

Freshfields Singapore

International Arbitration Group Summer Internship Programme 2025



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Freshfields' international arbitration practice in Singapore

Freshfields' international arbitration group is widely recognised as the leading international arbitration practice in Asia and across the globe.

No other law firm in Asia can match our breadth of experience or depth of international arbitration specialists.

Among the leading law firms in Asia, we have the deepest pool of associates with genuine world-class international arbitration experience.

We have the world's premier investor-State arbitration practice, having acted in twice as many investor-State arbitrations as the next law firm.

We also have one of the leading international commercial disputes practices in Asia, representing clients in a wide variety of confidential mandates in Asia and around the world, including advising clients on strategic options for resolving contractual disputes through negotiated settlements or, if necessary, formal dispute resolution.

Highlights of our experience include representing:

- a multinational asset management firm in a pending SIAC arbitration arising out of a terminated M&A transaction for the sale of a multi-billion dollar real estate project in Asia;
- a super major global energy company on various disputes arising from high-profile fraud allegations that have been made against its Asian trading counterparty;
- an Asian government in an investment treaty arbitration commenced by a major hedge fund relating to allegations surrounding the government's involvement in a corporate merger;

- a Japanese renewable energy company in an Energy Charter Treaty claim against Spain;
- a major Asian energy company in an investment treaty dispute against Egypt relating to the 'Peace Pipeline' between Israel and Egypt;
- a leading private equity firm in a dispute concerning its exit from a joint venture in the Indian transportation sector; and
- an Asian oil and gas company in an UNCITRAL arbitration commenced by its joint venture partners under various instruments governing the parties' exploration and development of a natural gas field in the East China Sea.

'The team is said to be "relentlessly detailed" and able to offer appropriate analyses without the need for client guidance and supervision.'

Chambers Asia Pacific: International Arbitration, Singapore – 2021

'Outstanding overall impression of Freshfields as a result of its handling of a complex commercial arbitration.'

Chambers Asia Pacific – 2022

'They are very respectful of everyone's time and try to be very efficient. They are very effective and keep us in the loop. They stick to the internal deadline and we are never left wondering.'

Chambers Asia Pacific: Dispute Resolution: Arbitration: The Elite client – 2024

Band 1

Ranked Band 1 for international arbitration globally in 2024

Chambers Global

Band 1

Nicholas Lingard lawyer, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration, Singapore

Chambers Asia Pacific 2024

Number 1

Ranked No. 1 for 9 of the past 13 years

Global Arbitration Review

Number 1

46 of our lawyers recognised for their expertise in 2024

Who's Who Legal: Arbitration

ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards 2023

International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year

Our Summer Internship Programme

We are inviting applications for internships from outstanding students in all years of an undergraduate or graduate law or non-law degree.*

Three to six weeks long

Between May to August 2025

The Programme

Our summer interns can expect to work with our team on a range of research and writing assignments, as well as preparation for any hearings in which the team is involved during your internship.

We demand intellectual excellence from our lawyers and interns, and thus seek students with outstanding academic records. Our standards are uncompromising. But we also want colleagues with whom we can enjoy working together. We seek colleagues who will enjoy the challenge of the fluid, stimulating, high-stakes environment in which we work; who will get their hands dirty with all sorts of work; and who will also have fun with us.

In particular, we are looking for candidates who are:

- at or near the top of their class;
- passionate about advocacy, research and writing;
- interested in international cases and issues;
- able to work well with colleagues and clients from diverse backgrounds and legal traditions; and
- eager to take on challenging legal assignments and gain substantive, practical experience.

As a Freshfields intern, you will:

1. Learn about cutting-edge issues in international law from leaders of the international bar.
2. Cultivate your analysis, writing, research and advocacy skills by doing substantive work on real cases with top practitioners in international investment and commercial arbitration.
3. Work across jurisdictions with a diverse team of lawyers from Asia, Europe and the Americas.
4. Work with friendly lawyers in a collaborative, collegial environment.
5. Have access to our world-class in-house training programmes.



*Subject to the applicant either having or obtaining the right to work in Singapore for the duration of the internship. Successful applicants must make their own application to the Singapore Ministry of Manpower to obtain a Work Holiday Pass, if required.

In interns' own words

'The Freshfields Singapore office embraces a positive work culture that prioritises the well-being of its employees. Members of the firm are encouraging and value teamwork. The firm also makes it a point to build an inclusive environment, for everyone including interns to contribute and excel.'

Audrey Loo

Singapore Management University,
Juris Doctor, Class of 2024

'My time with Freshfields was enriching and fulfilling! I truly enjoyed working in such a supportive environment. Not only did the team go out of their way to get to know us, but they also actively involved us in a diverse range of matters spanning various Asian jurisdictions and answered every question we had. It was also eye-opening to speak to lawyers across various practice areas who shared illuminating stories from their time in practice. I learned a great deal and recommend this experience to anyone looking to gain amazing exposure to international arbitration.'

Ning Teo

University of Cambridge,
BA (Hons) Law, Class of 2025

'Given the firm's international nature, one of the highlights for me was getting to know people from diverse backgrounds. It was fascinating to hear their perspectives on studying and working in different locations like Germany, Paris, London, and more. Throughout the internship, we had the chance to contribute to real cases at various stages of arbitration proceedings, providing valuable exposure to cross-border disputes work.'

Tham Mei Shuen

Yale-NUS College & National University of Singapore,
Law and Liberal Arts Double Degree Programme,
Class of 2026

'The most rewarding part of my time at Freshfields was being able to work directly with the team on live matters. The team makes it a point to engage your opinions on the matters we work on, allowing us to hone our legal knowledge, as well as commercial acumen.'

Kyna Chew

National University of Singapore,
Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Class of 2023

'I was constantly and meaningfully engaged throughout my time at the firm, where I conducted research on cutting-edge areas of the law across multiple jurisdictions.'

Choi Young Jae

National University of Singapore,
Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Class of 2025

'From trainees on secondment to partners, the people I interacted with were not only friendly but also nurturing, readily offering guidance and assistance without any hesitation.'

Arya Arun

University of Oxford, BA in
Jurisprudence (Law), Class of 2024

How to apply

If interested, please apply via www.freshfields.com/chinarecruiting

your
curriculum vitae

a cover
letter

a short* legal
writing sample

your academic
transcripts

*(three to ten pages)

by 31 December 2024

Please direct any questions to Asia.GraduateRecruitment@freshfields.com.

'For the right people, this is a special place. Singapore is the beating heart of our specialist international arbitration practice in Asia.

In the Freshfields international arbitration group here, we work hard to be the best for our clients – the best advocates, the best strategists, the best at offering a genuinely global perspective.

Interns and young lawyers are critical to our ability to do that. They are also critical to our entrepreneurial edge and our hunger as a team to learn and grow and build.

I look forward to meeting you.'



Nicholas Lingard

Partner, Head of Freshfields'
International Arbitration Practice, Asia

**'International Arbitration
Lawyer of the Year'**
Asia Legal Awards



Samantha Tan

Partner, Singapore, International Arbitration

'In Freshfields' Singapore international arbitration team, us lawyers from this tiny city state are able to act as counsel in the largest, most exciting, international disputes globally, alongside the leading practitioners and arbitrators in the world.

I first said this a few years ago but am still today incredibly grateful for the exposure we get, especially in this place where culture and camaraderie are paramount. Our internship programme aims to share some of this with you.'



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