

**Module Title: Public International Law**  
**Credit Points: 10 ECTS / 20 UK credits**

**Overview:**

This module provides a solid grounding in the key principles of Public International Law. It will enable students to identify the sources of Public International Law and develop their ability to apply these appropriately to a range of actual and theoretical situations. The module examines the operation of international organisations such as the United Nations and their impact on the wider principles of international law. Students will gain an understanding of the formation and formalisation of international treaties and an awareness of the principles of state sovereignty.

**Aims (To provide students with):**

- a detailed understanding of the principles of Public International Law
- the ability to locate the sources and apply in practice the principles of Public International Law
- the capacity to recognise how international organisations operate
- the ability to analyse the different fora in which International Law is enforced

**Module Content**

- Historical Development of Public International Law
- Sources of Public International Law: Custom, Treaties and Convention
  - Relationship between customary international law and Treaty Law
  - Development of rules of customary international law
  - General principle of international law
- The Law of Treaties
  - Application and effect of Treaties
  - Reservations
  - Interpretation of Treaties
  - Appreciation of how individual states are bound by treaties
- The Relationship between International Law and Municipal Law
  - Theoretical problems
  - Position of the individual
- International Legal Personality: States
  - Legal characteristics of a State
  - Identity and recognition of States and governments
  - Illegal occupation of States
  - Territorial Sovereignty
- International Legal Personality: International Organisations
  - Authority of International Organisations
  - Membership of International Organisations
  - Relations with member states
  - Relationship with municipal law
- Jurisdiction
  - Sovereignty
  - Immunity from jurisdiction.
  - Diplomatic relations
- Self-Defence and the Use of Force
  - When is the use of force in Self-Defence justified
  - Examining unilateral intervention by states
  - Judicial settlement of disputes

**Indicative Reading**

- Brownlie, I.QC., 2008a. Basic Documents in International Law 6th ed., OUP Oxford.
- Brownlie, I.QC., 2008b. Principles of Public International Law 7th ed., OUP Oxford.
- Cassese, A., 2004. International Law 2nd ed., OUP Oxford.
- Dixon, M., 2007. Textbook on International Law 6th ed., OUP Oxford.
- Evans, M.D., 2009. Blackstone's International Law Documents 9th ed., OUP Oxford.
- Harris, D., 2004. Cases and Materials on International Law 6th ed., Sweet & Maxwell.
- Shaw, M.N., 2008. International Law 6th ed., Cambridge University Press.

**Assessment methods**

70% Exam

30% Assignment