

KIMAP Internship Report / KIMAP インターンシップ報告書

No. 2025-01

I. Basic information / 基本情報

- 1) Name / 名前 : Yuanji Zhang
- 2) Enrolled year / 入学年 : 2024
- 3) Period of internship / インターン期間 : From March 6, 2025 to May 30, 2025
- 4) Place of internship / インターン場所 : Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration
- 5) Person who accepted your internship / インターン受入担当者 : Mr. Qinlin Cheng
- 6) Content of work in your internship / インターン中の作業内容

Participating in and support the arbitration hearing process, studying arbitration cases, supporting the review of arbitration documents, organizing the arbitration files...

II. Details and impressions / 詳細と感想

Including the following points: merits, demerits, lessons, contribution to your future career, personal experience etc.

Life in Shenzhen

This internship was my first time working and living in Shenzhen. Without a doubt, life in Shenzhen is different from the cities I have lived in before. As a window for China's reform and opening up and a center for scientific and technological innovation, Shenzhen's lifestyle combines the energy of an international city with the openness of an immigrant city. However, precisely because of this, internship life in Shenzhen was relatively pressured, as the entire city moves at a fast pace.

On workdays, my working hours were from 9 am to 12 am and from 2 pm to 6 pm, with a two-hour lunch break and meals provided. Interns were required to wear formal dress to work, just like official employees. For me, I had to spend about two hours every day on the crowded subway, which was a

frustrating daily commute. However, most people working in Shenzhen live this kind of life. Even without working overtime, the amount of leisure time available on each workday is relatively limited. However, on weekends, I usually went out to explore the city. The wide variety of delicious foods, like Zaocha, satisfied my appetite, and the free museums and libraries helped me better understand the city's culture, history, and spirit.

Life in Shenzhen has left a deep impression on me. Sometimes, overtime work makes me feel the fast-paced lifestyle of Shenzhen, but this is precisely what gives Shenzhen its vitality. I can sense that there are more development opportunities here than in other Chinese cities, and the city's comprehensive infrastructure provides me with plenty of places to enjoy my time off. It is not perfect, but it offers every ordinary person the possibility of changing their life.



*Park in Shenzhen on the weekend

Internship in the SCIA

The Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA) was established in 1983 and is the first arbitration institution in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. SCIA arbitration and mediation parties cover 142 countries and regions, and arbitrators cover 129 countries and regions. According to “the 2025 International Arbitration Survey - The path forward: Realities and opportunities in arbitration”¹, the SCIA Rules were selected as the most popular arbitration rules

¹ School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London and White & Case LLP. 2025 International Arbitration Survey: “The Path Forward: Realities and Opportunities in Arbitration” See: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/arbitration/research/2025-international-arbitration-survey/>

among global respondents and the most popular arbitration rules among respondents in the Asia-Pacific region.

I began my internship at the Case Management Division II. My mentor Mr. Cheng is an arbitration secretary at the SCIA. Each case secretary is responsible for a large number of cases, and as an intern, my job was to support the case secretaries in their work. The secretaries are very busy, but my mentor patiently guided me through the entire case process, and I quickly became familiar with the job by learning as I worked.

This internship was still quite challenging for me. I had to stay focused and keep up with the arbitrators during the arbitration hearings, while also ensuring the accuracy of my arbitration support work. In addition, there were usually many cases being handled at the same time, and often many cases would be scheduled on the same day, which left me feeling very tired by the end of the day. Meanwhile, sometimes the Mandarin spoken by some of the Hong Kong parties was not very standard, which was another problem I had to deal with.

The SCIA also offers many opportunities for lectures and discussions. During my internship, there were visits and meetings with arbitration institution officials and lawyers from the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. I am very grateful that, as an intern, I was able to participate in these valuable activities and meetings. This provided an excellent chance to gain insights into and learn about arbitration systems in different regions.

Through this internship, I acquired a wealth of insights. First, I developed strong multitasking skills, as work inevitably requires handling multiple tasks simultaneously. In such situations, I learned how to prioritize tasks effectively and adjust my mindset accordingly. Second, I gained a deeper understanding of arbitration as a crucial dispute resolution method, particularly from an international perspective. Compared to learning solely from textbooks, practical experience is essential. Finally, I

gained a comparative and cross-cultural perspective on the differences and experiences of arbitration systems across various jurisdictions, including mainland China and Hong Kong, which significantly enriched my understanding of the international arbitration legal framework.



Conclusion

This internship at the SCIA has provided me with a pleasant work environment and a deeper understanding of the operations of an arbitration institution. I would highly recommend this internship to students interested in arbitration and international dispute resolution. It is an unforgettable experience and a valuable asset for me.

(2025.6.29)