Joint Visiting Scholars and Visiting Fellows Programme in the Administration of Justice

Research Institute on Judicial Systems, National Research Council of Italy
IRSIG-CNR, Bologna, Italy
The Montaigne Centre of the School of Law of Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Why this Programme
The administration of justice is increasingly challenged by shifting and complex legal and organisational issues. To respond to these challenges, there is the need of a constant infusion of innovative ideas, empirical research, experimentation and practices. Such infusions proliferate in open-minded and cross-cultural environments where scholars and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds and professions can share experience, ideas and knowledge.

Assorted academics and practitioners have visited The Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG-CNR) in Bologna, Italy, in past years to take advantage of a vibrant forum for open discussions and debate on current administration of justice issues. IRSIG-CNR’s community of scholars and researchers intends to institutionalize and more broadly promote such opportunities for the benefit and enrichment both of resident visitors and IRSIG researchers.

This new Programme will be conducted in association with The Montaigne Centre of the School of Law of University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, and in collaboration with The International Association for Court Administration.

The Programme
Through this Programme, the IRSIG-CNR and the Montaigne Centre will offer Visiting Scholar or Visiting Fellow residencies to scholars and practitioners with shared interests in the administration of justice. These temporary residencies are designed to create opportunities for professional exchange, research, dialogue and innovative collaboration in a stimulating and dynamic environment.

Academics named as Visiting Scholars, and justice-system practitioners such as court administrators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers etc., selected as Visiting Fellows will take up temporary residency in two of the most intellectually vivid research institutions in Europe. The IRSIG-CNR and Montaigne Center have carried out research and technical assistance in the disciplines of Comparative Judicial Administration and Law for more than 20 years.

This unique Programme offers candidates the opportunity to combine independent research and writing with active involvement in programs and activities. Visiting Scholars and Fellows will interact with professors and researchers in the two host institutions in forums designed to facilitate the exchange of thoughts and ideas on justice-sector reforms, innovative projects, research plans and findings, methodologies, and cutting edge approaches. Such forums may include informal workshops, debates, and sponsored conferences in an intellectually challenging atmosphere.

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Scholars and Fellows will be assigned office space in the two hosting Institutions and have access to the library and to online services. They also will benefit from

- The extended research network and partnership between IRSIG-CNR and the Departments of Political Science and Law of the University of Bologna
- The working relationship between the Montaigne Centre and Utrecht School of Governance and the Faculty of Arts
- The relationships the IRSIG-CNR and the Montaigne Center have established with research institutes and national justice institutions such as their respective justice ministries, councils for the judiciary and court-based organizations in both countries.

These residencies do not have a pre-established duration. The length of the period of study will depend on the activity that Scholars and Fellows plan to carry out during their stay as set forth in their application packet and discussed between the candidates and institutional representatives after the application has been filed and reviewed.

**Admission**

Interested applicants are kindly requested to send an email to: segreteria@irsig.cnr.it with:

- The proposed length of stay
- Their institutional preference; applicants may wish to apply for successive residencies in both
- A detailed curriculum vitae
- A detailed description of the activity they propose to engage in during their residency
- A preference, where relevant, of the resident researchers/scholars with whom they would like to affiliate

Admission to the Visiting Scholars and Fellows Programme requires faculty approval and is not automatic. A member of the faculty of either the IRSIG-CNR or Montaigne Center must express an interest in working with a Visiting Scholar/Fellow applicant before the application can be considered for approval. Where an applicant does not have a pre-existing connection with a faculty member, where possible, IRSIG and the Montaigne Centre will match the applicant with a faculty member who is willing to act as an academic host for the residency.

**Fee and accommodation**

There are no fees for participating in the Programme for the time being, but applicants are responsible for funding their personal expenses (e.g. travel, accommodation, subsistence, health insurance etc.) incurred in connection with their residency in Bologna and/or Utrecht. IRSIG-CNR and The University of Utrecht are not in a position to offer financial assistance to the Visitors.

IRSIG, if requested, will assist Scholars and Fellows to find suitable accommodation in Bologna; however final responsibility for arranging accommodation rests with each Scholar and Fellow.