

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tomas Morochovic and I have recently graduated from the LLM in International Human Rights Law at the University of Exeter. I wish to express my strong interest in pursuing the PhD programme in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, particularly focusing on the topic of international human rights obligations of non-state actors, as detailed in my research proposal.

The impetus to pursue a PhD focusing on the topic of human rights and non-state actors came when I volunteered at the 2016 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. Over the past year, the topic kept reappearing across all my LLM modules, but the possibility of listening to case studies at the UN Forum about how private actors can violate human rights yet avoid liability provided me with strong motivation to focus on this area during the upcoming stages of my career. After writing a number of essays on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations, I decided to focus my LLM dissertation more generally on the challenges and developments in relation to human rights obligations of non-state actors. Titled 'Privatisation of human rights – conceptualising human rights obligations of non-state actors, particularly non-state armed groups and transnational corporations', the dissertation analysed the issues of international legal personality of non-state actors, the vertical nature of human rights, and some of the practical and policy arguments which are raised within the discourse. Moreover, the dissertation provided an overview of the main legal developments in relation to non-state armed groups and transnational corporations. Having achieved a Distinction for the dissertation, I am enthusiastic to build upon the ideas developed in the paper and approach some of the areas from a fresh perspective.

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to undertake my PhD at the Graduate Institute, as it provides a unique combination of expertise, location, and community. With leading academics and practitioners across numerous areas of international law, the breadth of expertise at the Graduate Institute would provide excellent support for my strongly intersectional research project. I would be particularly interested in working with prof Andrew Clapham, the major international authority on human rights and non-state actors, as the possibility of drawing on his knowledge of the area and critical views would be invaluable. The location of the Graduate Institute in the heart of the international legal world makes it an unparalleled destination, not only in terms of academic excellence, but also in respect of career prospects. The proximity of institutions such as the ICRC and the OHCHR would enable me to undertake internships and establish key contacts, allow me to attend informative events, and also facilitate the engagement of my research ideas in a practical and impact-driven manner. Finally, the size of the university is a major factor, as it is conducive to a tightly-knit community with strong relationships and a lot of critical engagement during doctoral seminars.

My aptitude for the PhD programme is evidenced by my academic results, skills, and ambition. At the University of Exeter, I obtained an overall Distinction in the International Human Rights Law LLM, additionally receiving the Dean's Commendation which is awarded to students with the strongest academic performance in a given year. As well as achieving a strong Upper Second Class Honours degree at King's College London, I was a recipient of the Dickson Poon Scholarship for outstanding law students. Beyond results, my academic qualities are demonstrated by the selection of my article, titled 'The weight of vulnerability: A comparative analysis of the significance of particular vulnerability attributes under ECtHR jurisprudence in situations of extreme vulnerability concerning migrants', for publication in the upcoming volume of the Exeter Student Law Review. Since deciding to pursue a PhD, I strived to enhance

the skills relevant for a prospective PhD researcher – as detailed in my CV, I assisted Dr Agnieszka Jachec-Neale and Dr Bicknell with their respective publications. In addition, I have significantly developed my research and writing skills, as well as skills necessary for a legal professional more generally, during my year-long internship at White & Case.

Being a committed and ambitious individual, the opportunity to complete a PhD would be a major stepping stone in my future career as a legal academic and I would strive to be an outstanding representative of the Graduate Institute. As I am strongly concerned about the practical impacts of academic work, I would cherish the opportunity to undertake my PhD at the Graduate Institute due to its outstanding contribution to both academic and professional development.

Thank you in advance for considering my application, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Tomas Morochovic

TOMAS MOROCHOVIC

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EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2016 – 2017 **University of Exeter** LLM in International Human Rights Law
Degree result: Distinction, Dean's Commendation
Relevant modules: Human Rights and Business Policy (74%), International Law of Armed Conflict (65%), International Criminal Law (74%), International Migration and the Law (78%)
Dissertation topic: 'Privatisation of human rights – conceptualising human rights obligations of non-state actors, particularly non-state armed groups and transnational corporations' (73%)

2012 – 2015 **King's College London** LLB in Law
Degree result: 2:1 (Upper Second)
Relevant modules: Public Law (67%), Human Rights Law (61%), European Law (66%), Comparative Constitutional Law (66%), Public International Law (62%), Jurisprudence and Legal Theory (65%)

2004 – 2012 **Gymnázium Snina**
Maturita (A-levels equivalent): History 1, Social Sciences 1, English 1, Spanish 1, Slovak 1
GCSE equivalent grade: 11 subjects at grade 1
(1-5 grading system, where 1 is the highest mark)

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

OCT 2017 – PRESENT **Dr C Bicknell, Prof M Evans, Prof R Morgan**
Research Assistant
Assisting on the second edition of the publication *Combating torture in Europe: the work and standards of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)*, mainly providing help with editing and formatting.

FEB – APR 2017 **University of Exeter/Dr A Jachec-Neale**
Research Assistant
Assisted Dr Jachec-Neale in relation to the revision of Green's publication *The contemporary law of armed conflict*, specifically focusing on the relationship between LOAC and other areas of law, particularly international human rights and international criminal law.

AUG 2015 – AUG 2016 **White & Case Bratislava**
Legal Intern
Worked as a full-time legal intern in Bratislava office of White & Case. Tasks included research in areas such as energy, competition, real estate, and litigation; preparation of PoAs and first-drafts of memoranda; communication with court clerks and public officials; and administrative support of solicitors.

AUG – SEPT 2014

White & Case Bratislava

Evening Legal Assistant

After a successful vacation scheme offered the position of evening paralegal. Tasks predominantly consisted of research, proof-reading, administrative and secretarial support.

JUL 2014

Taylor Wessing LLP

Worked as a vacation scheme student in the London office of Taylor Wessing LLP. The vacation scheme consisted of one-week seats in finance and corporate technology. Carried out legal and commercial research, drafting, and proof-reading. Also participated in a group presentation and research exercise and the pro-bono legal clinic Blackfriars Settlement.

JUN 2014

White & Case Bratislava

Vacation Scheme Participant

Worked as a vacation scheme student in the Bratislava office of White & Case. My tasks predominantly consisted of legal research, proof-reading, and administrative support.

VOLUNTEERING AND PRO BONO EXPERIENCE

OCT – NOV 2016

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

Volunteered at the Forum which is the world's largest annual gathering on business and human. Assisted with note-taking during sessions, ushering, and reception duties.

SEP 2015 – JUL 2016

Amnesty International (Slovakia)

Case Analyst

Assisted with identification and selection of potential victims of human rights and civil liberties abuses, whose cases would be suitable for receipt of legal assistance by Amnesty International. Researched cases and drafted responses to the victims.

JUN 2011 – JUN 2014

School Student Union of Slovakia (SUS)

Board member, International officer

Organised several youth-oriented educational projects on a national level, lobbied for youth rights and participated as a consultant for education and youth policy, communicated and cooperated with other national unions from other EU member states and OBESSU.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND INTERESTS

Publications: 'The weight of vulnerability: A comparative analysis of the significance of particular vulnerability attributes under ECtHR jurisprudence in situations of extreme vulnerability concerning migrants' (Upcoming in 2018, Exeter Student Law Review)

Awards: Dean's Commendation (University of Exeter), Dickson Poon Scholarship at King's College London, Associate of King's College degree title (AKC)

Competitions: ELSA Human Rights Moot Court Competition (international moot), Landmark Chambers Human Rights Moot – Finalist, Clifford Chance Novice Moot – Semi-finalist, Devon Chambers Moot