

# **M C B**

---

## THE MOOT COURT BENCH

PROGRAM PROSPECTUS  
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL MEDIATION (ICM) PROGRAM  
2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT US	→	02
WHAT IS MEDIATION?	→	03
IS IT FOR YOU?	→	03
ICM PROGRAM	→	04
2023 AT A GLANCE	→	05
WHAT WILL YOU GET?	→	06
HEAR FROM THE OTHERS	→	08
WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?	→	09
TIMELINE	→	09
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	→	10
HOW TO APPLY	→	11
CONTACT US	→	11
THE TEAM	→	12



## **ABOUT US**

The Moot Court Bench (MCB) is Sri Lanka's first fully integrated legal advocacy training platform. The main aim of the MCB is to enhance the standard of the legal profession, by delivering education on global standards for Sri Lankan law students focusing on International Commercial Mediation and Negotiation, International Commercial Arbitration and International Trade Law.

Now in its fourth year of operations, the Mediation Program has taken several first steps, in promoting and developing Mediation as an ADR mechanism, both in Sri Lanka and internationally.

# WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a process in which disputing parties agree to a neutral third-party facilitator to assist them to reach a mutually beneficial settlement of the issues in dispute and rests on the principles of confidentiality, impartiality, voluntariness, and self-determination of the outcome. As a versatile ADR mechanism, Mediation is utilised in a vast range of dispute settlement processes ranging from Family and Community conflicts to Criminal and Investor-State disputes. It is most widely used, however, in the Commercial context. Mediation embodies values that are celebrated in the corporate field: efficiency, cost-effectiveness and preservation of commercial relationships. In fact, it has long been integrated as part of the rich Sri Lankan history and the Asian culture as an amicable dispute resolution mechanism. In today's world, where there is a search for not just quantity control of caseloads but also an improvement in the quality of justice and where commercial disputes have widespread effects on communities, populations and entire nations, Mediation offers a path that protects relationships, produces a win-win outcome, and provides for a stable and sound economic environment.

## IS IT FOR YOU?

Mediation opens doors to wide range of career pathways by equipping you with skills that are applauded in every working environment: effective negotiation, relationship building and oral advocacy.

# THE ICM PROGRAM

The Moot Court Bench in Sri Lanka, through its Mediation Wing, actively fosters the growth of ADR professionals. A significant initiative towards this goal is the International Commercial Mediation Program, a pioneering endeavor in Sri Lanka. This program plays a crucial role in developing a cadre of adept Mediators and Advocates by providing them with unparalleled training opportunities led by renowned global scholars.

The Program is executed in two phases: students are first trained by ADR professionals and are then tested in simulated mediations at the MCB National Commercial Mediation Competition.

What sets the ICM Program apart is the remarkable diversity within its panel of experts. Mediation professionals from around the world contribute their insights, offering participants a rich, global perspective. This distinctive feature positions the ICM Program as the sole offering of its kind in Sri Lanka.

Following the MCB National Mediation Competition, the Champions are further coached and sponsored by the MCB to represent Sri Lanka at prestigious international platforms.

The 2023 edition saw participation from around 40 students including international students, with the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) and Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC) emerging as Champions in the Negotiation and Mediation categories, respectively.

The benefits to students who were part of the third year of the ICM Program extended to receiving scholarships from IM Campus, Mediator Academy, Edwards Mediation Academy, Accords International and internships from the International Mediation Institute.

# ICM 2023 AT A GLANCE



34 Students



09 Law Schools



07 Professional  
Trainers



07 Mentors



15+ Assessors



06 Partners



**EDWARDS**  
MEDIATION ACADEMY  
Online Training From Global Experts



**INTERNATIONAL  
MEDIATION CAMPUS**  
EMPOWERED BY CONSENSUS





# WHAT WILL YOU GET?

## **01. Simple approach to mediation through a holistic training program**

Fully-fledged mediation training program encompassing a 360° view of mediation

## **02. Scholarships from world-renowned institutes**

The winners of the ICM Program may be offered scholarships from prestigious international institutes such as Mediator Academy, Edwards Mediation Academy to pursue their mediation journey further

## **03. Internship opportunities at Mediation Institutes**

Outstanding participants of ICM Program 2023 were offered valuable internship opportunities to work at the International Mediation Institute (IMI) and increase their employability by working hand-on-hand with international professionals

## **04. Global Network of Students**

Exposure to a global network of like-minded students coming from not just Sri Lanka, but countries across the world

## **05. Training from world-class professional mediation experts**

Our program features an expert panel of professional international mediation experts coupled with a pool of local MCB Alumni

# WHAT WILL YOU GET?

## 06. Affordable Costs

The program fees : 18,000 LKR (Early Bird) and 20,000 LKR (General) for local students and 80 USD (Early Bird) and 100 USD (General) for international students.

An internationally acclaimed practical mediation training program for an affordable rate

## 07. MCB coached-representation at prestigious International Competitions

The winning team will be sponsored to take part at the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition 2025 held in Paris (this opportunity will be available only to the local students who will take part in the MCB National Commercial Mediation Competition)

## 08 Mock sessions and Advanced Webinars providing practical assessments

Online practical training and assessment spaces open to both local and international students to practically engage in mediation experience and put their knowledge into practice

## 09. Opportunity to join the Mediation Core Team

The successful participants will receive the opportunity to serve as the members of the Mediation Team at the MCB for the year 2025

## 10. An In-person Closing Ceremony

Based on most of the past participants' requests, the first ever in-person experience of ICM will be delivered to you via an in-person closing ceremony



# HEAR FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

"Before I joined the ICM program, I had very limited knowledge about mediation. But through the useful and informative sessions conducted by the MCB, I gained a lot of insight into the field of mediation. It built the foundation for my mediation journey and the program was very well organized and structured. It also enhanced my advocacy skills and introduced me to a network of professionals and students locally and internationally. I would recommend this program to anyone who is interested in mediation. It was definitely a worthwhile experience for me and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



**Elisha Costa**  
**University of Colombo**



**Thereen Dharmadasa**  
**Royal Institute**  
**of Colombo**

"I am so grateful for having received a scholarship to do the Edwards Mediation Academy (EMA) course on Mediation Advocacy from the Moot Court Bench. I cannot begin to explain how truly mind-opening it was. EMA opens the doors for mediation enthusiasts to truly understand how the application of mediation works in the real world through the views of international experts, all from the comfort of your home. They bring in their real-life mediation experiences to teach you not just to become a better negotiator but to also grow further as a person, all the while showcasing what an effective tool Mediation can be even in resolving the toughest of challenges!"

# WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

In February 2024, the fourth edition of the Program aims to go beyond imparting students with knowledge on the process and phases of mediation, and the scope of expressing talents at international mediation competitions, to educating our fourth community of Sri Lankan students on co-mediation, the aspect of real-life mediation including genuine discussions with experts on their personal experiences in the profession, and the prospect of careers in the field in Sri Lanka. By this new objective, we seek to inspire students to explore internationally recognized qualifications and to pursue mediation at its highest level of practice.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce a progressive change for this year's edition. In a significant expansion, registrations are now open to non-law students, allowing individuals from diverse academic backgrounds beyond law to participate in the program. This expansion ensures a vibrant mix of perspectives and experiences. Furthermore, the 2024 program guarantees an exciting in-person component, enhancing the overall learning experience.

## TIMELINE



# OUR ACHEIVEMENTS



**ICC International  
Commercial Mediation  
Competition 2022, Paris**

Ranked 5th out of 48 teams  
and Special Award for  
Distinction in Mediation  
Advocacy



**Bucerius Law School  
Mediation Competition  
2021, Hamburg**

Ranked 8th out of 24  
teams



**International Mediation  
Singapore (IMSG)  
Competition 2021**

Silver Medal for  
Mediation Advocacy and  
Bronze Medal for  
Mediation



**ADC-ICC Asia Pacific  
Commercial Mediation  
Competition (APCMC)  
2021, Melbourne**

Participated at the ADC-  
ICC Asia Pacific  
Commercial Mediation  
Competition (APCMC)  
2021



**Bucerius Law School  
Mediation Competition  
2022**

Ranked 10th out of 24  
teams



**ICC International  
Commercial Mediation  
Competition 2023, Paris**

Ranked 9th and secured the  
Special Award for  
Distinction in Mediation  
Advocacy

# HOW TO APPLY?

Applicants must be enrolled in a university which offers an undergraduate or equivalent professional qualification, in any field of study.

**1**

## Step 01

Refer the ICM Program Rules found [here](#) for further details regarding participant eligibility.

**2**

## Step 02

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](http://www.themootcourtbench.com) website and visit the International Commercial Mediation page under our Programs tab to sign up.

**Registrations Open: 3rd Jan 2024 - 20th Jan 2024**

# CONTACT US

Should you require any clarification, feel free to write to us at [mediation@themootcourtbench.com](mailto:mediation@themootcourtbench.com).



# MEET THE TEAM



**Theshani Weligamage**  
**Head of Mediation**



**Samaa Shazuli**  
**Deputy Head of Mediation**



**Saishruthe Thayaparan**  
**Program Manager -**  
**External Affairs**



**Reeshma Rahman**  
**Program Manager -**  
**Internal Affairs**

# MEET THE TEAM



**Elisha Costa**  
**Program Manager -**  
**Academics**



**Niruthmi Wickremesinghe**  
**Program Manager -**  
**Public Relations**



**Hanaa Basik**  
**Program Manager -**  
**Logistics**



**Keziah Logaraj**  
**Program Manager -**  
**Cross-Functional Operations**



# **THANK YOU**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
YOUR APPLICATION

[www.themootcourtbench.com](http://www.themootcourtbench.com)