VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH A COURSE IN CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA

Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help developing countries improve their universities so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to assist in their countries’ development. AWB’s projects are involved in the full range of university activities from expanding and improving existing institutions and programs to helping create new ones. AWB fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB volunteers are reimbursed for their expenses but are not paid a salary.

Volunteer Opportunity: Teaching a course on Contemporary Issues in International Human Rights Law and Criminal Justice in the PhD in Law Program

Number of Volunteers: 1

Location: Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Language: English

Partner Organisation: Bahir Dar University

Bahir Dar University (BDU) is one of the largest universities in Ethiopia. The University was founded in 2000 with the merger of the former Bahir Dar Teachers College and Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute, which became the Education and Engineering Faculties, respectively, of the new University.

The Bahir Dar University School of Law was initially established as a department in 2001 and was renamed as a School of Law in 2009. Within this short span of time, the School has contributed significantly towards meeting the growing demand for qualified legal professionals both nationally and at the regional state levels. It has trained and educated students drawn from all over the country in its regular advanced diploma and degree programs. It has also provided tailor-made training to individuals working in the various justice institutions of the regional states in the country in its summer and distance learning programs.

The School of Law has specialized LLM programs in three areas, namely: Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Environment and Natural Resources Law, and Business and Corporate Law. The School of Law also offers a BA program in Governance and Development Studies. It currently has more than 600 students enrolled in the regular LLB, LLM, and BA programs and over 2000 students in the extension, summer and distance learning programs.
Job Description:

The BDU School of Law recently launched a doctoral program in law to meet the increasing demand for qualified legal professionals and educators with advanced research skills.

Legal education has seen an unprecedented expansion in Ethiopia in recent years with the emergence of a number of new public and private higher education institutions. Nearly 30 universities now provide legal education. While some offer postgraduate programs, only the Addis Ababa University Law School has a doctoral program in law, launched in 2017. Consequently, most LLM programs are largely run with the help of expatriate staff or with the few available local staff on a part-time basis. Some of the new law schools have to rely on recent LLM graduates to teach their postgraduate programs.

These constraints limit the capacity of Ethiopia’s law schools to meet the need for qualified legal professionals, especially that generated by the substantial recent growth in the private sector fueled by foreign investment, international trade, and international business transactions.

The introduction of the doctoral program also fits within the University’s vision to become one of the top research universities in Africa by 2025, which presupposes the promotion of research and scholarship among faculty and students and the development of appropriate infrastructure.

In order to mount its programs with limited internal resources, the BDU School of Law has successfully built on existing and new collaborative arrangements with other universities in Ethiopia and internationally, and these have already yielded results. Gaps remain, however, in some specialized areas of teaching in the program.

This AWB volunteer opportunity involves teaching one such course whose general scope is described in what follows. The course will be delivered in the future by BDU faculty and, thus, the AWB volunteer will be expected to play a substantive role in working closely with BDU colleagues to refine the course content and to develop more detailed course objectives, learning outcomes and assessment methods, and reading materials.

Contemporary Issues in International Human Rights Law and Criminal Justice

Course Objective:
This course involves an advanced study of core contemporary issues and problems in international human rights law and international criminal justice. The course aims to provide students with an opportunity for a deeper exploration of fundamental legal principles, concepts and doctrinal frameworks through the medium of contemporary concerns and developments in the field of international human rights law and international criminal law/justice.
Content:
The course will have two main components.

The international human rights law component of the course will engage students with a critical review of the complex theoretical, political, and socio-economic issues associated with the human rights discourse; the structures and processes through which international human rights norms are established and transformed into rights; the relationship of international human rights norms to constitutional framework; and the specific techniques for the implementation of human rights on the domestic and international sphere. It explores key human rights issues and challenges in a range of areas, including national security, terrorism and limitations on human rights; religion and human rights; culture and human rights; refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs); forced migration and human trafficking; rights of indigenous peoples; the role of non-state actors; business and human rights; human rights and development; and disability rights.

The second component of the course covers issues relating to international criminal law and to mechanisms for dealing with serious human rights violations and other international crimes. It relates the discussion to the ongoing debate around state sovereignty, international peace and security, post-conflict reconciliation, and the rule of law.

The course examines the development and basic features of international criminal law as well as its relation to transitional justice. The content will include substantive legal norms relating to core international crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The course will also offer a critical review of the history, structure, jurisdiction, and jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court and the ad hoc international/regional criminal tribunals such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; the Special Criminal Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegalese Courts, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, as well as other hybrid and internationalized mechanisms.

Volunteer Requirements:
Educational Qualifications: PhD in Law or Philosophy (with a specialization in legal philosophy).

Professional Experience: Must have the rank of Associate Professor or equivalent. Minimum of five years of teaching and research experience and must have experience supervising graduate students.

Start Date and Duration: The proposed course will be delivered in a condensed session. The volunteer applicants must be available for a minimum of two weeks between April and July 2020.
**Benefits:**
All expenses - flights, accommodations, local transportation, travel and medical insurance, vaccinations and medications, and other incidentals - will be covered by Bahir Dar University and AWB.

**Further Information:** Potential applicants seeking further information can be connected with the Post-graduate Programs Coordinator at the School of Law at Bahir Dar University. Please contact Corrie Young, cyoung@awb-usf.org.

**Applications:**
Please send to Corrie Young, cyoung@awb-usf.org:
- Your CV, including your contact information
- A statement of your motivation in seeking the position
- Dates of availability for travel to Ethiopia in 2020
- Two (2) letters of reference – please either include the letters of reference with your application package or have them sent separately to Corrie Young, Associate Executive Director - Projects & Network, cyoung@awb-usf.org, as soon as possible

**Deadline:** March 4, 2020