

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

2023 – 2024 Season

What Is The Vis

- The Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is an international moot competition promoting the study and use of:
 - *Arbitration as a primary dispute resolution method, and*
 - *The UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).*
- The competition is over 30 years old and features:
 - *Over 375 teams,*
 - *From almost 90 different countries.*



Importance of the Vis

- A grand slam moot, it is the second-largest moot in the world
- The foremost scholars and practitioners in the field act as arbitrators
- The Vis has been referred to as the "Olympics of international trade law"
- The Vis is credited with expanding the understanding of this area of law and bridging the gap between common and civil law jurisdictions



The Vis Season

Analysis & Research

Oct 6th	Distribution of the Problem
Oct 27th	Requests for Clarification

Written Submissions

Dec 7th	Memorandum for Claimant
Jan 18th	Memorandum for Respondent

Preparation for Oral Argument

Feb – Mar	Pre-Moots
Mar 22nd	Opening Ceremony
Mar 23th – 29th	Oral Arguments

A History of Excellence



- Honorable mention for best Claimant memorandum, 2010-11 & 2011-12
- Honorable mention for best individual oralist, 2011-12 & 2013-14
- Honorable mention for best team orals, 2011-12 & 2013-14
- Honorable mention for best Respondent memorandum, 2013-14



Northwestern has also regularly taken top team and individual honors at the Loyola pre-moot, including in 2019.

An Unparalleled Experience



- Team members meet and work with law students from all over the world
- Students selected to present oral argument may travel to pre-moots
- The competition is judged by more than 800 arbitrators from more than 70 countries, including many of the world's leading international arbitrators, arbitration counsel, and top CISG and arbitration academics

An Unparalleled Experience



- The competition is highly prestigious
- Team members gain invaluable insight into the Convention for the International Sale of Goods and the rules of various international arbitration associations
- Professional network of peers around the world
- Introduction to the international arbitration community
- Alumni have gone on to work in these fields
- Law students typically regard their Vis experience as the best thing they did while in law school

An Important Commitment



- Team members will meet in person or virtually at least once a week
- Outside time for research and writing will also be required
- Research on CISG and international arbitration topics requires special resources and attention

An Important Commitment

- Team members selected for oral arguments will undergo an intensive preparation process, including many practice arguments, and may have travel commitments
- The team will also be responsible for raising funds to support its continued work



Application Information

Interested students should submit the following to International.Programs@law.northwestern.edu no later than 9/15/2023:

- Resume
- Transcripts
- Writing Sample

The body of the email should also provide availability for a Zoom interview the week of 9/18/2023.



Application Information

The selection committee will consider a variety of factors including applicants' writing and oral presentation skills, ability to understand complex legal problems, dedication, and availability.



Northwestern Vis Moot



Questions?

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