

AWG research fellows' program

Request for expressions of interest - 2024

The Aviation Working Group (AWG) invites expressions of interest on the following projects:

Research topic 1

AI based research on Transnational Commercial Law (TCL) and public policy

Details:

The research fellow should **'predominantly' use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to research** all matters relating to the use, interpretation, and content of the phrase 'public policy' in international treaties. Items to be so researched are:

1. Treaties (treaty wording)
2. Articles and commentaries on such treaties
3. Case law on such treaties
4. Leading scholar articles on such treaties

Research should not be limited to commercial law, though any use of the term 'public policy' in transnational commercial law - or economic law (including bi-lateral investment) treaties - requires detailed attention.

In addition, research should include reference to, or use of, the *concept* of public policy to qualify, modify, or give content to the express terms of treaties where the phrase 'public policy' *is not explicitly used* in the treaty text.

Part of the final deliverable should draw conclusions on issues associated with explicit references to public policy in current and future transnational commercial law treaties. In other words, does the nature of transnational commercial law treaties impact the desirability of the use of the phrase 'public policy', and, if so, how.

The reference above to the 'predominate' use of AI research does not preclude other means of research. However, we wish to explore, and a main part of the project is to help evaluate, the current state of AI-driven academic research. Thus, the research fellow should be building on (and documenting) elaborate and systematic AI core research. The final deliverable paper should include well-documented analysis of the utility, problems, and potential of AI-driven academic research, at least in this context.

Research topic 2

Historical development on law on leasing of personal property

Details:

Looking at major legal systems (civil, common, and religious-based law), what are the fundamental characteristics and principles of the law of leasing of personal property (personal leasing law, or, in short, **PLL**).

How did it develop geographically and over time. What were the main influences and what were their relative impacts.

Has there been convergence between legal systems in PLL over the last 200, 100, and 25 years.

Based on the research, what might be reasonably expected to be seen in the future of PLL. If the researcher were to draft a forward-looking model law on PPL, what would be its main concepts.

Research topic 3

Cross border transferability (XBT) and bilateral air safety agreements (BASAs)

Details:

The nature and structure of the global aviation industry has fundamentally changed over the past four decades for reasons such as deregulations and reduced levels of governmental financial support. Operators have also adopted more outsourcing of aircraft flight operations and ground handling across international borders and are using code-sharing, alliances, and leasing to gain operational flexibility and reduce capital outlays.

Due to these changes, an aircraft is increasingly likely to have multiple transfers of nationality over the course of its useful life, yet many regulations and related processes continue to implicitly assume the operators own and retain an aircraft for most or all of its useful life. AWG refers to such changes in nationality as a '**cross border transfer**' or '**an XBT**' of an aircraft and the related field of regulation and practice as '**cross border transferability**' or simply '**XBT**'.

The overriding objective of AWG work on XBT is to seek alignment of international regulation, national law, and best practices with the realities of cross border transfers while at all times maintaining or improving the highest standards of safety through processes that reduce regulatory overlap and duplication and promote consistency, accuracy, and simplicity. That entails working with all impacted constituencies to significantly accelerate current efforts (mainly undertaken through regional efforts and BASAs to develop harmonized regulations and procedures that streamline aircraft importations and re-registrations, confirmations of airworthiness, and issuance of applicable certifications.

The subject research will be centered on determining the extent to which BASAs explicitly seek to facilitate, and, in any event, actually facilitate, XBTs (by increasing confidence levels in airworthiness determinations made by one country (the exporting state) on airworthiness-related determinations in another country (the importing state).

The research fellows program

1. The AWG research fellows program was established in 2021. It is designed for graduate (including law) students with diverse backgrounds, minorities, and women. It is centered on researching topics relevant to AWG projects [specific information on these projects and their scope can be found at: <http://awg.aero/our-projects/>].

The research topic and deliverables

- Expressions of interest are encouraged at this time to fill two of the three topics for the above research.
- The research fellows program is centered on a 9-month research project with iterative research, writing, and reporting, in the form, and quality levels, to be determined on a case-by-case basis by AWG in consultation with the selected fellows. The research may be used as agreed between AWG and the selected fellows.
- Financial support will be provided to each AWG research fellows in the sum of 5k USD. The outcome of the research will be presented to the AWG board, and, if agreed by the board, to the full AWG membership and/or published on the AWG website.

Candidates

6. The research fellowship is open to selected students with diverse backgrounds, minorities, and women seeking advanced degrees in law, business, finance, economics, or sustainability studies.

Selection process

7. Please submit the following to the AWG secretariat: (i) CV, (ii) proposed research fellow topic (a one-page summary), and (iii) statement of purpose explaining background and your field of research.

Attention: Jeffrey Wool, secretary general, AWG (jeffrey.wool@awg.aero), with copy to: Miguel Ruelas, senior assistant secretary, AWG (miguel.ruelas@awg.aero), and Karla Baston, assistant secretary (karla.baston@awg.aero).

8. Fellows will be selected by the AWG secretariat following review of materials and an interview.

ABOUT AWG

The Aviation Working Group (AWG) is a not-for-profit entity that works on the development of laws, regulations, and rules to facilitate aviation financing and leasing. AWG, co-chaired by Airbus and Boeing, is comprised of the world's leading aviation manufacturers, lessors, and financiers. AWG leads a range of efforts to enhance the global framework for aviation financing and leasing. To find out more visit www.awg.aero.