

Durham Summer Program on International Arbitration

25-28 August 2026



Law



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Durham Summer Program on International Arbitration

25-28 August 2026

Durham International Dispute Resolution Institute

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1. Overview

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This Programme will cover “International Commercial Arbitration” (ICA), “Investment Treaty Arbitration” (ITA), contracts, and commercial agreements.

ICA is essentially a private resolution forum between private parties (or States acting in a private capacity, *jure gestionis*), where the subject-matter of the dispute often stems from a “commercial” contract or undertaking of some sort. When studying ICA, we will largely focus on the process of arbitration and not on the subject matter. This Programme includes lectures on:

Introduction to international arbitration	The arbitration procedure
The arbitration agreement	The arbitral award
The arbitrators	Post-award proceedings

ITA, on the other hand, is a form of arbitration between foreign investors and host States regarding foreign direct investment (FDI). The subject-matter is arbitrated under public international law, more specifically international investment law.

International investment law is a sub-specie of international economic law. The investor requests arbitration against the host State pursuant to alleged violations of international investment law as found in various international investment agreements (IIAs) or foreign direct investment laws.

The field of investment treaty arbitration has grown exponentially the last century. This Programme includes lectures on:

Introduction to investment treaty arbitration	Jurisdictional features of investment treaty arbitration
Basics of international investment law	Enforcing arbitral awards against host States

Finally, this Programme includes lectures on:

Introduction to English contract law
United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG)

Upon conclusion of the Summer Programme, all participants shall receive a Certificate of Attendance.

2. Presenter Bios

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Graham Coop

Graham is an independent international lawyer, based in London and Brussels, specialised in public international law, ISDS, cross-border energy projects and commercial arbitration. Until recently, he led the Public International Law team and co-led the Investor-State Dispute Settlement team at Pinsent Masons. He has 35 years of experience in advising and representing governments, international organisations and private clients on international disputes and major international projects.

He also advises sovereign and commercial clients on jurisdictional immunities issues under public international law, including in the context of judicial proceedings before European courts. His wide experience in oil, gas, electricity, water, renewable energy and infrastructure covers disputes, public international law, competition and regulatory issues, major projects, joint ventures, and supply, transport and regasification agreements. He also has significant experience in the banking sector.

Although Graham has spent the majority of his career in private practice, he served for several years as General Counsel to the Energy Charter Secretariat, a Brussels-based international organisation constituted under the Energy Charter Treaty. He was also seconded from private practice to lead the 5-lawyer International Transport and Supply Contracts Division of the Legal Service of Gaz de France. In relation to ISDS, Graham regularly represents investors and States.

2. Presenter Bios

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Dr Ylli Dautaj

Ylli Dautaj currently teaches as an Associate Professor in Commercial Law and Commercial Arbitration at Durham Law School. He was previously an Associate Professor with Penn State Law and before that a lecturer in commercial law at Brunel University London. Meanwhile, he teaches as an adjunct professor at Uppsala University.

Ylli graduated with a PhD from University of Edinburgh (UK) as a stipendiary scholar of the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities.

Ylli practices out of Stockholm, Sweden, at DER Disputes. He represents clients in both litigation and arbitration, domestic and international, investment and commercial. He represents individuals, private enterprises, State-owned enterprises, and States in various litigation matters and international arbitrations, including matters incidental or ancillary to arbitration.

Ylli has published extensively with various leading law journals, books, and book chapters; for example, with Kluwer International, Brill Research Perspectives, Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business, Fordham International Law Journal, Cornell International Law Journal, The International Lawyer, Manchester Journal of International Law, American Review of International Arbitration, Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution, Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, etc.

2. Presenter Bios

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Dr Can Eken

Can Eken currently serves as an associate professor at Durham Law School. He is a triple-qualified lawyer, admitted in California, Turkey, and England and Wales. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He was a visiting scholar at Stanford University and the Max Planck Institute in Luxembourg for Procedural Law.

He has authored numerous publications on international commercial arbitration, investment law, third-party funding, and online dispute resolution. He is the recipient of the 2021 Postgraduate Research Output Award from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Can is regularly invited to speak in international conferences and offer consultancy services to law firms on international arbitration as well as law matters in California and Turkey.

Prior to joining the faculty at Durham, he was a practising lawyer in Turkey. He completed a PhD degree at the Faculty of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He also completed the two LLM degrees, one from the London School of Economics and Political Science and another from Dokuz Eylul University, where he also obtained a bachelor's degree in law with high honours.

2. Presenter Bios

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Dr John Fellas

John Fellas is an honorary professor at Durham Law School and an adjunct professor of international commercial arbitration at New York University School of Law. John received a B.A. (Hons.) in law from the University of Durham (1983), and both an LL.M. (1985) and an S.J.D. (1989) from Harvard Law School.

John is currently a full-time arbitrator at Fellas Arbitration. He has over three decades of experience in international dispute resolution, and has acted as counsel and has served as co arbitrator, chair or sole arbitrator in arbitrations all over the world, under all the major arbitration rules, and across a range of sectors. John is recognized as a leading international arbitrator by all the major legal directories, including Chambers USA where he is identified as “one of the best — his reputation is phenomenal and deserved” and Who’s Who Legal where he is described as being “in massive demand as an independent arbitrator.” He was recognized by Best Lawyers as the Best Lawyer in New York for International Commercial Arbitration in 2019, and the Best Lawyer in New York for International Governmental Arbitration in 2022. In 2025, John received the Global Arbitration Review annual award for being the Best Prepared/Most Responsive Arbitrator.

Mr Bruno Gustafsson

Bruno Gustafsson is a Senior Associate at Roschier, Stockholm. Bruno represents clients in high-stakes arbitration and litigation across a wide range of industries, including energy, construction, insurance, automotive, infrastructure, and telecoms.

He has handled international and domestic arbitrations under major institutional rules, acted in investment treaty disputes involving complex commercial and regulatory issues, and advises clients on contentious and risk-sensitive matters arising from complex infrastructure projects and commercial transactions.

3. Audience

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Government officials.
Lawyers in private practice.
Lawyers, case officers and economists working for the government, municipality, State organs or other equivalent authorities.
In-house lawyers working in international businesses, banks, NGO:s, IO:s, State-Owned Entities, etc.
Consultants and advisors on international investment law and international arbitration.
Academics.
Policy-makers.
Journalists.
Students.

4. Schedule

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The readings will be provided for through a cloud sharing, to be made available to all participants prior to commencing the summer programme

TUESDAY 25 August 2026	INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION – WHAT, WHY & HOW
09:00am – 09:30am	Coffee/Tea
09:30am – 09:45am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:55am – 10:00am	Group Photo
10:15am – 11:30am	Why, What, and How of International Commercial Arbitration Professor: Dr John Fellas Reading list: • W. Fox & Y. Dautaj, Chapter 9 in International Commercial Agreements, Kluwer International 2023 (International Commercial Arbitration: Commencing Arbitration, the Hearing, and the Award) • M. Moses, Chapter 1, <i>Introduction to International Commercial Arbitration</i>
11:45am – 12:45pm	The Sources, Laws, and Rules Professor: Dr John Fellas Reading list: • Enka Insaat Ve Sanayi A.S. (Respondent) v OOO Insurance Company Chubb (Appellant), UKSC 2020

12:45pm – 14:30pm	Lunch
14:30pm – 15.45pm	The arbitral Agreement Professor: Dr Can Eken Reading list: • UNCITRAL, Dispute Settlement – 5.2 The Arbitration Agreement, pp 1-27, 33-39
15:45pm – 16:00pm	Coffee/Tea
16:00pm – 17.00pm	The Arbitrators Professor: Dr Can Eken Reading list: • IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration (2024)
18:00pm	College dinner at Castle

WEDNESDAY 26 August 2026	INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION – WHAT, WHY & HOW
9:30am – 11:00am	The Why, What, and How of Investment Treaty Arbitration Professor: Dr Ylli Dautaj Reading list: • W. Fox & Y. Dautaj, Chapter 13 in International Commercial Agreements, Kluwer International 2023 (FDI, IIL, and ISDS) • Anthony Vanduzer & Patrick Leblond (eds), Promoting and Managing International Investment: Towards an Integrated Policy, Routledge, 2020
11:15am – 12:30pm	Jurisdiction in Investment Treaty Arbitration – Ratione Personae (Investor) Professor: Dr Ylli Dautaj Reading list: • Tokios Tokelés v. Ukraine, ICSID 2004 • Beijing Construction v Yemen, ICSID 201 • Barst et al v The Republic of Ecuador 2025
12:30pm – 13:30pm	Lunch
13.30pm – 14:30pm	Jurisdiction in Investment Treaty Arbitration – Ratione Materiae (Investment) Professor: TBD Reading List: • UNCITRAL, Dispute Settlement – 2.5 Requirements Ratione Materiae, pp 1-27
14.45pm – 15:45pm	Substantive Treatment Professor: Graham Coop Reading List: • C. Schreuer, Chapter 10 Protection against Arbitrary or Discriminatory Measures (2023) • UNCTAD, Most-Favoured Nation Treatment 2010, pp iv-xiii, 1-33

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2026	INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION – THE PROCEDURE & SUBSTANCE
9:00am – 09:30am	Coffee/Tea
9:30am – 10:30am	The Arbitration Process (I) Professor: Dr John Fellas Reading List: • ICC Arbitration Rules: https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution/dispute-resolution-services/arbitration/rules-procedure/2021-arbitration-rules/ • UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules: https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/arbitration/contractualtexts/arbitration
10:45am – 12:00pm	The Arbitration Process (II) Professor: Dr John Fellas Reading List: • Ibid from previous class
12:00pm – 13:00pm	Lunch
13:00pm – 14:00pm	The Non-Textbook Aspects of an Arbitration Professor: Mr Bruno Gutafsson
14:15pm – 15:15pm	CISG Professor: Mr Bruno Gustafsson Reading List: • 1980 United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) ahead of class

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2026	INVESTMENT TREATY ARBITRATION & POST-AWARD PROCEEDINGS
8:30am – 9:30am	Coffee/Tea
9:30am – 10:30am	Third-Party Funding Professor: Dr Can Eken Reading List: • Eken, C. (2024). Third-Party Funding in Investment Arbitration: A New Player in the System. Springer • Chaisse, J., & Eken, C. (2020). The Monetization of Investment Claims: Promises and Pitfalls of Third-Party Funding. Delaware Journal of Corporate Law, 44(2-3), 113-166 • The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct for Members, see: https://www.ciarb.org/media/2x3a0n42/5-ciarp-code-of-professional-and-ethical-conduct-for-members.pdf
11:00am – 12:00pm	Post-Award Proceedings: Challenges & Enforcement Professor: Dr Can Eken Reading List • M. Moses, Introduction to International Commercial Arbitration, Chapters 1 and 10. • New York Convention (1958), Article V • UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985), with amendments as adopted in 2006, Articles 35-36

12:00pm – 13:00pm	Lunch
13:00pm – 14:00pm	Abuse of Rights/Process and Good Faith Professor: Dr Ylli Dautaj Reading List: • https://jusmundi.com/en/document/publication/en-abuse-of-process • https://arbitrationacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AA-_-Suchit-Reddy-3rd.pdf · https://legalblogs.wolterskluwer.com/arbitration-blog/what-is-the-role-of-the-abuse-of-process-doctrine-when-the-illegitimate-commencement-of-investment-arbitration-proceedings-is-concerned/ · https://academic.oup.com/chinesejil/article-abstract/13/4/763/376932
14:00pm – 15:30pm	Coffee/Tea
15:30pm – 16:30pm	Burden of Proof, Standard of Proof and Evidence Professor: Dr Ylli Dautaj

5. Price

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650 GBP	Durham Law School Students and Alumni
850 GBP	Non-DLS students
950 GBP	Professionals

6. About Durham International Dispute Resolution Institute

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The Durham International Dispute Resolution Institute (DIDRI) contributes to the University's goal of producing world-leading and world-changing research. It strives to become the premier research Centre in international dispute resolution. The Centre disseminates research findings through executive education, providing a platform for knowledge exchange among leading scholars and practitioners, while cultivating a cooperative research culture.

Through its summer courses and LLM in International Dispute Resolution, DIDRI provides intellectually challenging, cohesive, hands-on training in dispute resolution. DIDRI is committed to improving society by researching dispute resolution from policy, historical, doctrinal, theoretical, cultural, and comparative perspectives. The centre fosters knowledge exchange between legal practice and research, and undertakes consultancy and policy studies to inform governments, legislatures, and other stakeholders, generating impact beyond academia.



7. Course Director

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