

To: IAM Board of Governors (advance of meeting Jan 14, 2021)

From: Steve Paul

IAM ACADEMIC EXTERN PROGRAM

I was recently approached by a former Straus/Pepperdine LLM student regarding the possibility of an externship opportunity, which led to considering the possibility of the IAM bringing on a qualified academic extern (as an initial trial, and then periodically). In addition to providing an opportunity for the selected extern to take part in advanced training and some practical learning (shadowing, webinars, virtual/live conference during the externship, networking), there is of course benefit to the IAM to assist with various projects (consolidating list serve, pro bono efforts of members, research, etc.). This would also further our efforts to bring along the next generation of mediators, and expand the IAM's reach a bit with such collaborations.

For the initial extern (Sophia Hamilton is the candidate), I would be pleased to supervise and ensure that necessary requirements are completed, provide feedback, shepherd assignments and opportunities, etc. This student is currently also the Executive Director of Externships and Pro Bono Programs for Pepperdine Law.

As many of our IAM members are adjuncts and have teaching relationships with other dispute resolution programs, future externs could be sponsored and supervised by other IAM members (e.g. Osgood, McGill, Australia/New Zealand, possibly an ICC entrant, etc.). We could establish a committee/chair and process for candidates as appropriate.

Please see the below short summary of my recent conversation with Stephanie Blondell (IAM Honorary Fellow), subject to Board approval, and looking forward to further discussion:

To: Steve Paul - International Academy of Mediators
From: Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
Professor Stephanie Blondell and Aparna Gupta
Date: January 11, 2021
Re: **Potential Collaboration(s) with IAM**

This memo follows discussions between Steve Paul, Aparna Gupta and Professor Stephanie Blondell and outlines potential opportunities for collaboration between Straus and IAM.

I. Student Extern Placement at IAM

When there is a skilled and experienced student interested in learning more about and pursuing opportunities through IAM, there is an opportunity for him/her to serve as an extern for IAM, to help advance the student's practical mediation training (through observation, education, research, networking, etc.) as well as the organization's goals including various projects of the IAM related to pro

bono mediation, advanced mediation techniques and practices, various research, and expanding the role of mediation throughout emerging markets. For this collaboration to move forward, the student would need to be vetted by Stephanie Blondell, Aparna Gupta, and deemed suitable to the supervising member of the IAM, and possess a high degree of skill, diligence, and reliability.

Straus' externship program provides students an opportunity to receive academic credit for the completion of work in dispute resolution settings. One unit is the equivalent of 50.0 hours of work, and students may enroll for anywhere between 1-6 units, depending on their course load. The externships require a supervisor who serves as a point of contact for work assignments, feedback, and to approve their hours.

In our discussion, this potential opportunity would not necessarily be something regular for IAM to take on, but on a case-by-case basis when there is an alignment between student skill, interest, and IAM's capacity.