

Rasasa, Adawa and the Helian Hyacinth...

This year's competition focused on the topics killer robots, multiforma litigation, walls and the accountability of heads of States for war crimes and combined them with the story of the States of Adawa and Rasasa and a special spice called the "Helian Hyacinth".

The opportunity to work on the same topics and subjects for a whole semester was one reason why I wanted to do Jessup. I appreciated the opportunity to interrupt the strict schedule of my law studies by doing something different and I wanted to learn more about public international law and what it means to work as a lawyer.

What I found most impressive is the level of teamwork the competition requires to counter its challenges. It takes some time to develop productive group dynamics and to find one's place within the group. However, especially during the week before the submissions of the memorials and during the oral competition I was really surprised how everyone was able to put aside his own needs and sometimes his own anger to keep things going.

Jessup confronts any participant with challenges, which are very different to the ones entailed in regular German law studies. One needs to figure out how to work under high pressure and one needs to be willing to constantly push one's own limits. A sentence of our coach summarizes it quite well: "You need to be comfortable with being uncomfortable".

As a reward for all the hard work during the competition you will get to know people you otherwise never would be able to meet. Besides that, you will be part of a network full of people who have done the same and are interested in public international law.

Furthermore, regardless of how well you are doing during the competition you inevitably will improve and develop important skills, e.g. to work as a team, to present a topic confidently and to spontaneously react to difficult questions on it.

Therefore, Jessup really is a challenge - but you only can win :)

Best, Anne