



SRI LANKA: LAW WORK EXPERIENCE

Participating in a Work Experience Internship is a unique way to observe experts in your field and learn how they work in Sri Lanka. You'll have the opportunity to attend court in Sri Lanka, as well as helping to draft legal documents in the office. The experience you gain will be invaluable to you in the future and totally different to what you're used to in your home country.

Sri Lanka is a vibrant country, rich in its diversity of culture, race, language and religion. The island has an abundance of natural resources, fauna and flora, mountains, rivers and beautiful beaches. It is located at the crossroads where East meets West and is regarded as the gateway to South Asia. The hill country has gorgeous rolling hills and tea plantations. The entire island is teeming with bird life and exotics like elephants and leopards. The people are friendly, food delicious and costs low! A stunning island filled with beaches and wild life sanctuaries like the Elephant Orphanage, ancient cities, hills, beaches... and most of all - incredible beauty!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Asia and the Sri Lankan culture.
- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	All year round - You choose your start and finish dates.
Duration	Minimum stay 2 weeks up to 3 months, subject to visa restrictions.
Requirements	No qualifications needed.
Price	For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com
What's included	▶ Accommodation ▶ Food ▶ Meeting you at the Airport ▶ Transfer to your accommodation ▶ Full pre-departure support ▶ Local in-country team support and backup ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
What's not included	Flights, Insurance, Costs of Visas, Return transfer to the airport.
Who can do this Project?	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

In a world of competition where an army of graduates are lining up for the top jobs, what would set you apart from the crowd and make employees look twice? How about spending a few months working at a top institute in a developing country?

Nothing shows as much motivation, initiative and passion as arranging your own cultural experience abroad.

Education establishments and employees are looking for that little bit extra today... Opening your mind and your horizons by living and working abroad is a huge personal and professional achievement that you will always be proud of. Not to mention the lifetime of memories and friends you'll make along the way.

Many opportunities for work experience are available - and we'll make it easy, safe and fun for you! You don't necessarily need any previous qualifications for this project, or any experience, just an enthusiasm to learn and an interest in how law works in Sri Lanka.

You'll work at a Lawyers firm situated in the middle of Negombo. The head Partner is also an acting magistrate in Negombo. The lawyers you will work alongside are very friendly and speak good English. The magistrate is often in the office also. The office is small but neat and professional with air conditioning, two main rooms and a staff of five local lawyers. The lawyers you will work alongside are very friendly and speak good English. The judge is often in the office also. There are two computers and books lining the walls.

Sri Lankan law is based upon two legal systems - 95% of Sri Lankan criminal law is based on the British Legal system, the other 5% of their criminal law is based upon South African law.

The office is situated in an amazing location right next to the Negombo fishing beach – all the houses here are typical of Colonial Sri Lankan style, and the streets are lined with trees. It is very picturesque and brimming with atmosphere. Negombo has a great vibe about it: from the intense aroma of fish from the local market, to the sound of cawing crows and the sight of ladies taking rest in the shade along with the sleeping dogs.

Negombo is a popular tourist resort and is the closest beach to Sri Lanka's international airport. This fishing village was very lucky and avoided the impact of the 2004 tsunami with just a few hotels being damaged but no fatalities suffered.

The beach is beautiful with long stretches of orange sand, palm trees and some beach front hotels. A little further back and there are many boutiques selling Sri Lankan handicrafts, markets and the general hustle and bustle of Sri Lanka.

ABOUT YOUR WORK:

Although they speak Sinhalese and Tamil in Sri Lanka, the official language of law is English. Most court hearings take place in English, as does all legal documentation. Much of your work in the office may involve proof reading and drawing on your native language skills.

You will become involved in the current cases and you will also have the chance to sit on the bench at local courts observing hearings and trials. There are three courts in Negombo - the Magistrates Court, the High Court and the District Court. The Magistrates Court is conducted in Sinhalese, but it is possible that you will work at both the District Court and the High Court (where murder trials take place) - both of which conduct the majority of their proceedings in English. These are both within 2 minutes walking distance of the office and situated practically right on the beach!

You'll work from approximately 08:30am to 4:00pm from Monday to Friday. Volunteers will live in Ja-Ela with all the other Travellers volunteers (doing teaching or conservation projects) and you will commute daily. Negombo is



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about 45 minutes from Ja-Ela.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

There is not a typical daily schedule as the placement is tailored around your interests. If you wish to spend the majority of the time at Court this will be possible, likewise, if you wish to spend the majority of time in the office this can be arranged. A guide of what should be expected is:

The office day starts around 8am and volunteers will get to go to the courts some days where they will sit on the bench and listen to the proceedings. You will only go to court when the proceedings take place in English. For 'court days' you will be in court from 9-10 am and then again from around 2-3:30pm with a break for lunch in between. You will then work in the office again until 4.00pm. On non court days you will stay in the office with the lawyers and help with writing deeds and day to day legal duties.

Exactly what your office work will involve will vary from day to day, case to case and volunteer to volunteer. You will be able to help out with everything that goes on in the office and you will gain an extraordinary insight into the operations of law in Sri Lanka - a first hand insight into international law.

Godfrey, the head partner of the firm is also the acting magistrate. This means he must attend post-mortems at the mortuary in cases where there is an ambiguous cause of death. If this is something you are interested in, you are welcome to attend (and please note, you do not have to attend - the lawyers in the practice are aware that some interns would find this distressing and would not wish to attend!) If you are interested, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to attend during your placement (as it is dependent on the number of post-mortems needed, which for obvious reasons, we hope are kept to a minimum!) but on average Godfrey attends the mortuary approximately once a month.

ACCOMMODATION:

We rent a traditional Sri Lankan house in Ja-Ela. It is spacious and comfortable, with a garden, several balconies, two lounge rooms and many bedrooms. You will most likely share a room with other Travellers volunteers. There is a TV and DVD player for evening entertainment, in the upstairs lounge area and with the latest DVD copies just a pound to buy locally, there is usually something to watch! There is a local live-in chef at the Travellers house who will prepare your breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, throughout the week. We also have other staff at the house 24 hours a day for cleaning, assistance, security and comfort!



Teaching, Work Experience and the Colombo Zoo placements are all based in Ja-Ela and so the house is often full and offers a lively, sociable atmosphere – there will be no shortage of friends to spend weekends at the beach with! Ja-Ela volunteers also have the advantage of easy access to Colombo's facilities, major bus stations and also The Airport Gardens Hotel - a luxury hotel which offers facilities including a fantastic pool. The hotel is only a short trip away from the volunteer house: perfect for those lazy afternoons!

The food is usually local cuisine which means lots of curry, rice and salads. Whether a curry fan or not, you will be by the time you return as Sri Lankan food is delicious! You can buy snacks and treats including a growing variety of Western tastes (chocolate!) from the local store. There is also a KFC in Ja-Ela for those who need a fix of home!

The area of Ja-Ela is an industrialised town and although it is not one of the paradise beauty spots, it's a good point at which to start your exploration of the island's many beaches and beautiful inland resorts.

STAFF IN JA-ELA:

Your main contact in Ja-Ela will be the Travellers Sri Lanka Manager, Roshan Perera. He is amazingly friendly and caring and will make you feel extremely welcome in his home town and country! He lives in the volunteer house frequently socialises with the volunteers.

Staff at the house include a cook to prepare your daily meals and a caretaker to look after the house and generally keep it tidy. We also have a house mother, Nirangela, who is a fabulous lady who volunteers grow to really love! We call her 'radio' as she never stops talking!



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VISAS:

Visas are required for most nationalities visiting Sri Lanka. We will liaise with you about your visa requirements – the process is very straightforward.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

**COSTS:**

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

COUNTRY PROFILE:

Sri Lanka is famous for its 1,600 km of unspoilt, golden beaches. It's a paradise Island shaped like a tear drop in the Indian Ocean. Formerly known as Ceylon and famous for its wonderful Tea, Sri Lanka is a vibrant country with an incredible history. It's a country of 18 million people; rich in its diversity of culture, race, language and religion.

The island has an abundance of natural resources, fauna and flora, mountains, rivers and beautiful beaches. It is located at the crossroads where East meets West and is regarded as the gateway to South Asia. The hill country has gorgeous rolling hills and tea plantations. The entire island is teeming with bird life and exotics like elephants and leopards.

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THINGS TO DO IN: SRI LANKA

You will never be short of something to do in Sri Lanka - wherever you are based on your project you will be able to reach some of the most incredible beaches, cultural sites including ancient temples and cities, aromatic tea plantations and exhilarating waterfalls in the rolling hill country. The famous Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is also a "must-see" on this paradise island.

In Sri Lanka, every sight, sound and smell will engulf you with new experiences. Take an early morning train ride from Colombo to Hikkaduwa and watch in awe as you travel past some of the most incredible scenery. Smiling children will wave at you from shanty towns lining the outskirts of Colombo, but these soon give way to views across paddy fields where buffalo and cows can be seen grazing. As your journey continues the train tracks begin to run parallel to the beach and you will be left mesmerised by the incredible sights in this friendly country.

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- Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, during and after your **trip of a lifetime!**
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our **EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.**
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport .

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

I would definitely recommend spending two weeks at Godfrey's! Even though it can be slow to begin with as they give you the Constitution to read (which I loved as i am really interested in international law/politics) things soon pick up and the lawyers completely take you under their wing and are more than happy to show you around the district/magistrate courts. The courts are in Sinhalese but that's not too much of a problem as the lawyers keep you up to date with what is happening. Also its a great feeling to just sit there and experience the hustle and bustle of the Sri Lankan court rooms...it really does compare to a scene from 'To kill a Mockingbird.' Lunch times at Godfrey's is definitely my favourite time as everyone shares food and the lawyers delight in trying to make you eat the spiciest food going! It's such a great laugh - the atmosphere is so relaxed.

The boss Godfrey is such a friendly and accommodating man! He is extremely successful (he has published many papers concerning child rights and has worked for the UN) yet he remains humble! I have spent many nights eating with his family (which includes some of the lawyers from Godfrey's - his nephew and his brother) who are great company. I have even been shopping with his daughters.

Overall it has been a wonderful experience and I am not at all ready to go home on Friday :(I will miss the Godfrey family very much indeed!

HAYLEY SMITH

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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