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### A review of the 2021/22 international moots season

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UPDATES - November 2022

## A Review of the 2021/22 International Moots Season

6 min read

by [Associate Professor Chen Siyuan](#)

This is the eighth<sup>1</sup> annual review of Singapore's performance in international moot court competitions.<sup>2</sup> An overview of the results for this season is presented at Table #1 below, while Tables #2 and #3 provide a snapshot of the results of the past 10 seasons. Despite the substantial lifting of travel restrictions throughout the world, the 2021/22 international moots season remained a virtually conducted one for many competitions, though competitions such as IP, Stetson, PAX, and WTO saw a much-welcomed return to in-person hearings, allowing students to compete and interact with teams and judges from around the world at places such as Oxford, Tampa, Paris, and Geneva. Whichever the format, our students continued to do well and break records.

At the regional level, NUS won its first ever LAWASIA title to add to Singapore's five previous championships, while SMU won its fifth Asia Cup title to add to Singapore's previous 10 and also won Singapore's first Perera title. In regional qualifiers for the internationals, Singapore also featured in several championship finals, such as Price (SMU), Stetson (SMU), and WTO (NUS). At the international level, Singapore achieved its first podium finish in the Oxford IP Moot in more than 10 years when SMU came in 2<sup>nd</sup>-runners-up, while also winning Singapore's first Best Oralist title in this competition in the process. Major competitions in which our mooters also won Best Oralist awards include Air, Fletcher, and Price. Other notable international results include SMU making its third championship final appearance in the Red Cross IHL competition in six years (winning the chip eventually), NUS taking its second HSF Competition Law championship and making its eighth championship final appearance in the IMLAM, and SMU becoming the first Asian university to win the world championship at the Mandela World Human Rights Moot.

The key for many observers here, of course, is performance in the Grand Slam competitions.<sup>3</sup> Save for one year, Singapore has featured in at least two Grand Slam championship finals every year since 2015. This season got off to a positive start when SMU won the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot, with the 2022 edition featuring a record 105 teams. Shortly after, SMU won the Vis East Moot, adding to its chip in 2015 and creating a four-way tie for most tournament championships despite the school debuting much later than the other record holders. This result also gave SMU tournament leader status in four of the six Grand Slams: Vis East (two championships; tied with two other universities); International Criminal Court (four championships); Price (four championships); and Frankfurt (two championships, tied with NUS).

All eyes, however, were on the two biggest Grand Slams in the form of the Jessup and Vis. Last season, NUS reached its 12<sup>th</sup> championship final of the Jessup after a 17-year finals hiatus, while SMU reached its third Vis championship final in six years. In the 2022 edition of the Jessup, Singapore again featured in the championship final – this time it was SMU, making its third Jessup final in eight years – but the country's winless streak continued as the larger cup went to Harvard, the university that had started the moot more than 60 years ago. Notably, the SMU team won a record 10 awards: three Best Oralist titles in the preliminaries, three Best Oralist titles in the advanced rounds, the championship finalist award, and all Best Memorial prizes (Evans, Dillard, and Baxter). In the Vis, SMU was unable to repeat the championship final feat, bowing out at the quarterfinals – but it bore the distinction of being the only Asian team in the advanced stages of a competition that saw almost 400 teams participating.

In terms of accolades for best written submissions and best oral submissions, there were many; SMU and NUS won a combined 43 best oralist prizes and a combined 10 best memorial prizes. At the national level, Singapore came close to matching its world record of most championship finals by a country in a season – the tally was 12 for this season, one short of the record set the season before. At the university level, SMU finally broke its own world record of five international championships in a season (set in 2014/15 and 2016/17) when it won the Asia Cup to make it six championships for the season.<sup>4</sup> All things considered, this has been another good season for Singapore, and more broadly, our teams have adapted very well to the virtual format in the past couple of years. Almost all competitions will revert to the in-person format next season, but we can expect our teams to be ready.

**Table #1: Results of all notable international moot competitions in 2021/22**

<b>Moot edition</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>No of teams</b>	<b>Singapore results/rank</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> LAWASIA Arbitration	Online	~ 15	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up NUS: Champions
14 <sup>th</sup> Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Seoul (online)	~ 80	SMU: Champions (Budapest); 9 <sup>th</sup> (Intl) NUS: 4 <sup>th</sup> (Intl)
14 <sup>th</sup> Frankfurt Investment Arbitration	Frankfurt (online)	~ 110	SMU: Champions NUS: QF
20 <sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law	Hong Kong (online)	~ 100	SMU: Champions NUS: NA
14 <sup>th</sup> Price Media Law	Oxford (online)	~ 90	SMU: Championship finalist (Asia-Pac); 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up (Intl) NUS: 6 <sup>th</sup> (Asia-Pac)
6 <sup>th</sup> Fletcher International Insolvency Law	Chicago (online)	~ 20	SMU: QF NUS: Championship finalist
26 <sup>th</sup> Stetson Environmental Law	Gulfport	~ 60	SMU: Championship finalist (Southeast Asia); 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up (Intl) NUS: QF (Southeast Asia)
20 <sup>th</sup> Oxford Intellectual Property	Oxford	~ 60	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up NUS: Prelims
19 <sup>th</sup> Vis East Arbitration	Hong Kong (online)	~ 150	SMU: Champions NUS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up
63 <sup>rd</sup> Jessup International Law	Washington DC (online)	~ 650	SMU: Championship finalist NUS: Round of 32
29 <sup>th</sup> Vis Arbitration	Vienna (online)	~ 350	SMU: QF NUS: Prelims
13 <sup>th</sup> Sarin Air Law	Online	~ 40	SMU: Best Respondent NUS: NA
10 <sup>th</sup> PAX Conflict of Laws	Paris	~ 30	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up NUS: NA
14 <sup>th</sup> International Criminal Court	Hague (online)	~ 80	SMU: QF NUS: QF
8 <sup>th</sup> HSF Competition Law	London	~ 30	SMU: NA NUS: Champions
20 <sup>th</sup> Jackson WTO	Geneva	~ 80	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up (Asia-Pacific); 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up (Intl) NUS: Champions (Asia-Pacific); Prelims (Intl)
22 <sup>nd</sup> International Maritime Law Arbitration	Singapore (online)	~ 20	SMU: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -runners-up NUS: Championship finalist
8 <sup>th</sup> Nuremberg	Nuremberg (online)	~100	SMU: QF NUS: NA

14 <sup>th</sup> Mandela Human Rights	Geneva	~ 80	SMU: Champions NUS: Prelims
5 <sup>th</sup> Perera	Colombo (online)	~ 20	SMU: Champions NUS: NA
23 <sup>rd</sup> Asia Cup	Tokyo (online)	~ 40	SMU: Champions NUS: NA
3 <sup>rd</sup> Computational Law	Canberra (online)	~ 20	SMU: TBC NUS: NA

**Table #2: Singapore's best finish in Grand Slams in last 10 years<sup>5</sup>**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Jessup</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	R32 (SMU)	R16 (NUS)	R16 (SMU)	P (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Vis</b>	-	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	QF (NUS)	R32 (NUS)	R64 (SMU)	R32 (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)
<b>Vis East</b>	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	R16 (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>ICC</b>	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	APF 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)
<b>Price</b>	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	AP 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Frankfurt</b>	-	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)

**Table #3: Singapore's best finish in other major moots in last 10 years**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>IP</b>	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	QF (NUS)	QF (NUS)	QF (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	NA	R16 (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Stetson</b>	-	-	-	-	-	QF (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	SEA 1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	SEA 1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Lachs</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	AP 1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	AP 2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	-	-
<b>FDI</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	FNS
<b>WTO</b>	-	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	-	-	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> SMU
<b>Air</b>	-	-	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Fletcher</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)
<b>PAX</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)
<b>Red Cross</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	P (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	NA	QF (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>LAWASIA</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	FNS
<b>Asia Cup</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	-	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>Maritime</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	QF (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	NA	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)
<b>N'berg</b>	NA	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	NA	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	QF (SMU)
<b>Private Law</b>	NA	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (SMU)	NA	NA	QF (SMU)	FNS
<b>HSFC</b>	NA	NA	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	-	P (SMU)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (NUS)	1 <sup>st</sup> (NUS)
<b>Mandela</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>Perera</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	1 <sup>st</sup> (SMU)
<b>ANUC</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> (SMU)	TBC (SMU)



*Singapore was in the 2021 (NUS) and 2022 (SMU) championship finals of the Jessup.*





*SMU and NUS share the tournament record for most championships in the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot.*



*SMU won the Vis East a second time, and now holds the tournament record for most championships. SMU had made the championship final in Vienna for the third time last season.*



*SMU won Singapore's first championship at the Mandela World Human Rights Moot in Geneva.*

## Endnotes

- 1 The previous reports can be found in "Covid-19 and the 2020/21 international moots season", *Law Gazette*, September 2021. Each moot season corresponds to the windows of the moots covered.
- 2 Mediation or negotiation competitions are excluded from this recap, though our schools continue to excel in such competitions.
- 3 Grand Slams are class-leading competitions that attract a substantial number of teams and are perceived to have a particular prestige not just due to scale and number of teams participating but also the quality of the organisation, participants, judging, and surrounding events. They currently comprise the Jessup, Vis, Vis East, Price, International Criminal Court, and Frankfurt moots: see *The International Moot Court Compendium*: <https://www.internationalmoots.org>.
- 4 At this point, SMU is in the Computational Law final, but the match has been delayed.
- 5 Between 2010 to 2012, there was one Grand Slam win (2010 Price, SMU) and one Grand Slam 2nd-runner-up finish (2011 Jessup, NUS). SMU were also International Exhibition winners in the 2011 and 2012 Jessup and Asia-Pacific 1st-runner-up for the Vis East in 2012.

**Tags:** L1



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A/P Chen Siyuan has been running SMU's International Moots Programme with Eunice Chua and Lionel Leo since founding it in 2010/11. Details and records of the programme are maintained at [https://law.smu.edu.sg/student\\_activities/moots](https://law.smu.edu.sg/student_activities/moots).