

LAW209 International Law

School: School of Law and Society

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Laws cross national jurisdictional borders when they are laws of an international character or when their parties, matters, and impacts include multiple legal orders. This course provides students with an overview of how different kinds of international law overlap with the domestic legal order. Public international law governs the relations between nation states and includes international norms around human rights and the prevention of conflict. Private international law refers to situations where disputes arising under domestic laws include connections and conflicts with other jurisdictions.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-Campus Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Online Learning Materials	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Online Tutorial	2hrs	Week 2	10 times

1.3. Course Topics

International Law is a course exploring the principles and norms that govern the conduct of states, international organizations, and individuals in the global arena. Through in-depth analysis of treaties, customary law, and landmark cases, you will gain a profound understanding of the legal framework shaping international relations and the resolution of cross-border disputes. Specifically, this course will analyse:

- Public International Law – *What is public international law and how does it shape legal interactions with the Australian State, i organisations and individuals?* (History and Principles of International Law, Subjects and Actors, Sources of International Law Obligations, Institutions of the International Legal Order, State Responsibility and Dispute Resolution)
- Private International Law – *What is private international law and how does it impact upon legal relations within the private sphere?* (Principles of Private International Law, Jurisdiction, Foreign Judgments, Choice of Law, Application and Impacts)

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Analyse facts to identify legal issues within complex international law scenarios.	Knowledgeable Empowered
2 Explain the relevant laws, processes and concepts of international law to resolve a legal issue.	Knowledgeable
3 Utilize critical thinking, analysis, and sound judgment to apply legal knowledge effectively in diverse contexts, generating appropriate and practical responses to complex problems and ethical issues.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical
4 Demonstrate effective, persuasive, and contextually appropriate written and oral communication.	Empowered
5 Develop and demonstrate effective presentation skills, including proper referencing and citation techniques, to communicate legal information accurately and professionally.	Empowered
6 Research, critically evaluate, and integrate authoritative sources in support of well-substantiated legal arguments.	Creative and critical thinker
7 Collaborate effectively by actively participating and contributing to group tasks.	Knowledgeable Empowered Ethical
8 Reflect on and evaluate your personal responses to issues you encounter in the international law space.	Empowered Ethical

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

(LAW100 and LAW105) or (LAW102 and enrolled in any Law Program) or (LAW108) or (JST202 and enrolled in Program AR323)

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

LAW410 or LAW412

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback will be provided in Weeks 2-4 through in-class practice, guided discussion, and informal feedback on progress and understanding.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	20%	1000 words or equivalent	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Written Piece	Individual and Group	40%	2000 words or equivalent	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	3	Portfolio	Individual	40%	2000 words	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: International Law Research Skills

GOAL:	This task assesses your ability to research and evaluate the authority of international legal materials and to evaluate key concepts.										
PRODUCT:	Written Piece										
FORMAT:	Research and citation tasks and short answer questions. Full details on Canvas course.										
CRITERIA:	No.							Learning Outcome assessed			
	1	Demonstrated ability to research authoritative and credible international law sources and to evaluate their merit.						3	6		
	2	Appropriate use of written communication, including providing proper referencing and citation information.						2	3	4	5
	3	Demonstration of own developing understanding of the sources and principles of international law						1	6	8	
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy										

All - Assessment Task 2: Arbitration

GOAL:	To develop your oral negotiation and written communication skills, as well as your ability to relate to other legal professionals on behalf of a client. These skills will be developed in the context of an international law arbitration environment where you will work in small groups to produce the agreement and individually document and reflect on the process.				
	This is an Aligned Assessment Point.				
PRODUCT:	Written Piece				
FORMAT:	Arbitration agreement and process documentation. Full details on Canvas.				
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed			
	1	Identify international law issues from a factual problem scenario	1		
	2	Demonstrate understanding of the international laws and principles that will inform the arbitration process	1 2 3 8		
	3	Clear communication of a written arbitration agreement that evidences advocacy for the individual's client and a negotiated outcome.	4 5 7		
	4	Demonstrate sound research skills and the use of relevant, credible, and authoritative sources of international law	5 6		
	5	Collaborate with others to plan and achieve key outcomes	4 7		
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation				

All - Assessment Task 3: Advocacy Portfolio

GOAL:	To assess your ability to create informative legal materials for a range of audiences based on international law topics of interest. You will select topics from the course to create law reform and advocacy materials with a written explanation and reflection on process and purpose.					
PRODUCT:	Portfolio					
FORMAT:	Portfolio Materials due throughout semester. Complete details on Canvas.					
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed				
	1	Identify and research international law topics of interest, designing a project with appropriate scope and depth.	1	2	3	6
	2	Communicate to a range of legal and non-legal audiences.	4	5		
	3	Reflect on your process, your understanding of international law, your choice of topics, and forms of presentation.	1	8		
	4	Demonstrate your understanding of international law through reasoned and substantiated analysis that is appropriate to the discipline and based on credible research.	1	2	3	6
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy					

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Recommended	Reid Mortensen,Richard Garnett,Mary Keyes	2023	Private International Law in Australia	5th ed	Lexis Nexis
Recommended	Emily Crawford,Alison Pert,Ben Saul	2023	Public International Law	n/a	Cambridge University Press

8.2. Specific requirements

This course contains an Aligned Assessment Point.

For online study and group collaboration, students will need to have access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au