The Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute (HRI) and the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), housed in the School of Foreign Service, is seeking applications from students interested in undertaking legal research and writing on two thematic areas:

1. The human rights of non-citizens (refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, migrant workers, students etc.) caught in conflict (e.g. Syria, Libya, Cote d’Ivoire) and disasters (e.g. Japan, United States, Thailand) (“Migrants in Crisis”); and

2. Legal standards applicable to undertaking relocation of communities in the context of disasters and climate change (“Planned Relocation”).

Both thematic areas of work relate to phase two of ISIM’s Crisis Migration project. More information about ISIM’s activities under phase one of the Crisis Migration project can be found here. The work will require a commitment of 12-15 hours a week during the fall and spring semesters (with flexibility during finals). The successful candidate will be hired as a Research Assistant (RA) by ISIM but faculty and staff from both HRI and ISIM will supervise the RA.

The work under the Migrants in Crisis thematic area will inform the state-led Initiative spearheaded by the United States and the Philippines on Migrants in Countries in Crisis and will feed into the activities of the Working Group on this issue (comprised of Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and the European Commission in addition to the United States and Philippines). The RA will be expected to conduct legal research on human rights applicable to, and implicated in, the context of non-citizens caught in conflicts and disasters, including particular case studies. The RA will be expected among other sources, to analyse and explain the application and utility of the International Migrants Bill of Rights (the product of an Initiative housed at the Law Center) to this thematic area and may be expected to prepare memoranda and/or briefs on these issues.

More information about work that ISIM has undertaken on Planned Relocation can be found here. Under this thematic area, the RA will be expected to research, distil and analyse international, regional and national laws and policies, including human rights dimensions, applicable to undertaking the relocation of communities. The RA may also be expected to prepare (in collaboration with supervisors) a draft memo/discussion paper to inform an expert meeting on Planned Relocation to be hosted in spring 2015 in collaboration with UNHCR and the Brookings Institution.

Only students able to make and keep to a firm work schedule and reliably meet deadlines should apply. Applicants should feel free to contact Ian Kysel (imk6@law.georgetown.edu) and/or Sanjula Weerasinghe (ssw33@georgetown.edu) with questions in advance of the deadline. Interested students should submit a statement of interest (shorter than 1 full page), résumé with references and a writing sample by no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, October 20.