



Linking the classroom to various levels of government and NGO's...

Refugees face serious breaches to their human rights—including severe violations of their economic, social and cultural rights—and these violations have increasingly formed the basis for those seeking international protection. We invite you to partner with upper year students from a variety of disciplines such as public policy and administration, law and society, political science, sociology, environmental studies, and others, to examine these pressing issues and to confront, head on, the challenges faced by those working in the field.

The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies is committed to ensuring its students are well prepared to take on professional roles in today's changing economy. We address real world issues that affect the complex societies in which we live with a unique interdisciplinary approach.

As part of this learning arrangement, students will link their classroom work to an on the ground concern or problem set derived from an actual local community, governmental or international organization. Course content will be learned through engaging with an actual context that links to key course concepts and curricular parameters. This is a two part course – the first offering exposes students to key concepts and issues, while the winter course goes into more detail across a number of domains central to international refugee protection.

This is a cost-free and time-light initiative that encourages students to blend academic requirements with a 'hands-on' endeavor. Students aim to provide effective solutions to challenges facing professionals like you as a core part of their course requirements. This 'learning by doing' approach enables students to tackle your needs in a unique learning endeavor where confidentiality, privacy, ethics and research protocols are given fundamental consideration.

How does it work?

Students will consider how the most significant problems confronting the international refugee protection regime might be addressed in a manner relevant to the challenges that you face in your organizational role. They may undertake a placement at your workplace **or** conduct research mainly on campus (similar to a 'junior consultancy') with the goal of presenting to you and your organization actionable recommendations and solutions at the end of the course in December.

Participating organizations and individuals are asked to share information that will enable students to uncover vital facts and provide new perspectives that could be of immediate benefit to your organization. You will work with them to formulate a clear research question that can be explored throughout the semester. Professor James C. Simeon, who has extensive experience in the field of refugee studies and more than a decade of experience with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) and with the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ), will provide guidance and feedback throughout the process. He has also just completed two terms (Michaelmas and Hilary) as a Visiting Research Fellow (VRF) at the world renowned Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) at the University of Oxford and the 10th Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy.

For a more comprehensive look, visit our website:

www.yorku.ca/laps/ee

- Client testimonials
- Video streaming clips
- Project write-ups

RECENT PARTICIPANTS:

UNICEF Canada

www.unicef.ca

Sojourn House

www.sojournhouse.org

Archdiocese of Toronto,
Office of Refugee

www.archtoronto.org

CCVT

ccvt.org

FCJ Refugee Centre

www.fcjrefugeecentre.org



Why partner with us?

Community Based Learning (CBL) or Experiential Education (EE) at York provides organizations with the unique opportunity to act as genuine co-educators: the program offers students an advantage by encouraging them to engage in hands-on projects that directly impact organizations in the community. You'll help to make a significant difference on their learning experience, while benefiting from up-to-date academic knowledge and expertise that comes from senior students guided by a seasoned and very knowledgeable professor.



"Our upper year students are eager to work with you on the development of innovative solutions to some of today's most challenging international refugee law and forced migration issues. They bring to the table a fresh perspective, sophisticated skills and a willingness to make a difference not only locally, but also regionally and internationally."

Dr. James Simeon,
Professor
Public Policy and
Administration

Students can partner with you to:

- **Provide** a detailed presentation on a critical issue or problem confronting the international refugee protection regime.
- **Examine** the measures that the UNHCR and other UN agencies have taken to try and deal with the growing global problem of refugees, internally displaced persons, the stateless, and other persons of concern.
- **Discover** how your organization operates in practice in light of the conceptual and theoretical knowledge and information found in the current literature.
- **Explore** shortcomings and constraints on the regional human rights commissions/ courts and prospects for enhancing their authority.
- **Develop** regional and/or international solutions to the problem of forced displacement on a global scale.
- **Formulate** a practical course of action to improve your organization's service delivery to the world's most vulnerable people, refugees and other persons in need of international protection.
- **Identify** creative and strategic solutions to deal with key challenges facing your organization and the provision of its program(s) for refugees.

Program features:

- Flexibility and comprehensiveness: upper year students will address concerns that matter to your organization and that align with key course parameters.
- Students are guided by a renowned and highly respected professor who has extensive background in the field of study and practice.
- You obtain a useful end product while students add a valuable hands-on component to their course experience that brings their learning to life.
- You have the choice of working with three to four students as 'junior consultants' across either one semester (Sept-Dec or Jan-Apr); alternatively, you can choose to host students on-site for 30-40 hours/term across the entire academic year – we will do our best to align placement timings with the schedules/capabilities of a senior student/students.

There are only a few things we ask in return from you as a participant:

- A willingness to work with students on a key international refugee rights and protection issue that is of interest to you and meshes with key curricular parameters.
- The opportunity to provide feedback during at least three points in each semester.
- Allowing the Experiential Education Office to check-in with you periodically to ascertain the status of the project.

To learn more, contact Geoff Webb, Senior Manager of Experiential Education
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