



The Fordham Summer Program in Ireland has secured up to 40 field placements in Belfast and Dublin for Summer 2024.

These placements are remarkable—they include upper-echelon opportunities in the judiciary, governmental agencies, quasi-governmental agencies, and public interest organizations. There are numerous placements available in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, and Belfast, Northern Ireland.

These placements will allow students to work with some of the best barristers, solicitors, and judges in Dublin and Belfast. Additionally, the positions in Belfast offer students a unique opportunity to witness history in the making: Northern Ireland is in a truly transformative era, as the country moves closer to Home Rule.

The field placements require students to work from June 10/17 to July 19. Not all placements are available from summer-to-summer, as placements must address space and work needs at the time of application.

Eligibility

Due to the highly competitive nature of the placements, **applicants are required to have a minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA**. We will try to accommodate all interested students, but not every student will be assigned to his or her first choice.

Placements Offered for Academic Credit (Externships) or as Unpaid Non-Credit Internships

Students will have the option of participating in a field placement for academic credit (externship) and will be eligible to receive three academic credits (two for fieldwork and one for the related externship seminar). If registered for academic credit, students must attend four two-hour externship seminars, one of which may be conducted in Belfast before the field placements begin. Students also may participate in a field placement without receiving credit (unpaid internship).

Regardless of whether a student wishes to receive academic credit for the fieldwork, all students who apply for a field placement in Dublin or Belfast must also be registered for the academic portion of the Fordham Summer Program (exceptions will be made for those who participated in the 2023 academic program). For those interested in receiving academic credit for the fieldwork placement, the fee will be \$2,250. For those students who wish to participate without receiving academic credit, there is a \$500 field placement fee. Fees must be paid at the time of application.

Students choosing to participate in field placements for academic credit will have priority over students seeking to participate in non-credit internships in the field placement assignments. Students may change their status from non-credit to credit, but not later than April 30, 2024, and payment of an additional \$2,250 will be required with the change in application.

Application Process

Students who already have applied to the 2024 Ireland Summer Program and who are interested in the Field Placement Component should submit the following as soon as possible:

1. The Application for Field Placement (via the weblink)
2. Resume
3. A Writing Sample

Students are encouraged to include (and to rank) as many placements as possible. Greater flexibility will lead to greater chances of obtaining a placement. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis from the pool of applicants to the 2024 Ireland Summer Program. The earlier a student applies, the more chances the student has of securing an externship.

Students must indicate in their application whether they will be seeking academic credit. All students seeking externship credit will be ineligible to register for an extension course.

Housing

Housing is available for students in the field placement portion of the Program, though students are free to obtain housing on their own. Students should expect the additional weekly housing costs that the Program provides to mirror the per week housing costs of the academic program.

Descriptions of Field Placements

The following descriptions of the field placements offer an idea as to the type of work students may perform. The placements will determine actual assignments, which may differ from the descriptions on the following pages. Additional placements may become available as the 2024 summer draws nearer.

Ireland Summer Program, Field Placements

Judicial

Northern Ireland Royal Courts, Belfast (2 potential placements) Overseen by the Office of the Chief Justice, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, attending court proceedings (appellate and trial court), and assisting in the finalizing of Court opinions; likely one-on-one experiences with multiple judges and barristers. Applications for this placement must be submitted by March 15.

Irish Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court, Dublin (4 potential placements) Work one-on-one with an Irish Supreme or High Court Justice, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, attending oral arguments, and assisting in the finalizing of Court opinions. Applications for this placement must be submitted by March 15.

Governmental or Quasi-Governmental Organizations

Irish Law Reform Commission, Dublin (1 potential placement) Work with the Commission charged with recommending changes to Irish law.

Irish Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (2 potential placements) Work with the Irish Department of Justice charged with developing and recommending changes to the antitrust (“competition”), corporations, and intellectual property, among others.

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work on policy issues involving the selection of judges in Northern Ireland, including issues of equality.

Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the Legislative Committee of the Assembly, charged with reviewing and drafting legislation for the devolved government of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Attorney General, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the Attorney General John Larkin, the chief legal advisor to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Northern Ireland Departmental Solicitor’s Office, NI DOJ, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the office charged with representing the Department of Justice in all legal matters devolved to the government of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Parades Commission, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the Commission charged with handling the most contentious cultural issue each summer: the parades that seek to cross through neighborhoods hostile to the parades’ message.

Northern Ireland Victims and Survivors Commission, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the Commission charged with handling the issues of the victims and survivors of the Troubles.

Northern Ireland Public Prosecution Service, Belfast (2 potential placements) Work with the District Attorney’s Office of Northern Ireland, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, attending court proceedings, and drafting memoranda on critical policy matters.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the watchdog of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, researching legal issues (e.g., use of Tasers and plastic bullets on youth), drafting memoranda, and attending meetings with governmental officials and stakeholders. Applications for this placement must be received by March 1.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work in the United States equivalent of the EEOC, primarily researching and drafting a paper comparing various aspects of the EEOC and the Equality Commission (a potential Note topic).

Irish Ombudsman, Dublin (1 potential placement) Established in response to the financial crisis, the Ombudsman resolves and investigates individual complaints between businesses and their customers.

Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission, Dublin (1 potential placement) Work with the Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Human Rights Commission, researching human rights issues, drafting memoranda, and attending meetings with governmental officials and stakeholders. Applications for this placement must be submitted by February 1.

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Youth (NICCY), Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the NICCY’s Legal and Complaints team, which handles individual complaints and impact litigation that affects children and young people and/or their careers about the services they receive or the way they are treated. The NICCY has a critical, legislative mandate—unprecedented here in the United States—to make things better for children and young people and to effectively enforce and promote the Rights of the Child Convention in Northern Ireland.

Non-Governmental Organizations

The Public Interest Litigation Support (PILS) Project, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with a new and unique NGO, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, and generally assisting PILS in its mission to advance human rights and equality in Northern Ireland through the use of and support for public interest litigation.

Northern Ireland Law Centre, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with Northern Ireland's equivalent of "Legal Aid-Civil," researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, attending court proceedings, and potentially assisting in all other aspects of litigation. There is also potential for policy-oriented work.

Committee on the Administration of Justice, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with Northern Ireland's premiere human rights NGO, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda and country shadow reports, and generally assisting CAJ in its mission to ensure the fair administration of the rule of law in NI. Applications for this placement are due by January 15.

The Children's Law Centre, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with Northern Ireland's only NGO that focuses exclusively on the human rights of NI children, drafting and lobbying for legislation, litigating strategic class-oriented issues, and educating children and policymakers on the rights of children.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dublin (2 potential placements) Work on one of the Republic's most pressing public interest issues, the plight of immigrants, in one of the country's most reputable public interest organizations, researching legal issues, drafting memoranda, and assisting in the advocacy and education efforts of the ICI.

Ballymun Community Law Centre, Dublin (1 potential placement) Work with Dublin's premier community law office, educating the residents on their legal rights, advising them on imminent housing and criminal rights issues, and drafting policy and education-oriented memoranda. Potential opportunity for creating a summer moot court experience for the community's youth.

Amnesty International Ireland, Dublin (1 potential placements) Work with the Dublin office of the world's leading human rights organization, researching and drafting shadow country and issue-oriented reports for human rights monitoring bodies, as well as memoranda on other human rights issues.

The Irish Refugee Council, Dublin (2 potential placements) Like the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the Irish Refugee Council offers the opportunity to work on one of the Republic's most pressing public interest issues, the plight of refugees, in the country's most reputable public interest organization on the topic, researching legal issues, drafting briefs, going to the Four Courts to assist IRC clients, as well as assisting in the IRC's overall advocacy on the plight of refugees.

KRW Law Firm, Belfast (1 potential placements) Work alongside solicitor Niall Murphy, who does indigent criminal defense and civil rights prosecution on behalf of victims and alleged perpetrators of the Troubles.

Northern Ireland Housing Rights Service, Belfast (1 potential placement) Work with the premier Northern Ireland NGO seeking to protect the housing of those in need.

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Dublin (1 potential placement) Work with the premier Irish NGO advocating on behalf of migrants in Ireland on issues involving labor conditions, fair wages, etc.

A&L Goodbody, Belfast (2 potential placements) Work with the Belfast office of the Republic of Ireland's largest corporate law firm (only for non-credit).