

Training Workshop Programme 2026

Preparing for Third Party Settlement of Boundary & Sovereignty Disputes

2-4 November 2026, Durham, UK



Third party settlement should always be considered as an option in boundary disputes.

Learn to evaluate the pros and cons to ensure a successful outcome from the adjudication process.



INTRODUCTION

Although it is widely recognised that boundary disputes are best settled through negotiation, there are times when recourse to third party settlement also needs to be considered as an option. This workshop is designed to help governments and their legal advisors to evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of third party adjudication, and to equip them with information and skills to ensure a successful outcome from the process.

Led by highly experienced international lawyers and boundary practitioners, the workshop will offer practical instruction on topics such as: choice of forum; assembling and assessing evidence; building and managing a team; presenting your case and rebutting your opponent's case.

The workshop, organised in partnership with leading international law firm Foley Hoag, will be of value not only to countries currently involved in boundary litigation or arbitration but also to any country seeking to achieve a peaceful boundary settlement with its neighbours.

IBRU is delighted to be running this workshop in partnership with Foley Hoag, which has one of the world's foremost boundary dispute resolution practices.

Who should attend?

- Diplomats and Diplomatic support staff
- Ministers and Ambassadors
- Legal Advisors
- Technical Advisors
- Consultants and reserachers
- Commercial litigators

TUTORS

Professor Pierre d'Argent University of Louvain and Foley Hoag LLP	Mr Lawrence Martin Foley Hoag LLP	Professor Martin Pratt Bordermap Consulting Ltd	Dr Derek Smith Foley Hoag LLP	Mr Peter Tzeng Foley Hoag LLP
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What will it cost?

The cost of the workshop is **£2,655** per participant. Payment can only be accepted in GBP sterling, however, we are able to accept payment by most major credit and debit cards.

Full payment **MUST** be received prior to the workshop to guarantee the booking.

In addition to tuition and all course materials, the fees cover the following:

- Lunch and refreshment breaks on 2, 3 and 4 November
- Dinner at Durham Castle on Tuesday 3 November

REDUCED WORKSHOP RATE FOR LDC LIST COUNTRIES

For countries on the United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) list, the cost of the workshop will be **£1,655** per participant.

NOTE: Places will be restricted to only 2 places per LDC country per workshop at this reduced rate. Any additional places will be available at the full cost price. Places will be available on a first come first served basis.

How to book

Places are limited and early booking is highly recommended:

1. Contact the IBRU Team and complete the online booking form at www.durham.ac.uk/ibru
2. Acknowledgement of the provisional booking will be sent by email with information on how to pay.
3. If payment is not received by the deadline specified, the reserved place will be cancelled and your booking removed to a waiting list. Your place will only be confirmed when payment is received and if a place is still available.

PROGRAMME

Monday 2 November	0900-0910	Welcome and introduction
	0910-1030	International boundaries and boundary disputes - The purpose and value of international boundaries - Boundary-making: the global state of play - Types of dispute involving international boundaries
	1030-1100	Refreshments
	1100-1200	Third party resolution of boundary disputes - The obligation to settle international disputes peacefully - The principle of consent in the settlement of disputes Dispute resolution under UNCLOS
	1200-1230	Judicial settlement and arbitration - The International Court of Justice - The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea - Arbitration - Practicalities and pros/cons of different fora
	1230-1330	Lunch
	1330-1500	Judicial settlement and arbitration (continued)
	1500-1530	Refreshments
	1530-1700	Mediation and conciliation - Benefits and drawbacks of mediation and conciliation - Compulsory conciliation under UNCLOS - Case studies
Tuesday 2 November	0900-1030	Litigation strategy - Deciding what questions to ask - Choice of forum - Building and preparing a team - Written and oral pleadings
	1030-1100	Refreshments
	1100-1230	'A view from the court'
	1230-1330	Lunch
	1300-1700	Practical exercise: Preparing and presenting a case Working in teams, participants will evaluate evidence. Negotiate a special agreement and make oral submissions in relation to a fictional territorial sovereignty and maritime dispute
	1830-2020	Dinner at Durham Castle, including drinks reception
Wednesday 4 November	0900-1100	Technical support in boundary negotiation and dispute settlement - The importance of geographical expertise - Technical issues in boundary-making - Bringing the landscape alive: the art of the cartographer
	1100-1130	Refreshments
	1130-1215	After the judgement - Implementing the decision - Post-judgment actions
	1215-1300	Closing discussion and wrap up

Cover image: Participants at the 2022 IBRU-Foley Hoag workshop in Paris

Our Partners

Foley Hoag has offices in Boston, Paris and Washington DC and since its creation in 1943 has become a high-performing firm with a long record of success across a wide range of industries.



Foley Hoag regularly represents Sovereign States in disputes over maritime and land boundaries. The firm has been counsel in more maritime boundary cases before international courts and arbitral tribunals than any other law firm in the world. Foley Hoag has helped clients achieve victories in maritime boundary cases before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague.

www.foleyhoag.com

Additional information

The Venue

Radisson Blu Hotel, Durham UK

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-Durham>

The workshop will take place at this venue throughout the 3 days. You are expected to make your own way to the venue for the start of the workshop each day.



Accommodation

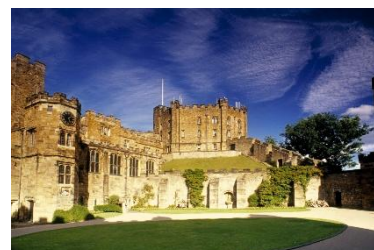
Bed and breakfast accommodation is included in the workshop fee. Three nights in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham are included.

- Sunday 1 November
- Monday 2 November
- Tuesday 3 November

Refreshments and Castle Dinner

Refreshments and lunch are provided each day of the workshop.

On the evening of Tuesday 3 November, dinner will be provided in Durham Castle.



Travel

You are expected to organise your own travel arrangements to Durham. Please be aware that you may require a visa to enter the United Kingdom and you will be required to apply for your own visa for entry into the country. Please allow enough time for your visa to be processed before the start of the workshop. A letter on invitation can be provided to support your visa application.

Language

Teaching and workshop materials will be in English.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing not later than 15 October and will be subject to a £300 cancellation fee, unless a substitute participant is offered. After this date the full registration fee will be charged for all cancellations.

Programme changes

IBRU reserves the right to modify the programme as necessary without notice to participants.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the workshop please contact the IBRU Team.

IBRU: Centre for Borders Research, Department of Geography, Durham University,
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