



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE

EN

**UNIDROIT Academy
China Scholarship Council
Fellowship Programme
February 2025**

UNIDROIT 2025
Ref: AC/220
English only
February 2025

UNIDROIT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Terms of Reference

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisation: International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)

Job Title: Research Fellow

Positions Available: 7

Internship Duration: 3 – 6 months

Location: UNIDROIT Headquarters in Rome, Italy

Background: The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) is an independent intergovernmental organisation that was originally established in 1926 under the auspices of the League of Nations. UNIDROIT has 65 Member States and 116 Connected States, representing 74% of the world population and over 90% of global nominal GDP. UNIDROIT's objective is to develop modern international standards for commercial and private law. UNIDROIT has a primarily legislative function, and has prepared over 30 international instruments (treaties, model laws, model clauses, legal principles and legal guides) on various topics.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research fellows will spend between 3 – 6 months in the UNIDROIT Library (one of the most important international private law libraries in the world) to undertake in-depth legal research in relation to UNIDROIT instruments or projects. Research fellows will be expected to work independently and professionally during their fellowships, and will not be directly supervised by Secretariat staff.

During their fellowships, research fellows will have the opportunity to work with members of the Secretariat in relation to their research topic, participate in relevant expert legal meetings held at UNIDROIT, and present their research during a seminar to UNIDROIT staff and other experts. At the end of their fellowship, research fellows are expected to publish their research (in either an article, book chapter or PhD thesis).

UNIDROIT will be accepting 7 research fellows in relation to the following work areas (applicants are encouraged to consider the [UNIDROIT Work Programme](#) and identify in their application which projects they would be most qualified to undertake research on):

1. Access to Credit
2. International Commercial Contracts
3. Private Law and Agricultural Development
4. Law and Technology
5. Capital Markets and Financial Law
6. Transnational Civil Procedure
7. Cultural Property
8. Sustainable Development

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Educational qualifications: PhD students, post-doctorate graduates, and professors in law, with a focus on international commercial law, private law, or a related field.

Professional experience:

- 1-2 years of experience in legal research, drafting, and analysis, preferably in an international or intergovernmental setting.
- Experience in international organisations, law firms, or legal departments will be considered favourably, especially if the experience involved working on international legal issues or projects.
- Exposure to legal projects in areas such as commercial law and private law is an advantage.

Technical skills and competencies:

- Language proficiency: Minimum IELTS score of 7.0 or TOEFL score of 94. Strong English communication skills, both written and spoken (English is the primary working language).
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team-oriented environment, supporting senior staff and managing multiple tasks efficiently.