitral Tribunal will render an Award, which is considered as the decision of the Arbitral Tribunal, after the conclusion of the arbitral proceedings and such Awards will be binding on the Parties concerned.

IS IT FOR YOU?

Learning arbitration will present you with many new avenues in your career as arbitration has been accepted widely inside Sri Lanka, and to an even greater extent outside.

THE ICA PROGRAM

The International Commercial Arbitration Program saw its inception in the year 2020. The Moot Court Bench was aware that arbitration was moving forward in leaps and bounds around the world. Simultaneously, we were also aware of the lack of resources available to students who were keen on learning this trade. Thus, the ICA Program is aimed at advancing the state of Arbitration in Sri Lanka by catering to the lacuna of resources available to students. That is, to provide law students around the world, an opportunity to learn arbitration and hone other advocacy skills.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The ICA Program would extend from the beginning of June 2023 to the end of August 2023. During this three-month period, the participants are taught the basics of International Commercial Arbitration, the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG), written advocacy in the form of legal memoranda and oral advocacy in the form of legal submissions. The Course is taught by legal academics and professionals along with MCB Alumni with sound knowledge in the respective areas.

The ICA Program classes would take place during weekends for the duration of the three months. In addition to learning the theoretical aspect of arbitration, the participants will be taught and given an opportunity to test their practical knowledge through the deep dive into the 30th Vis Moot Problem and the mooting sessions.

NATIONAL SELECTION ROUNDS

After the course of three-months, the Top four contenders from each University will be selected to represent their University in the National Round of the ICA Program. Thereafter, the Top two Teams will be selected to participate as the teams from Sri Lanka in the Prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot which is held annually in Vienna, Austria or its sister moot, the Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot which is held annually in Hong Kong.

THE WILLEM C. VIS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT

Known globally as the Vis Moot, this phenomenon is ranked amongst the Top 10 Moots in the world. A moot is a mock legal proceeding, where law students take on the role of a fully-fledged legal counsel and renowned legal practitioners or justices take on the role of the adjudicator. The Vis Moot endorses and promotes the usage of Arbitral Rules of various international institutions such as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and the Hong Kong Institute of International Arbitration (HKIAC). It also promotes the United Nations

Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, the UNIDROIT Principles on International Commercial Contracts, and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, better known as the CISG.

The Vis Moot is held annually in Vienna, Austria, whereas its sister moot, the Vis East Moot is held annually in Hong Kong. The Moots record a participation of close to 400 teams and 150 teams respectively. Both moots revolve around the same Moot Problem, a fictitious international commercial case study. Participants are benefited with extensive knowledge in a field which they would not otherwise explore as law students, superior legal advocacy skills and the opportunity to network with law students and practitioners around the globe.



OUR PERFORMANCE

Award	No. of Awards
Willem C. Vis Moot, Vienna	
Pieter Sanders Award for Best Memorandum for Claimant - Honorable Mention	1
Willem C. Vis East Moot, Hong Kong	
Eric E. Bergsten Award for the School Prevailing in Oral Arguments	1
Quarter Finalists	1
Sixteenth Finalists	2
Neil Kaplan Award for Best Oralist - Honourable Mention	5
Fali Nariman Award for Best Memorandum for Respondent - Honourable Mention	1
Middle Eastern Pre-Moot	
Ronald A. Brand Award for Regional Champions	2
Runners Up	1
Semi Finalists	3
Quarterfinalists	4
MENA Chambers Award for Excellence in Oral Advocacy	2
Best Claimant Oralist	2
Best Respondent Oralist	4
Best Claimant Oralist - Honourable Mention	6
Best Respondent Oralist - Honourable Mention	3
Best Claimant Memorandum	2
Best Respondent Memorandum	4
Best Claimant Memorandum - Runners Up	1
Best Respondent Memorandum - Runners Up	1
9th Lazareff Le-Bars Vis Pre-Moot	
Champions	1
Best Oralist	1
13th Moscow Vis Pre-Moot	
Champions	1
Best Oralist	1
Tbilisi Vis Pre-Moot	
Champions	1
Shanghai Vis Pre-Moot	
Quarter Finalists	1
Octo Finalists	1
Best Oralist - Honourable Mention	1
AIAC Virtual Pre-Moot	
Runners Up	1
Best Elimination Round Oralist	1

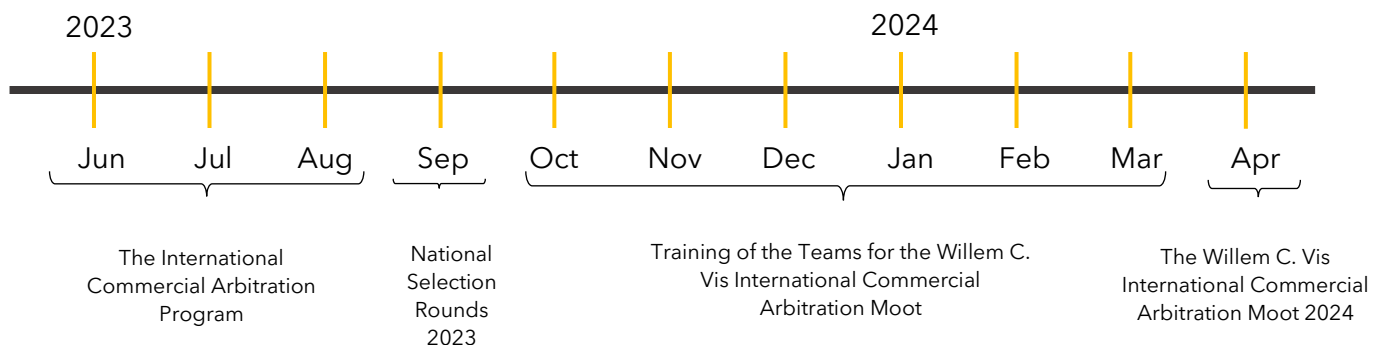
HOW TO APPLY?

1. Applicants must fill in the application form found on the MCB website. Refer the ICA Program Rules found [here](#) for further details regarding participant eligibility.
2. Applicants must submit a 2-page CV and a 2-minute video stating why they should be selected for the program on the respective google form which will be available when the program opens.

Head over to the www.themootcourtbench.com website and visit the International Commercial Arbitration page under our Programs tab to sign up.

Registrations Open: 10 May - 24 May 2023

TIMELINE



HEAR ABOUT IT

“The ICA program has been one of my most fulfilling experiences as a law student. While its meticulously prepared program helped me understand and experience International Commercial Arbitration, the knowledge I gained from the professionals, instructors and peers I met through the program was immense. It was through this training that I gained the strength to be able to represent Sri Lanka at the Vis East Moot Competition. However, the experience and practical skills I developed as an aspiring legal advocate, and all the remarkable individuals I met during the journey are what made this experience truly unique and wholesome.”

Gaya Kulatunga

Alumni and Instructor

“Participating in the ICA program 2021, undoubtedly equipped me with vital skills to support me on my journey in the legal profession. I was fortunate to gain knowledge on International Commercial Arbitration Law and the Law on the International Sale of Goods, vastly improve my written and oral advocacy skills and meet like-minded personalities within the moot community. This well rounded, adaptable program put my skills to the test, granting me an opportunity to plead before local and international arbitrators at the national competition, whilst enabling me to represent Sri Lanka and my University at the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration moot. It was an absolute honour and privilege to have been a part of this program which was personally a life changing experience.”

Namali Ratnayake
Alumni and Instructor

“ For myself and my team, taking part in the Vis East in 2019 was a lifechanging experience that shaped our experience as law students. For myself and my team, taking part in the Vis East in 2019 was a lifechanging experience that shaped our experience as law students. As law students it taught us important skills of research, drafting, oral advocacy, on a personal note it taught us the importance of taking an initiative, confidence, competence and networking, and I have found that all of these skills translate into every workplace you will encounter.

Subsequently, the MCB has provided the platform for me to meet and train law students from around the country, meet the most wonderful team of dedicated individuals behind this program and has been the doorway to my becoming the Coach for the KIMEP University Team for the 29th Vis Moot. I believe that the MCB provides a comprehensive experience that prepares mooties not just for the Vis, but in lasting skills instrumental in the legal profession. ”

Nithma Fernando
Alumni and Instructor

“ The ICA Program was an educational experience of a lifetime. Through the Program, which is wholistic in design, I was fortunate to be educated on the basics of International Commercial Arbitration by some of the leading professionals in the field whilst developing my skills in both written and oral advocacy. The rigorous but rewarding training provided by the Program enabled me to represent my university at both national and international forums including the 20th Vis East Moot in Hong Kong. Ultimately the Program instilled a discipline and confidence within me that I trust will help me enormously, both professionally and personally. Most importantly it gave me an opportunity to build relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. ”

Anish de Silva
Alumni



The Sri Lankan Vis Teams and Coaches at the 20th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Hong Kong.



Sri Lanka Law College Team, Winners of the Vis National Rounds 2020



CONTACT US

USE THIS INTERACTIVE PAGE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US.