

# PhD Summer School

8 June - 12 June 2026







# WELCOME TO THE iCOURTS / MOBILE PHD SUMMER SCHOOL

The Centre of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts) and Centre of Excellence for Global Mobility Law (MOBILE) are hosting a Summer School for ambitious PhD students working on working on International and European law in its social and political contexts. We particularly welcome applications from students adopting an interdisciplinary, empirical approach in their projects, and focus on the core research areas of iCourts and MOBILE, i.e., international courts and global mobility law. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the Summer School has challenged and assisted more than 300 PhD students from around the world.



# THE IDEA.

The *iCourts / MOBILE PhD Summer School* is a celebration of intellectual curiosity, academic cooperation, and professional networking. Students who sign up for the Summer School will meet an engaged group of both young and senior scholars who look forward to sharing their experience and knowledge with you.

## **AS A PARTICIPANT**

You are expected to take an active part in the scholarly discussions, to present your own work, and to give feedback to your co-participants.

The slogan of the *iCourts / MOBILE PhD Summer School* expresses the gist of what we believe makes excellent research:

*‘BE CURIOUS, WORK HARD,  
AND HAVE FUN!’*



# YOUR HOST.

***iCourts*** is a research center dedicated to the study of international courts, their role in a globalising legal order and their impact on politics and society. *iCourts* opened in March 2012 as a Centre of Excellence funded by a large grant from the Danish National Research Foundation. Since its founding, *iCourts* has contributed to transforming the scholarly and practical understanding of international courts (ICs) at both the global and regional level by developing and applying novel theoretical and methodological tools. To read more about *iCourts'* current research, click [here](#).

***MOBILE*** is a research center dedicated to the study of global mobility law. *MOBILE* was established in 2023 as a Centre of Excellence funded by a large grant from the Danish National Research Foundation. The center's mission is to systematically study the legal infrastructures of human mobility across geographies, social divides, travel patterns and time. To read more about *MOBILE's* research, click [here](#).

Founded in 1479, the ***University of Copenhagen*** is among the oldest universities in Northern Europe. The Faculty of Law was among the four original faculties and about 4,500 students are enrolled in the legal programmes. In 2017, the Faculty of Law moved to South Campus in completely new buildings with excellent facilities and green outdoor areas.







*To exchange opinions with brilliant academics was extremely valuable, enriching and motivating*

# THE PARTICIPANTS.

The summer school will admit up to 24 PhD students and is designed for students in the early stages of their research. To be admitted to the program, students must be enrolled in a doctoral program.

Students must submit a short description of their research project as part of the application as the key focus of the summer program is to help students improve their research projects.

Students should be prepared to refine and change their projects in light of the feedback given during the summer school; thus, the optimal time to participate in the summer school is after students have an approved project and after they have surveyed the relevant literature.

The students may have begun research, but it is better to participate before any serious writing up of findings.



“Receiving feedback, both from the faculty and other students, was really helpful ! The interdisciplinary aspect is great, both because we receive advice that we could not get in our own department, but also because it is very motivating to see young researchers all interested in the same topic, but with so many different perspectives ! It really refreshed the visions I have of my own project. ”



# THE PROGRAM.

## **Lectures**

Faculty members will teach a session related to their own research interests and methodological approaches. They will present some of their own work and discuss methodological issues related to researching a specified topic. Students will have assigned readings (approximately 200 pages) that they prepare in advance.

## **Working group sessions**

Small groups of 4-5 students will be formed based on similarity or complementarity of topics and methods. These groups of students will meet every day with a post-doctoral researcher from MOBILE or iCourts to work on methodological issues related to their own projects.

## **Social program**

As an integrated part of the Summer School, iCourts and MOBILE's PhD students will arrange social activities designed to foster the more informal relationships among participants. There will be an informal closing 'happy hour' where students will get a chance to talk more informally with faculty and other students. We aim to organize social time around Copenhagen so all the participants can get to know one another.

## **Evenings**

Most evenings will involve homework — doing readings for the next morning's lecture and preparing assignments for the working group session.

\*A detailed program as well as a list and description of assignments required readings will be made available to all accepted PhD students by May 2024.







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*The academic content was really, very good. I received excellent comments about my project and very good answers to my questions. All staff were extremely nice and welcoming and I felt that I could ask anything that interested me. Thank you all for all the valuable insights.*

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## DETAILS.

### **ECTS**

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### **TIME & DATE**

8 June – 12 June 2026

### **PLACE**

the University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law, Njalsgade 76, 2300 Copenhagen S

### **PARTICIPATION AND EXPENSES:**

The course costs 250 Euros / 2050 DKK, which covers food, drinks, and dinners during the Summer School.

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

1 March 2026.



