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**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

FOR TAUGHT MODULES AT ALL LEVELS

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| **Name of Module** | International Business Law |
| **Parent School/Dept** | International Relations and Political Science |
| **Programmes where module is offered** | LLM International Law |
| **Status** (compulsory, optional, free choice) | **Compulsory** | **Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications** | **Recommended: Public International Law** |
| **FHEQ Level** | **7**  | **Unit Value** | **8 ECTS** | **Module Code** (where applicable) | IL 506 | **Module Coordinator** | **Miloš Trifković** |
| **Semester Taught** | **Autumn** | **Applicable From** | SEMESTER/YEAR 3rd semester, 2nd year |
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| **Educational Aims of the Module** |
| This module aims to instill in-depth and critical knowledge of the core principles, sources, institutions, contracts and other relations in the area of international business law. After completing this module, students will have acquired a deeper insight into the structure and rules of international business and have gained a critical appreciation of the legal topics relevant for international trade between individual trading parties, as well as the mechanisms for dispute resolution between traders on an international level.This module is designed for a postgraduate programme and is recommended for students who already have a basic knowledge of Business law and Public international law, and who are interested in acquiring additional specialised theoretical knowledge, and advanced practical skills in the area of international business law and legal aspects of international trade. |
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| **Module Outline/Syllabus** |
| 1. Introduction to international business
2. Subjects of International Business Law: state as a trader, multinational companies; Internationalisation of corporate governance
3. International competition law and corruption in international business
4. Direct foreign investments
5. Sales contracts and excuses for non-performance
6. Agency in international business
7. Bank collections: letters of credit, bank guarantees, factoring
8. The carriage of goods and liability of sea and air carriers
9. Resolution of disputes in international business law
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| **Student Engagement Hours** |
| *Type*  | ***Number per term***  | ***Duration of each***  | ***Total Time*** |
| *Lectures* | 13 | 4 hours | 52 |
| *Seminars* | 13 | 2 hours | 26 |
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| *Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours* | **122** |
| *Total Contact Hours:*  | **78** |
| **Total Engagement Hours** | **200** |
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| **Assessment Method Summary** |
| ***Type***  | ***Number required*** | ***Duration*** | ***Weighting*** | ***Timing/******Submission Deadline*** |
| Mid-semester test (conceptual questions) | 1 | 1 hour | 10% | Mid semester |
| Set assignment (Case study) | 1 | 2000 words | 20% | Week 11 |
| Set Assignment (critical evaluation of the provisions of a contract with regard to its legal effects and protection of interests of contracting parties and proposal of a revised contract, e.g. sales contract) | 1 | 2000 words | 20% | Week 14 |
| Written Examination (Final exam) | 1 | 3 hours | 50% | End of the semester |

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| **Module Outcomes** |
| ***Intended Learning Outcomes:***1. Comprehensive understanding of the principles and sources of International business law;
2. Critical knowledge of international sale, credits and service transactions;
3. Further knowledge of the world economic order impact on business transactions – General Agreement on trade and Tariffs (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as trade areas and economic integration;
4. Recognise and articulate on the rules concerning access to foreign markets, import and export, and the issues of investment protection, expropriation, nationalisation and privatisation of foreign property;
5. Critical awareness of the competitive environment;
6. Comprehensive knowledge of the settlement of disputes in international business law.
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures provide information on the key topics and students are given reading lists to complement these. (ILO: 1-6)
2. Seminars provide the platform for group discussion, topical case study analysis and presentations. (ILO: 1-6)
3. Set assignments are designed to test student subject knowledge, and enhance written and research skills. (ILO:1-6)
4. Tutors provide guidance for independent study. (ILO:1-6)
5. Films (documentary) will provide students with valuable knowledge and in-depth understanding of practice, enabling critical evaluation and inciting in-depth discussion on issues arising in international business law, especially dispute resolution (ILO: 1-6)
6. Supervised contract evaluation and drafting (ILO: 1,2,6)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: a final exam will test student subject knowledge and cognitive ability (ILO:1-6)
2. Mid- semester test (ILO:1,3,4,5)
3. Set assignments (case study; contract evaluation and drafting) will enable students to research a given topic and practice critical and professional writing skills

(ILO: 3,4,5,6) |
| ***Practical Skills:***1. Ability to critically evaluate complex resources relating to International Business Law
2. Ability to interpret and apply legal rules to a given set of facts and provide a critical legal assessment
3. Ability to evaluate business contracts in the area of International Business Law and to draft contracts protecting interests of the contracting parties;
4. Advanced research abilities in the area of International Business Law
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures will provide information on latest practically relevant issues in International Business Law (PS: 1)
2. Set reading lists will direct students to relevant material and they will be guided through independent study.

(PS: 1-4)1. Seminars operate as a platform for group discussion, debate and in-depth case-study analysis.(PS:1-4)
2. Students will be set assignments which complement lectures and seminars.(PS:1-4)
3. Short presentations in class on previously assigned topic will help students to present and practice legal presentation on specific topics backed by legal argumentation (PS: 1,4)
4. Films (documentary) will provide students with valuable in-depth understanding of practice, aiding in the interpretation and application of International Business Law (PS:1,2)
5. Supervised contract evaluation and drafting (PS: 1,3,4)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam, mid-semester test

(PS: 1,2)1. Set assignments: case study; contract evaluation and drafting (PS: 1-3)
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| ***Transferable Skills:***1. Ability to present reasoned arguments for decisions
2. Ability to identify and critique theories
3. Presentation skills
4. Critical thinking skills
5. Time management skills
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Seminars provide a forum environment for interactive discussion and in-depth subject analysis. (TS: 1,2,4)
2. Set assignments enable independent guided study

(TS: 1,2,4,5)1. Presentation: enables students to explore a given topic and present their ideas clearly in a group environment. (TS: 1-5)
2. Films (documentary) are shown to students and will provide understanding of international business law in practice (PS:2,3)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam, mid-semester test

(TS: 1,2,4,5)1. Set assignments: case study; contract evaluation, drafting and presentation (TS: 1-5)
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| **Key Texts and/or other learning materials** |
| **Key texts:**1. Schaffer, R., Augusti, F., Dhooge, L. J. and Earle, B., 2011. *International Business Law and its Environment*. 8th ed. Mason: South Western Cengage Learning.
2. Murray, C., Holloway, D. And Timson-Hunt, D., 2012. *Schmitthoff's Export Trade: The Law and Practice of International Trade.* 12th ed. London: Sweet and Maxwell.

**Other learning materials:**1. Folsom, R.H., Gordon, M.W. and Spanogle, J.A., 2010. *Principles of International Business Transactions.*

2nd ed. St. Paul: West.1. Casenote Legal Briefs, 2010. *International Business Transactions.* 10th ed. New York: Aspen Publishers.
2. Milos Trifković et al., 2009. *Medjunarodno poslovno pravo*. Sarajevo: Ekonomski fakultet Sarajevo.
3. Milos Trifković, 2001. *Medjunarodno poslovno pravo.* Sarajevo: Ekonomski fakultet Sarajevo. pp.459 – 506.
4. Shaw,M.N., 2008. *International Law.* 6th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, 2012. *Digest of Case Law on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.* (on-line). Available at [http://www.uncitral.org/pdf/ english/clout/CISG-digest-2012-e.pdf](http://www.uncitral.org/pdf/%20english/clout/CISG-digest-2012-e.pdf) (Accessed 15 July 2013)
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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency. |
| **Date of Production:** |  |
| **Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date approved by School Board of Study** |  |
| **Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date of Annual Review:** |  |