



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. As an organization working with refugees, we invite you to partner with upper-year students from a variety of related disciplines (Public Policy & Administration, Law & Society, Political Science, Sociology, Environmental Studies) who are eager to lend their theoretical knowledge and developing skills to support **YOUR research needs**, allowing them to confront, head on, the challenges faced by those working in the field of refugee protection and advocacy.

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.

Course Description:

The **International Refugee Protection Regime** is a two-part course: the first offering in **Fall 2013** will expose students to key concepts and issues in forced migration and refugee studies, including international refugee law and practice, and the current situation in Canada; building on this background, students in the **Winter 2014 research seminar** will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge to a hands-on project with a local community organization, a governmental agency or an international NGO assisting refugees. Working in small teams under the guidance of a leading expert in the field and seasoned Experiential Education instructor, Professor Simeon, these upper-level students can act as "junior consultants" to support your organization in addressing the critical issues confronting refugees and the international refugee protection regime today.



"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 & Administration

Students can partner with you to:

- **Conduct** a background scan on a critical issue or problem confronting the international refugee protection regime
- **Examine** the measures taken by the UNHCR and other UN agencies to handle growing global challenges surrounding refugees, internally displaced persons, the stateless, and other persons of concern
- **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
- **Discover** how your organization operates in practice, in light of conceptual and theoretical frameworks found in current literature
- **Identify** creative and strategic solutions to deal with key challenges facing your organization
- **Formulate** a practical course of action to strengthen your organization's service delivery to the world's most vulnerable people, refugees and other persons in need of international protection



Refugee Protection & the Global Community

RECENT PARTICIPANTS:

UN High Commissioner
for Refugees - Canada
www.unhcr.ca

FCJ Refugee Centre
www.fcjrefugeecentre.org

Canadian Centre for
Victims of Torture
ccvt.org

Save the children
www.savethechildren.ca

YMCA – GTA
www.ymcagta.org

Kairos Canada
www.kairoscanada.org

Roma Community Centre
www.romatoronto.org

How does it work?

This is a **cost-free, time-light** opportunity that is more akin to a “junior consultancy,” rather than an internship or placement model. You work with us to identify a research project that responds to one of your organization’s current priorities while intersecting with the course’s critical examination of the International Refugee Protection Regime. Once the research focus/questions are defined, you are invited to present these to students during a class visit, whereupon small teams of students are formed based on their chosen project. Though working independently most of the time, your **student team will be in touch with you periodically**, ensuring the project’s optimal alignment with your goals – while the Professor will instruct and coach students around **research protocols** and necessary **confidentiality, privacy, and ethics** requirements.

Why partner with us?

Community Based Learning (CBL) courses provide organizations with an opportunity to act as **genuine co-educators** by engaging upper-level students in hands-on projects that directly support their mission, advocacy, and service in

the community. While benefitting from academic research tailored to your needs, you will greatly enhance students’ practical knowledge, as well as the skills and capacities of future colleagues and leaders in the field.

A few things we ask of you as a participant:

- A **willingness to work with students** on a critical international refugee rights and protection issue that is of concern to your organization and meshes with key course parameters
 - Invited to present your organization and the research questions/project you are seeking assistance with to the class, with time for Q&A with students (early January)
 - Opportunities for your student team and the Professor to touch base with you periodically
 - Available to attend a **final in-class presentation**, to hear/discuss results and provide feedback on your student team’s performance (beginning of April)
- **Free parking provided for on-campus visits****

Program features:

- Students are guided by a seasoned CBL Professor with extensive experience in the field of refugee studies, both in Canada and internationally
- You obtain a useful end product while students add realism – and excitement! – to their upper-level coursework through a hands-on collaborative project
- Unique opportunity to work with a group of bright, energetic, enthusiastic and highly motivated senior undergraduate students on a worthwhile and meaningful research project for your organization

Next steps...

To learn more, contact **Joëlle Reid**, Experiential Education Coordinator at (416) 736 2100 ext.70878

Or email ee@yorku.ca with any questions