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Malaysian Bar

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To Members of the Malaysian Bar

Structured Maritime Law Internship Programme (10 to 28 Nov 2025)
Applications are Now Open!

The Bar Council Shipping and Admiralty Law Committee ("SALC") is pleased to announce a structured three-week maritime law internship programme. This programme aims to provide practical exposure to selected applicants interested in shipping and admiralty law practice.

Applications for this internship programme are open to final-year law students, recent law graduates (not more than two years post-graduation), or newly admitted advocates and solicitors (not exceeding one year in practice), as well as postgraduate maritime law students. Interns are not allowed to hold any employment, or undertake pupillage, or participate in a similar training at any law firm or company throughout the duration of this internship programme. Interns would not be paid any allowance or salary.

Interns will be placed in participating law firms under the guidance of experienced practitioners in this area of practice (mentors), and will gain hands-on experience in legal research, drafting, admiralty court proceedings, maritime arbitration, and maritime-related contracts. The internship programme also covers seminars, court visits, and a maritime advocacy competition. **The internship programme will run from 10 to 28 Nov 2025**.

The current participating law firms are Ariff & Co., Joseph & Partners, Rahayu Partnership, Sativale Mathew Arun, Shaikh David & Co., Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, and T S Oon & Partners.

Eligible applicants are invited to submit their applications to SALC by email to Senior Officer, Rajeswari Gunarasa at rajeswari@malaysianbar.org.my and Administrative Assistant, Pavithra Balasundram at pavithra@malaysianbar.org.my, **on or before 13 Oct 2025 (Monday)** together with a cover letter, *curriculum vitae*, and the relevant supporting documents, as set out in the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ") document, here (see page 3 onwards). Shortlisted candidates may be interviewed, and the results will be announced by **31 Oct 2025 (Friday)**. The placement of interns with their mentors will be decided by SALC, and the decision of SALC is final.

Further details of the internship programme are set out in the FAQ.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the dynamic field of shipping and admiralty law practice!

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Rajeswari Gunarasa, Senior Officer (03-2050 2089 / rajeswari@malaysianbar.org.my), or Pavithra Balasundram, Administrative Assistant (03-2050 2066 / pavithra@malaysianbar.org.my).

Thank you.

Mathew Kurien
Chairperson
Shipping and Admiralty Law Committee

STRUCTURED MARITIME LAW INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (10 TO 28 NOV 2025)
Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ")

Q1. What is the purpose of this Internship Programme?

The purpose of this structured Internship Programme is to provide an opportunity for eligible individuals ("interns") to gain exposure to shipping and admiralty law and practice, under the guidance of an experienced shipping and admiralty law practitioner ("mentor") from a participating law firm.

The current participating law firms are Ariff & Co., Joseph & Partners, Rahayu Partnership, Sativale Mathew Arun, Shaikh David & Co., Shearn Delamore & Co., Skrine, and T S Oon & Partners.

Q2. How long is the duration of the Internship Programme?

The Internship Programme for 2025 will run for three weeks in the month of November, **commencing on 10 Nov 2025 and ending on 28 Nov 2025**.

Q3. Who will run the Internship Programme?

The Internship Programme will be run by the Bar Council Shipping and Admiralty Law Committee ("SALC"), in conjunction with participating law firms (see Q1).

The selection of interns will be undertaken by SALC, which will also determine the placement of interns with the participating law firms. Each law firm will have one or two mentors who will be in charge of the training, guidance, and supervision of the interns throughout the duration of the internship.

Q4. Is this Internship Programme paid or unpaid?

Interns would not be paid any allowance or salary. The intern is expected to bear all costs and expenses arising from this internship, including travel, insurance, accommodation, and living costs. As SALC, the participating law firms, and the mentor accept no responsibility for costs arising from accidents and/or illness incurred during the internship, applicants are advised to obtain the appropriate insurance coverage.

Q5. What are the eligibility criteria for interns?

Applications are open to final-year law students, recent law graduates (not more than two years post-graduation), or newly admitted advocates and solicitors (not exceeding one year in practice), as well as postgraduate maritime law students.

This criterion must be met at the time of **commencement** of the internship.

The following lists academic and other requirements:

(i) Academic requirements

(a) Applicants should have completed their penultimate or final year of a full-time Law Degree course, with a minimum average of CGPA of 3.0, or Second-Class Upper, or completed the Bar Practice Course in England and Wales or the Malaysian Certificate of Legal Practice.
(b) Applicants who have completed subjects such as Law of International Trade, Law on Marine Insurance, Law on Carriage of Goods by Sea, Admiralty Law or Maritime Law, would be preferred.
(c) Consideration may still be given to candidates who fall slightly short of the above requirements but who are able to give valid reasons and can demonstrate excellence in co-curricular activities.

(ii) Software skills

(a) Professional proficiency in Adobe Acrobat and basic Microsoft Office products (Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel, etc).
(b) Basic understanding of Microsoft Teams and Zoom.
(c) Experience using legal research tools from LexisNexis, CLJ, AMR (All Malaysia Reports), Westlaw (Thomson Reuters), and/or LawNet (Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad).

(iii) Full-time participation during the Internship Programme

Interns cannot hold any employment or be undertaking pupillage or similar training at any law firm or company throughout the duration of this Internship Programme.

Q6. What is the application process?

Please submit an application to SALC by email to Rajeswari Gunarasa, Senior Officer (rajeswari@malaysianbar.org.my) or Pavithra Balasundram, Administrative Assistant (pavithra@malaysianbar.org.my) **on or before 13 Oct 2025 (Monday)**, enclosing the following documents:

(a) Cover letter on why the intern is applying for the Internship Programme;
(b) *Curriculum vitae*;
(c) All university, and where applicable, Bar Practice Course / Certificate of Legal Practice ("CLP"), transcripts;
(d) University law degree certificate (if applicable);
(e) CLP or Bar Practice Course Certificate (if applicable);
(f) Recommendation letter (recommended); and
(g) Court Order evidencing the applicant's admission and enrolment as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya (if any).

Applicants may also be invited for interview(s) by SALC.

Q7. When can applicants expect to be notified of the outcome of their application?

Interns will typically be notified of the outcome of their application by **31 Oct 2025 (Friday)**. Please **do not** contact SALC **before** that date to enquire about the status of your application.

The acceptance of applicants for the Internship Programme is subject to the clear understanding and agreement that their internship does not entail financial implications, legal obligations, or liabilities for the respective mentors, participating law firms, and SALC.

Q8. What can interns expect during the internship?

Interns will be exposed to the basics of shipping and admiralty law and practice in Malaysia via seminars organised by SALC and the Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC"), and the work provided to them by their mentors. There may also be opportunities for them to participate in visits to selected ports, and to attend hearing(s) and trial(s) in the Kuala Lumpur Admiralty Court.

Mentors are also encouraged to provide training on research and drafting skills for basic legal pleadings and/or documentations relating to shipping and admiralty practice; and to include interns, where possible, in strategy discussions and meeting with clients and/or counterparties, take them for court hearings or trials, and invite them to internal or external events on shipping and admiralty law and practice.

Interns will also get the chance to participate in a maritime advocacy competition organised by SALC.

The Internship Programme will not create an employment relationship between interns and the participating law firms or mentors, and interns are not to hold themselves out as being employees of the participating law firms or mentors.

Q9. What is the general conduct expected of interns during the internship?

Interns are expected to be present at the participating law firms' offices during the firms' working hours. Interns may also be asked to be present beyond working hours, depending on the needs of the participating law firms.

Interns must be discreet and keep confidential **all** classified information obtained during the course of the internship, and may not disclose, use, or publish any such documents or information. Interns may be required to sign separate non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements by the participating law firms.

Interns are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner compatible with the legal profession. If SALC or the participating law firms or the mentors come to know of conduct that falls short of the appropriate standards of professional conduct, SALC or the participating law firms or the mentors reserve the right to terminate the Internship Programme immediately.

Q10. If an applicant has accepted an internship offer but later chooses not to proceed, what should he/she do?

Such applicants are expected to inform SALC and their mentors **no later than one week** before their start date.

Q11. How many interns will be selected each year?

We aim to select at least eight interns each year.

Q12. Do interns get to choose their mentor?

No. The placement of interns with their mentors will be decided by SALC, and the decision of SALC is final.

Q13. If interns have any questions on the application process or the internship, who should they contact?

Prior to the commencement of their internship: Rajeswari Gunarasa (03-2050 2089 / rajeswari@malaysianbar.org.my) or Pavithra Balasundram (03-2050 2066 / pavithra@malaysianbar.org.my).

Upon commencement of their internship: their mentors.