Interning at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights means being at the center of international human rights law in the Americas. At the Court, I was assigned to a team with three attorneys and one other intern. Each team has a set of cases, and each case is managed by a judge. During my internship, I worked on cases under the Court’s contentious and advisory jurisdictions. I spent most of my time delving into international humanitarian law and state practice related to military jurisdiction and justice. I also had the opportunity to contribute to the Court’s research regarding international child migrants.

The Court has a welcoming and international atmosphere with people from all over the Americas and from Europe as well—my supervising attorneys were from Argentina, Ecuador, and Spain. I would strongly recommend this internship to anyone who wants to work in international human rights law and related fields. My experience at the Court has certainly advanced my knowledge and skills: working in Spanish and seeing human rights advocacy firsthand prepared me to work the following semester on a case in Mexico with the International Human Rights Clinic; and researching international humanitarian law gave me a strong foundation for now externing with Trial Chamber III of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It was an amazing experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,
Phillip Schwarz