

MAiSI Interns Benefit from 'Real-World' AIU Experience

31 DECEMBER 2024, MONACO: The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has further strengthened its collaboration with the MAiSI programme (MA in Sports Ethics and Integrity) by recently hosting yet another group of interns for a fifth successive year.

Three interns – Ayça Gürsoy of Turkey (left), Charlotte Moock of Scotland (middle) and Shraddha Palaneer of India (right) – undertook various integrity-themed projects during their 12 August to 13 September stint at the AIU's headquarters in Monaco, complementing strong academic studies with critical practice.



The internship programme culminated with an in-office presentation to the entire AIU team on 16 September, and AIU's Deputy Head of Investigations Kyle Barber praised the quality of the participants, tipping them for future success in the world of integrity administration.

"Now in its fifth year, the internship partnership is one that continues to bring value to the work of the AIU's Investigations & Intelligence team, and one that goes to show the proficiency of the MAiSI programme," said Barber.

"I have no doubt the interns taken on this year by the AIU will go on to hold key roles in sports ethics in the years to come."

Barber has also recently introduced the AIU's internship opportunity to the new students in the MAiSI Masters programme, outlining what those who intern with the AIU in 2025 can expect. Funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ project, MAiSI is a two-year, full-time academic programme designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to navigate the global complexities of sports integrity and undertake high-level roles in governance.

The programme, a collaboration with several universities throughout Europe, sees participation from students hailing from nations such as Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, Mexico and the United States. It focuses on global issues in sports integrity such as drugs education, fair play, sport manipulation, and justice and human rights.

The programme, a collaboration with several universities throughout Europe, sees participation from students hailing from nations such as Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, Mexico and the United

States. It focuses on global issues in sports integrity such as drugs education, fair play, sport manipulation, and justice and human rights.

Gürsoy, who graduated this year, hailed the AIU internship as an “empowering journey”, noting her research and analysis skills had been sharpened “far beyond what I expected”, in large part due to the final presentation.

“What excited me most was the chance to present my final work in person,” said Gürsoy. “This opportunity allowed me not only to showcase my contributions and demonstrate the growth I’ve achieved throughout this experience but also to get to know the team, observe how things operate firsthand, and gain insights into the inner workings of a highly professional sports integrity environment.”

Palaneer, who will graduate in 2025, described her AIU internship experience as “intense, engaging, and immensely insightful”, while underscoring the value of her real-world exposure.

“It provided me with invaluable real-world experience in the field of sports integrity and allowed me to forge meaningful connections that will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of my career,” noted Palaneer.

Meanwhile Moock, who also graduated this year, praised the internship programme for allowing her “an insight into the practicalities regarding solving sport-integrity issues.”

“The internship experience has given me the confidence that I can successfully contribute and work within the field of sports integrity outside of academia,” she said.

The AIU, inaugurated in 2017, is an independent arm of World Athletics tasked with protecting the integrity of the sport by investigating and prosecuting all forms of corruption, ranging from doping to age manipulation and ethical misconduct.

ABOUT THE ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

Link: [HTTPS://WWW.ATHLETICSINTEGRITY.ORG](https://www.athleticsintegrity.org)

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) is the independent body created by the World Athletics that manages all integrity issues – both doping and non-doping – for the sport of athletics. The remit of the AIU includes anti-doping, the pursuit of individuals engaged in age or competition results manipulation, investigating fraudulent behaviour with regards to transfers of allegiance, and detecting other misconduct including bribery and breaches of betting rules. It is the AIU’s role to drive cheats out of our sport, and to do everything within its power to support honest athletes around the world who dedicate their lives to reaching their sporting goals through dedication and hard work.



ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT

E: media@athleticsintegrity.org

Athletics Integrity Unit, 1st Floor, 6 Quai Antoine 1er, MC 98007 Monaco