Name of Programme: International Law

Award: LL.M.

Validating Institution: The University of Buckingham, UK

Institution where taught: Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Programme Rationale**

The Sarajevo School of Science and Technology’s (SSST) collaborative partnership with the University of Buckingham has been in place since 2004. The partnership has provided SSST students with an academic background that enables them to make their mark in the world within various areas of science.

The relevance for a further expansion of the offered academic Programmes at the SSST regarding the introduction of a postgraduate Programme in International Law has been established based on the aim of the SSST to diversify and expand the fields of its own academic research in order to contribute to an improvement of scientific development of BiH, thereby also creating a possibility for further education and scientific work for target groups interested in acquiring additional knowledge in areas of International Law. A further point for establishing the relevance of introduction of a postgraduate Programme in International Law was the existing need for a comprehensive and diversified Programme, dealing in-depth with various topics of International Law relevant for BiH, taking into account its history but also its standing on the international scene. Account was also taken of the need to expand academic research in general , taking into account that, up until today, no other academic institution in BiH, but also in the region, has managed to offer in-depth and a t the same time comprehensive studies of specific areas in International Law, neither at undergraduate nor postgraduate level for various reasons. Moreover, the introduction of such kind of a Programme is complementary to the already existing undergraduate Programme taught at the SSST concerning international relations, giving those students, which already have an undergraduate degree, an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in International Law, thus introducing a specialized, legal aspect into their knowledge and understanding of international relations. Finally, an expansion of cooperation between the University of Buckingham and the SSST remains also a permanent goal to be aimed at, which is also pursued through the introduction of this Programme.

Taking into account all the aforesaid, a carefully structured two-year postgraduate Programme in International Law has been developed in order to meet the needs of legal practitioners, law school graduates as well as students who have graduated from related fields and are willing to acquire additional knowledge and expertise in various areas of International Law. The Programme is delivered in English language and is open for application for students from the entire world, but primarily targets candidates from BiH and the region.

The key characteristics of the Programme are as follows:

1. The Programme offers carefully selected modules from five key areas of the International Law: General International Law, International Criminal and Humanitarian Law, International Business Law and Human Rights, thus in-depth and comprehensively covering relevant areas of International Law;
2. The Programme is designed in order for students to gain not only theoretical knowledge but also to improve their legal skills. Accordingly, once students have completed the master’s Programme in International Law they will be in position to interpret and apply relevant rules of international and European law at an advanced level, through the use of all contemporary methods of argumentation in this field of law, produce legal opinions and apply their knowledge to practice – a scarcely existent, but largely desired outcome, so far, in BiH and in the region;
3. The modules are structured starting with general modules covering large areas of International Law and ending with specific modules covering legal issues of smaller areas of International Law, so that the depth of teaching, knowledge and acquisition of skills is increased as the Programme progresses which makes the whole Programme unique in BiH and the region both regarding the structure of the Programme as well as regarding the methods of teaching and its outcomes;
4. The Programme finishes with the elaboration and defense of a master’s thesis, a crucial final element of the Programme testing students’ acquired knowledge and skills as well as its ability to substantially contribute to scientific research at a largely autonomous evel.

The Programme is delivered by staff with necessary academic qualifications and practical experience, using various, contemporary teaching resources and methods in their work.