Description of the Vis Moot competition

The Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is the most prestigious legal competition among Universities from all over the world, with the highest number of challenger teams in its final phase (almost 400 ones from as many Universities). The competition consists in a simulated arbitration proceedings, where each University team pleads during oral hearings before Arbitral Tribunals composed by the most eminent arbitrators (academics, professionals, judges) worldwide.

The competition starts every year at the beginning of October with the publication, online, of a legal problem (the same for all the participating teams and concerning an international sales contract governed by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods – CISG, as well as issues of international civil procedure and international commercial arbitration) and provides for the drafting, within the first week of December, of a written Memorandum for Claimant and, within the end of January, of a written Memorandum for Respondent. Both memoranda shall be written in English.

The oral hearings (also held in English), where each team shall plead both for the Claimant and for the Respondent, before Arbitration Tribunals composed by real arbitrators, take place in Vienna, during the week before Easter, where converge more than 4000 people (students, coaches, academics, professionals, judges, officers) from all around the world.

In preparation of the final stage in Vienna, each year, in the period February - March, several pre-moots are organized by different Universities and Institutions all around the world, where a limited number of teams meet to train in view of the final stage in Vienna.

The week in Vienna, in addition to the oral hearings, offers an exciting program of conferences, seminars, workshops and social events.

Achievements of Statale Vis Moot teams

The Statale Vis Moot teams, in the ten years of their participation, have competed against teams such as Harvard Law School, Kutafín Moscow State Law University, Universität Heidelberg, University of Cambridge, University of Melbourne Law School, Science Po Law School (Paris), Universidad Carlos III (Madrid), NALSAR University of Law (Secunderabad, India), Fribourg Law (Switzerland), University of São Paulo Law School, University of Tehran Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law, University of Buenos Aires and others.

They have always achieved outstanding results, ranking among the best Italian teams in the history of the competition: among the first 11 teams out of 290 teams in 2014 (http://www.dirittopubblico.unimi.it/ecm/home/aggiornamenti-e-archivi/tutte-le-notizie/content/international-moot-2014-i-nostri-giovani-oralist-crescono.0000.UNIMIDIRE-25554); among the first 16 teams out of 250 teams in 2010 (http://www.dirittopubblico.unimi.it/extfiles/unimidire/389501/attachment/estratto-sistema-universita-n-32-06-2010.pdf); among the first 56 teams out of 357 teams in 2018; 4 times among the best 64 ones out of more than 300 teams; several honourable mentions for the best oral teams (in 2018, in 2014, in 2012, in 2010); several honourable mentions for the written memoranda.
Educational value and impact on the students’ career

The participation to the competition is an extraordinary educational experience, which allows students to bring their knowledge of English language (both oral and written) to an exceptional level, to become familiar with the techniques of written and oral legal advocacy, to deepen the knowledge of subject matters of great practical relevance (international civil procedure, international commercial arbitration, international contract and commercial law) and to learn how to make professional legal research. It also fosters team building attitudes and the ability to brilliantly discuss legal issues in front of the best professionals in the field.

For the students who took part to it, the competition has always been a stepping stone for an outstanding career in law (international PH.D and LL.M. programs in top Universities and institutions, in Europe and in the USA, such as Oxford, Cambridge, Cornell Law School, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht, NYU School of Law; in international law firms in Italy and abroad, such as Lalive Geneve, Clifford Chance London, BonelliErede Milan, Shearman & Sterling Paris, in Italy and abroad, in EU Institutions, in International Organizations and in International Courts and Tribunals – such as the ICJ).

25% of its participants has successfully enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Milan – 9 out of 11 Vis Moot applicants in the past 5 years have been admitted.

The Statale Vis Moot Alumni has also a stunning 85% magna cum laude graduation grades from its participants.

Selection criteria

Enrollment in the Law Degree at Università degli Studi di Milano (corso di laurea magistrale in Giurisprudenza);

Grade point average: 28/30. The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to admit candidates with a lower grade point average, who show particular abilites and motivation;

Excellent knowledge of English language, both written and spoken (possibly certified).

Application

Any student wishing to apply shall send to the att. of the coordinator, Prof. Albert Henke, to the email address albert.henke@unimi.it, by May 15, 2020, 12 p.m. GMT+01:00 [Object: VIS MOOT APPLICATION], in a single file PDF (to combine all files please use mergepdf.net), the following documents:

Curriculum Vitae in English (also including reference to all the relevant extracurricular activities);

Certified list of exams and grades (SIFA self-certification is admissible);

Motivation letter (approximately 500 words);

Optional (but recommended): English certification.
Selection procedure

The Evaluation Committee will be composed by the coordinator and by the Senior Vis Moot Coaches.

The selection procedure will take place on **May 18, 2020, as of 09.00 o’clock** (morning and afternoon). It will be articulated in a series of written tests in English and oral colloquia through the web-platform Microsoft Teams.

The outcome of the selection procedure will be communicated to the candidates few days later.

Demo arbitration hearing held by the Statale Vis Moot team which took part to the 27th edition of the Vis Moot Competition

**On May, 4, 2020, at 18.00,** any interested student who intend to apply for the competition, might attend, through the web-platform Microsoft Teams, a simulation of arbitration hearing (as the ones held in Vienna), carried out by the students who took part to the 27th edition of the Vis Moot Competition.

Information and queries

For general information about the competition, please visit the official website of the Vis Moot ([https://vismoot.pace.edu/](https://vismoot.pace.edu/))

For any additional information or query, please contact the coordinator, Prof. Albert Henke, at the following email address: albert.henke@uimi.it