

Training arbitrators and lawyers: Geneva as a school

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A legal centre reproduces itself through training. The University of Geneva, with its law faculty and the master's programme in international dispute settlement that it organises jointly with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, trains lawyers from all over the world every year in arbitration, mediation and international litigation.¹ Geneva law firms take on foreign trainees and associates who leave with a knowledge of Swiss arbitration law and of the Geneva networks. The arbitral institutions, for their part, organise conferences and training courses, while the Swiss Arbitration Association brings practitioners together.

This teaching produces a network effect of the kind that Part C described for the Protestant Bank: Geneva alumni, scattered among the law firms, companies and administrations of the world, recommend Geneva as a seat and as a place to seek advice. For the financial centre, this school of international law is a resource: it supplies the lawyers, arbitrators and in-house counsel that traders, banks and asset managers need, in the languages of the financial centre, and it sustains Geneva's reputation as a place where disputes are settled.

1 Notes

1. MIDS, Master in International Dispute Settlement (mids.ch): a specialised Master of Advanced Studies (LL.M.), organised by the joint centre (CIDS) of the University of Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute, whose faculty includes, among others, Zachary Douglas, Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Thomas Schultz and Makane Moïse Mbengue. ↩

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