

## Expeditions Fund Report

As a Master of Laws student specializing in Intellectual Property, I was thrilled to attend a two-week summer school on Intellectual Property from June 17 to 28, 2024, at Geneva, Switzerland, with the help of the Expeditions Fund granted by QMUL. In the first week, the classes were held at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a UN agency. In the second week, the classes were held at the University of Geneva. As an IP enthusiast, it was a dream come true for me to be in the headquarters of the WIPO that I have read of ever since I became interested in IP. The whole summer school itself was a highly enriching experience as the classes were taken by experts in the field and other participants were also professionals in the field from all around the world. It was also interesting to learn the kind of work the other participants did and how their work was related to Intellectual Property. It gave me a worldwide perspective of how important each jurisdiction considers Intellectual Property to be. The camaraderie we participants built with each other is extraordinary.

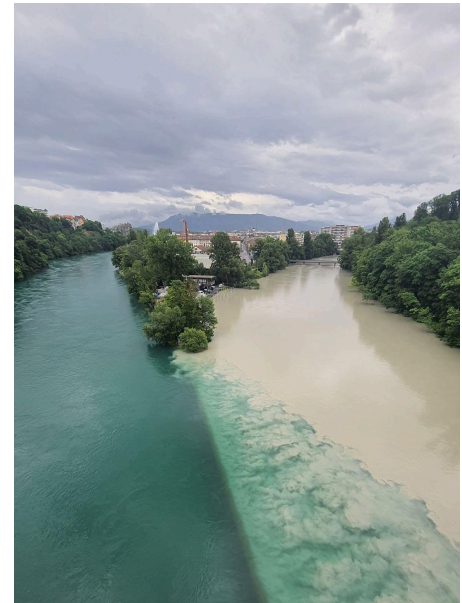


WIPO being in the vicinity of the UN, I was also able to see the UN from outside. I also observed some peaceful gatherings and demonstrations by the aggrieved people from different countries, in front of the UN, to raise awareness of the problems their country is facing. The organizers of the summer school also organized two networking/social events which gave me an opportunity to interact with the guest lecturers to learn what they do in the IP field.



We were also divided into groups to work on a final group project. The topic that my group worked on was Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development in the Fashion and Luxury Industry. We were assigned a mentor who would guide us through the group project. Our mentor was an IP expert in the fashion and luxury industry of Switzerland and I learned a lot from her. Our final presentation on the topic was a mock pleading on a fictional case based on the famous case of Rolex v. Artisans de Geneve, where Rolex sued Artisans de Geneve, a watch customisations company for freeriding and passing off Rolex's reputation as a watchmaker. My group defended Artisans de Geneve and we received positive feedback from our mentor, organizers, as well as other participants.

As it was my first time in Switzerland, I wanted to make the most out of my time there. During the weekdays, after the classes, I explored Geneva. I visited the landmark of Geneva- the water fountain/jet, and took a walk along Lake Geneva. I also saw the confluence of two rivers (Rhone and L'Arve) of two different colors which left me in awe. I explored the Old Town and the cathedrals there. I was also quite fortunate that the Music Festival took place during the time I was there and I attended it, which was a celebration of the culture of Geneva.



During the one weekend I had there, I decided to explore beyond Geneva as I had two full days. I took a scenic train journey from Geneva to Interlaken, which was one of the most beautiful moments of my life. I also went to Glacier 3000, which is an eternal glacier 3000 metres above, in the Alps. I took a cable car ride to the peak of the glacier and walked the Peak walk, which is the only suspension bridge in the world to connect two mountain peaks. It was a fulfilling experience, which made me feel very close to Mother Nature. Hence, on the whole those two weeks of June 2024 is something I will remember for a long long time in my life. It was a period of both professional and personal growth and learning. I am grateful to QMUL for partially funding the trip, thereby helping me make it possible.

