

INSOL International / World Bank Group Internship Call for Applications 2026

Introduction

The INSOL International Academic Group is partnering with the World Bank Group to provide an unparalleled funded internship opportunity at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for one LLM or postgraduate law student in 2026-27, along with an opportunity to work alongside global insolvency experts at INSOL International

The internship will comprise of 16 weeks working with the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness and Investment Global Practice ("FCI") Team (in-person in Washington D.C.)

INSOL International will provide a grant of up to £9500 (Nine thousand five hundred pounds) to support the intern's travel, accommodation, and living expenses in Washington D.C. The intern will be responsible for securing their own health insurance.

About the World Bank Group

The World Bank Group provides financial and technical assistance to emerging markets around the world with the overall mission to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity on a livable planet. The World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness and Investment Global Department ("FCI") assists governments of developing countries and transition economies in strengthening their markets and financial sectors to encourage private sector development, financial sector stability and increased foreign investment.

Insolvency & Debt Resolution Team

The Insolvency and Debt Resolution team (Team) assists governments in improving their credit environments through the development of more effective insolvency systems. This is achieved through international standard-setting, detailed diagnostics and technical assistance for effective implementation of insolvency laws and other related laws.

The Team's core focus areas are the following:

- **Technical Assistance:** the Team provides technical assistance to countries in all regions of the world, which are interested in strengthening their insolvency frameworks and commercial debt enforcement frameworks, including related fields such as NPL management, the development of secondary debt markets, alternative dispute resolution frameworks and secured transactions reform. This work is varied comprising both legislative and institutional reforms and involves working with different stakeholder groups across government, the private sector and the judiciary.
- **Diagnostics and assessments:** the Team conducts regular assessments of countries' insolvency frameworks (and related legal frameworks) either on standalone basis or as part

of detailed diagnostics in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, called financial sector assessment programs (FSAPs).

- **Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Standard Setting:** the Team works together with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) to set global best practice standards for effective insolvency regimes. The World Bank Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes together with the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency are the designated globally-recognized benchmarks for effective insolvency regimes.
- **Research and Knowledge:** the Team works to advance knowledge in the area of Insolvency and Debt resolution through the analysis of best practices, engaging in research and convening conferences and workshops. The Team holds a number of strategic partnerships for many of these initiatives with different multilaterals and institutions specializing in insolvency reform, including UNCITRAL, INSOL International, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the OECD.

About INSOL International

INSOL International is a world-wide federation of national associations of accountants and lawyers who specialise in turnaround and insolvency. INSOL currently has over 12,000 professional members, as well as ancillary groups that represent the Judiciary, regulators, lenders and academics. These groups play an invaluable role within INSOL International and provide valuable forums for discussions of mutual problems

Details of the Internship:

The World Bank is looking for an intern for 16 weeks, starting in the autumn (Fall) 2026 or spring 2027. The intern will be based at the Headquarters of the WBG in Washington D.C.,¹ and must spend **at least 12 weeks in person**. It is expected that the intern will participate in a 'Mission,' traveling to an overseas country to support the work of the World Bank, if the WBG's policy allows it at the time of the internship. *(In case of a potential change of circumstances due to internal restrictions within the World Bank Group, it is possible that the placement will be organised remotely, subject to discussion with the selected candidate.)*

The intern will work under the direct supervision of a member of the Insolvency & Debt Resolution team, and will assist with the following tasks:

- Performing analytical research and assisting with the preparation of project documentation in the following areas of law: insolvency, secured transactions, commercial law and Alternative Dispute Resolution for both internal and external audiences.
- Assisting with the review of relevant laws and preparing analysis in the above-mentioned areas of law and key sectors.
- Accompanying members of the Team during meetings with government officials and client contacts which may require travel.
- Assisting with the organization of knowledge management and dissemination events such as workshops, peer-to-peer learning events and deep dives.

¹ Please note that the WBG requires proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter any of its buildings, as of October 31, 2021. There is an alternative option of weekly testing for unvaccinated staff. This policy may change in 2024 and we will update you accordingly.

- Other tasks as instructed by the Team.

The report of the 2024 & 2025 interns are included below.

Selection Criteria

Applicants are required to be enrolled in a postgraduate law degree programme (e.g., LLM, PhD, SJD, etc.), or a recent graduate of such a programme with less than two years post-qualification experience. A background in finance, accounting, data management or policy development is an asset.

The intern will be selected based on:

- Demonstrated academic and research abilities (preferably in the field of commercial law, insolvency, secured lending and/or Alternative Dispute Resolution);
- Demonstrated interest in restructuring and insolvency law, or related area of the commercial law;
- Demonstrated interest in international issues;
- Demonstrated initiative, commitment and ability to handle multiple tasks in a businesslike manner, and;
- Is proficient in the English Language*. The ability to speak more than one language is considered an asset.

** INSOL International retains the right to request and IELTS or TOEFL certificate of proficiency where it appears that an applicant's English proficiency may be inadequate for the purpose of completing this internship. Please note that IELTS or TOEFL certificates need not be submitted unless specifically requested.*

How to apply

- Please email your CV and a completed application form to harriet.norman@insol.org by **4PM UTC on Monday 1 June 2026**.
Applications should be written in English
- Interviews of shortlisted candidates will take place in the week commencing 15 June 2026.
Candidates selected for interview will be informed by 8th June 2026.
Interviews will be held from 1pm UTC, as interviewers will be joining from the USA.

**Report by Jose Salvador (LLM Graduate, San Francisco de Quito University (USFQ) /
Robalino Law, Ecuador)**

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The INSOL-World Bank Group Internship Programme provided intensive exposure to comparative insolvency reform and financial sector development work. The programme was academically and professionally demanding, requiring strong prior knowledge in insolvency law, comparative analysis, and policy-oriented research. It required analytical precision, autonomy, and the ability to engage with complex cross-jurisdictional reform issues.

A significant component of the internship consisted of structured legal research supporting ongoing WBG projects. The work required not only a solid understanding of insolvency doctrine, but also the ability to relate legal frameworks to economic and financial indicators commonly used by the WBG, including recovery rates, non-performing loan levels, and broader financial system performance metrics.

Assignments also required identifying regulatory gaps, assessing reform proposals against internationally recognised principles, and analysing how insolvency systems operate within different institutional environments. This involved reviewing legislation, reform drafts, and policy materials from multiple jurisdictions.

My primary responsibilities included preparing comparative matrices outlining how specific insolvency features were regulated across jurisdictions. These analytical tools supported reform discussions and stakeholder engagement.

I contributed to reports concerning several MENA jurisdictions, analysing the extent to which recent reforms incorporated recognised insolvency principles and identifying areas requiring further development. This included proposing comparative approaches drawn from other legal systems.

I also supported projects in Africa and Latin America. In particular, I worked directly on a South African project involving engagement with policymakers and stakeholders. This experience highlighted that effective reform assistance requires not only alignment with international standards, but also adaptation to domestic institutional realities and implementation constraints.

The internship included participation in international missions. In Qatar, I assisted in preparing the MENA Forum 2025, which brought together practitioners and experts from all over the world to discuss developments such as cross-border insolvency, artificial intelligence, and directors' liability. My role included supporting panel preparation and structuring discussion themes.

In Egypt, I participated in a study mission linked to the reform of Bangladesh's Bankruptcy Ordinance. The mission involved discussions on the implementation of Egypt's insolvency regime and its reform trajectory, as well as analytical review of aspects of the Bangladeshi draft legislation prior to submission to the legislative authority.

The internship was rigorous and policy-driven, requiring the integration of doctrinal knowledge, comparative research, and practical reform considerations. It provided direct insight into how insolvency frameworks are evaluated and adapted in developing and emerging economies, reinforcing the role of insolvency law in financial stability and economic development.

Report by Defne Tasman (PhD Researcher, University of Antwerp, Belgium)

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The INSOL International-World Bank Group Global Internship is an excellent initiative that gave me an invaluable opportunity to contribute directly to international insolvency and debt resolution efforts, while gaining experience that will be instrumental in my future career.

During my internship at the World Bank Group's headquarters in Washington, D.C., I was involved in a wide range of legal and policy projects spanning multiple regions and countries. Working on both core insolvency and broader cross-cutting topics at the global level entailed in-depth analyses, comparative research, legal drafting, and technical assistance within the Insolvency and Debt Resolution (IDR) team. I focused on international, European, and national restructuring and insolvency frameworks, while also contributing to projects on MSME support, early warning tools, and distressed asset resolution. Most of my assignments related to the intersection of insolvency and various domains such as secured transactions, ADR, and ODR. I also worked on projects addressing broader social and economic priorities, including gender equality, access to finance, and the role of insolvency systems in supporting environmental goals.

One of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of the internship was taking part in high-level internal and external meetings. I joined a World Bank mission to Dhaka, Bangladesh, where I supported the team's work on insolvency reform and participated in discussions with senior government officials and key local stakeholders. The mission gave me insight into how legal and technical expertise is adapted to specific country contexts and how reform strategies are shaped through dialogue and collaboration. Attending meetings in Washington, D.C., also offered a valuable perspective on how interdisciplinary teams coordinate in addressing global, regional, and sectoral priorities.

The pace of the internship was fast, and the workload was dynamic. I often worked on multiple topics in parallel, managed my own time and tasks independently, and produced outputs under tight timelines. My role required flexibility, the ability to move quickly between different legal systems and policy areas, and strong organizational skills.

The environment within the IDR team was very welcoming, collegial, and friendly, but also intellectually demanding. It drove me to approach insolvency law comprehensively, from technical, policy, and broader developmental perspectives. Much of the work followed a hands-on, learning-by-doing approach, engaging with new topics on short notice and building practical understanding through background research and active involvement. While my academic background in international law and experience in international settings helped me adapt quickly, this opportunity added a new layer of insight that significantly deepened my understanding.

This experience continues to shape the way I think about international cooperation, reform, and how insolvency and related legal frameworks support broader economic and social goals across

jurisdictions. Since completing the internship, I have continued to work with the World Bank as a consultant, contributing to ongoing projects and building on work that began during the internship. I am grateful to the World Bank and INSOL International for making this possible, and I hope that this initiative continues to create opportunities for committed professionals in the field.