MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
STUDENT STUDY TRIP
Strasbourg
23-26 May 2016
The Middlesex University student study trip to Strasbourg demonstrates the outstanding cooperation between our London and Dubai Campuses and provides an excellent opportunity for our students to meet, interact and share valuable experiences. Our students had the opportunity to gain a first hand insight on the functioning of the Institutions of the Council of Europe, attend a Grand Chamber hearing at the European Court of Human Rights and meet distinguished Judges. I would like to congratulate Dr Tenia Kyriazi and Dr Alice Donald for initiating and organising the trip and the students for their commitment and engagement. Middlesex University Dubai encourages and supports such initiatives that enhance the quality of our academic programmes and improve the learning experience of our students.

Dr. Cedwyn Fernandes
Director, Middlesex University Dubai
I am very proud of the exceptional opportunity given to students from both our London and Dubai campuses to visit Strasbourg and learn about the Council of Europe. The students - on our BA, LLB, LLM and PhD programmes - attended a Grand Chamber hearing and interacted with three Judges of the European Court of Human Rights as well as senior representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Committee of Ministers and the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights. The Council of Europe protects the rights of more than 800 million people in 47 states and it is vital that the next generation of practitioners and scholars understands and promotes its work. I would like to thank Dr Alice Donald (London) and Dr Tenia Kyriazi (Dubai) for their outstanding efforts in organising the trip - and congratulate all the students who made it a success thanks to their enthusiasm and commitment. I look forward to similar successful joint initiatives in the future!

Pr. Joshua Castellino
Dean of the School of Law, Middlesex University

A Middlesex University student study trip to Strasbourg was conducted on 23-26 May 2016 with great success. This field trip, the first ever joint activity for students of the two Campuses (London and Dubai), was initiated and organised by Dr Alice Donald, Senior Lecturer in Law, Middlesex University London and Dr Tenia Kyriazi, Senior Lecturer in Law, CPC Law and Politics, Middlesex University Dubai.
The group of students participating in the trip comprised of Middlesex University students from both London and Dubai campuses, representing the LLB, LLM and PhD Programmes of the Department of Law and Politics.

Beatrice Benedicta Adutwim
Mariam Adams
Mohamed Khalifa Alhmoudi
Muhammad Qadeer Alam
Edward George Armitage
Navya Pudhukkudi Chanolien
Tatiana Pessôa Santos Cardoso
Shirley Chanda
Rebeca Arvelos Tavares do Amaral Cruz
Alexander Marius Curth
Una Dedic
Alia El-Abiary
Huseyin Eroglu
Hanh My Ha
Jolene Mireille Phillis Evasia Isenia
Saskia Ladha
Futian Li
Ruby Oayda
Lalanat Porjai
Zeyad Nathan Sherif Sadek
Prerna Sudhir
Mathurabhasini Thamilmaran
Migle Tubutyte
Students had the exceptional opportunity to meet three Judges of the European Court of Human Rights:

Judge Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, Judge elected in respect of Greece;  
Judge Paul Mahoney, Judge elected in respect of the UK;  
Judge Robert Spano, Judge elected in respect of Iceland.

Furthermore, the schedule of this unique trip involved the following:
Attendance of a Grand Chamber hearing at the European Court of Human Rights for the case: *V.M. and Others v. Belgium*

A guided tour at the Palais d’ Europe (Headquarters of the Council of Europe)

A visit to the Debating Chamber of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

A meeting with Rachael Kondak, Adviser, Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

A meeting with Andrew Drzemczewski, Head of the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Department of the Parliamentary Assembly

A meeting with Fredrik Sundberg, Deputy Head, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.
Fredrik Sundberg with Dr Alice Donald

Rachael Kondak addressing Middlesex University students and staff

Andrew Drzemczewski with Middlesex University students and faculty

Middlesex University students in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Mohammed Alhmoudi
Ph.D student, Middlesex University London

“The study trip to Strasbourg was a life changing experience. To me every day was new and was completely different from my life at university.”

Rebeca Arvelos Tavares Do Amaral Cruz
Y2 LLB student, Middlesex University London

“In my view, the best part of our trip to Strasbourg was the fact that it allowed us to be face-to-face with some of the world’s most prominent judges, who were very keen on answering questions about the ECtHR, about particular legal areas currently under development (i.e. the relationship between privacy and the internet, for example) and on what it is like to be a judge. It was especially interesting to hear from the judges themselves and to learn about what factors influence their legal opinions and decision-making the most, which are not necessarily the ones often presumed and mentioned by academics.”
Ruby Oayda
Y2 LLB student, Middlesex University Dubai

“I genuinely enjoyed all aspects of Strasbourg. From interacting with the Middlesex University London students and further bonding with my classmates in Dubai, to attending the Grand Chamber hearing and meeting with the three ECTHR judges. In my opinion it is everything combined that made the trip an absolute success.

Honestly I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to actually see what we have spent a year learning about in our Human Rights module being put into practice at the European Court of Human Rights. You learn a lot from the classroom - conducting research and compiling scholars’ views in order to develop your own opinion on matters and ultimately answer an essay question or prepare a debate. However, actually being present at the Court and watching and hearing judges (which we were privileged to meet) and barristers use and consider the tools that we have studied and apply them in a real life human rights case is a whole other experience. The trip definitely allowed me to understand and gain insight into the practical element of the module. It is certainly a highlight of my studies at Middlesex University Dubai.”
“The trip was an amazing experience from two perspectives: personal and professional. It was a good opportunity to meet different students from the second year to PhD and from different Middlesex campuses, London and Dubai.

The best experience, undoubtedly, was the opportunity to attend the hearing before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights which provides important lessons for the reflection of the facts in relation to previous jurisprudence of the Court.

The study trip allowed us to experience in practice what we have learned in theory. The meeting with the Judges of the Court and the Members of the Council of Europe, in addition to strengthening the knowledge and clarifying the doubts on the functioning of these organs, can influence future professional choices.”
Mathuri Thamilmaran
Ph.D student, Middlesex University London

“My best experience of the trip was definitely visiting the European Court of Human Rights and especially watching the Grand Chamber proceedings. It was also informative to receive insights from the judges about the work they do. As a non-European, I have always been fascinated with the working of this Court and I am glad I received the opportunity to visit it as part of this study tour. I think the most important thing I learnt is the sheer number of people making these institutions run and the effort they put in it. I also appreciated the last meeting relating to the Monitoring of Execution of Judgments. It provided me with a lot of new information I had not previously heard of.”

Navya Pudhukudi Chanolien
Y2 LLB student, Middlesex University Dubai

“The whole experience was brilliant. Meeting the judges and so many important people from the different departments was very enlightening.

Attending the case hearing was such a great part of our trip because, as students who study in classrooms and from textbooks, it is difficult to imagine the proceedings especially when it’s on such a large scale and having witnessed it, we will definitely find it easier to relate to in our future studies. Next year, if it would be possible to visit the European Parliament as well, that would be such a great addition to the experiences that we have had so far.”