



Public International Law Course

15 – 19 March 2027
Lisbon (Portugal)



Public International Law Course

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Introduction

The Public International Law course aims to provide participants with an understanding of the principles and fundamentals of public international law, one of the most important branches of law governing relations between states and international organizations. It covers the primary sources of international law, such as international conventions, international custom, and recognized general principles of law.

This Public International Law training course highlights international responsibility, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the foundations of state recognition and international legal systems. It aims to enhance participants' awareness of the rules governing international relations at a time when global challenges are increasing, and the need for international cooperation is becoming more critical.

The Public International Law program is for professionals working in the legal, diplomatic, and international sectors. The content reflects contemporary developments in the international legal environment, making the training material current and aligned with major developments. It focuses on practical applications and real-world examples that help participants connect theoretical concepts to professional practice.

Targeted Groups

The Public International Law course targets professionals and individuals seeking to acquire knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Employees of ministries of foreign affairs and international organizations.
- Legal professionals working in government legal departments.
- Lawyers specializing in international relations.
- New diplomats or those aspiring to work in the diplomatic field.
- Researchers and postgraduate students in international law.
- Employees of international judicial bodies and international courts.
- Employees of non-governmental organizations working in human rights.
- Employees of regional, Arab, and international organizations.
- Professionals involved in legal relations between states and international institutions.
- Professionals working in public policy and legal affairs.

Course Objectives

By the end of this Public International Law training program, participants will be able to:

- Define the concept of public international law, its origins, and its development.
- Explain the primary sources on which public international law is based.
- Analyze the legal relationship between states and international organizations.
- Distinguish between binding legal rules and recommendations within the international system.
- Apply legal principles to practical cases from the international context.
- Evaluate the role of the United Nations in regulating international relations and maintaining peace and security.
- Develop analytical abilities to interpret international treaties and conventions.
- Strengthen negotiation and mediation skills for resolving international disputes.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the concepts of sovereignty, recognition of states, and recognition of governments.
- Prepare participants to contribute to international policymaking based on legal principles.
- Develop professional communication skills with international bodies and organizations.
- Encourage critical thinking when addressing contemporary legal issues.
- Motivate participants to research international judicial precedents independently.
- Enable participants to prepare legal reports that comply with international standards.
- Establish a solid professional foundation for specializing in public international law.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will acquire the following competencies through the Public International Law program:

- Strong understanding of the fundamental concepts and sources of international law.
- Ability to analyze the legal context of relations between states.
- Accurate interpretation of international treaties and agreements.
- Drafting specialized legal memoranda on international affairs.
- Resolving disputes through peaceful legal means such as negotiation and arbitration.
- Engaging with international law from a human rights perspective.
- Identifying the legal frameworks governing the responsibility of states and organizations.
- Using international legal terminology accurately and professionally.
- Developing specialized legal research tools and methodologies.
- Preparing legal files related to international relations.

Course Content

Unit 1: Introduction to Public International Law

- Comprehensive definition of public international law and its characteristics.
- The difference between public international law and domestic law.
- The historical development of international law.
- Importance of international law in modern international relations.
- Emergence of international organizations and their legal role.
- Fundamental principles governing public international law.
- Relationship between national sovereignty and international legislation.
- The role of international custom as a source of law.
- Modern trends in the development of international law.

Unit 2: Sources of Public International Law

- International treaties as the primary sources of law.
- Conditions for the validity and entry into force of international agreements.
- The role of international custom and legal practice.
- Recognized general principles of law.
- Judicial precedents and their role in interpretation.
- Legal doctrine and its role in developing international legal concepts.
- International resolutions and the extent of their legal binding force.
- The difference between bilateral and multilateral treaties.
- Interpretation of disputes in cases where legal provisions conflict.

Unit 3: International Legal Personality

- Definition and importance of international legal personality.
- States as the principal actors in international law.
- Conditions for the establishment of a state under international law.
- Recognition of states and newly established governments.
- International organizations and their acquisition of legal personality.
- Other entities with legal personality, such as the Vatican and unrecognized entities.
- International immunities and privileges.
- The role of regional organizations within the international legal system.
- Limits on the legal actions of states and organizations.

Unit 4: International Responsibility and Dispute Settlement

- The concept of international responsibility of states and organizations.
- Conditions for establishing an internationally wrongful act and legal responsibility.
- Types of international damages and sanctions.
- Peaceful means of dispute settlement: negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and litigation.
- The role of the International Court of Justice in resolving disputes.
- The application of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts.
- International compensation in cases of violations of international rules.
- Mechanisms for implementing international judgments and decisions.
- Case studies of international responsibility and international arbitration.

Unit 5: Contemporary Applications of Public International Law

- Land and maritime boundary issues under international law.
- International human rights law and its principles.
- The role of international law in combating terrorism and organized crime.
- International environmental law and its impact on public policy.
- Legal approaches to refugees and displaced persons.
- Major international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The International Criminal Court and its jurisdiction.
- The relationship between international law and humanitarian law.
- Contemporary challenges in implementing public international law.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

This course provides a strong foundation for understanding the rules governing modern international relations. It strengthens theoretical legal concepts through a variety of practical and up-to-date applications. Participants should continue to follow international legal developments to deepen their knowledge. We recommend integrating course outcomes into legal and diplomatic practice to achieve the best results.