



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

International Law in Foreign Affairs Environment

Law, Military Science and Security / Sovereignty of the State

Unit Standard 259999 · NQF Level 6 · 20 Credits · 17 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with a comprehensive understanding of international law and its application within a foreign affairs environment. Participants will explore key principles, sources, and institutions of international law, and learn how to apply these in diplomatic and consular contexts. The course aims to enhance the ability of foreign affairs professionals to navigate legal frameworks governing international relations.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Sovereignty of the State
Unit Standard	259999
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 6 · 20 Credits
Duration	17 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature, sources, and subjects of international law.
- Apply the principles of treaty law, including formation, interpretation, and termination.
- Analyze the role of international organisations, particularly the United Nations, in the development and enforcement of international law.
- Evaluate the application of international law in areas such as diplomatic immunity, human rights, and state responsibility.
- Implement international legal principles in the context of South Africa's foreign policy and diplomatic practice.
- Assess the relationship between international law and municipal law, including the incorporation of treaties into domestic legal systems.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for diplomats, foreign service officers, and other professionals working in foreign affairs or international relations who need to apply international law in their daily work.
- It is also suitable for legal advisors and policy makers involved in international negotiations and treaty implementation.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Foundations of International Law

- Definition and scope of international law
- Sources: treaties, custom, general principles, judicial decisions
- Relationship between international and domestic law
- Historical evolution: Peace of Westphalia to UN Charter
- Subjects of international law: states, international organisations, individuals

Day 2: The Law of Treaties

- Definition and classification of treaties
- Conclusion and entry into force
- Reservations and objections
- Interpretation: textual, contextual, teleological
- Invalidity, termination, and suspension

Day 3: State Sovereignty and Jurisdiction

- Sovereignty and equality of states
- Territorial jurisdiction and exceptions
- Extraterritorial jurisdiction: nationality, protective, universal
- State immunity and diplomatic immunity
- Act of state doctrine

Day 4: State Responsibility

- Elements of state responsibility
- Attribution of conduct: organs, persons, insurrectionists
- Circumstances precluding wrongfulness
- Reparation: restitution, compensation, satisfaction
- Countermeasures and sanctions

Day 5: International Dispute Settlement

- Diplomatic methods: negotiation, mediation, conciliation
- Legal methods: arbitration, judicial settlement
- International Court of Justice: jurisdiction and procedure
- Advisory opinions
- Role of regional bodies: AU, SADC

Day 6: Use of Force and Collective Security

- Article 2(4) prohibition
- Self-defence: customary and Article 51
- Humanitarian intervention and R2P
- UN Security Council authorisation
- Peacekeeping and peace enforcement

Day 7: International Human Rights Law

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ICCPR and ICESCR
- Regional systems: African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Treaty bodies and reporting

- Human rights in foreign policy

Day 8: International Humanitarian Law

- Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
- Principles: distinction, proportionality, precaution
- Protected persons: civilians, POWs, wounded
- War crimes and the International Criminal Court
- Enforcement and universal jurisdiction

Day 9: International Criminal Law

- Core crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, aggression
- Ad hoc tribunals: ICTY, ICTR
- International Criminal Court: structure and jurisdiction
- Complementarity principle
- State cooperation and immunities

Day 10: Law of the Sea and Maritime Boundaries

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Baselines and internal waters
- Territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ
- Continental shelf and extended shelf
- Dispute settlement: ITLOS, arbitration

Day 11: International Environmental Law

- Principles: precautionary, polluter pays, common heritage
- Climate change: UNFCCC, Paris Agreement
- Biodiversity: CBD, CITES
- Transboundary harm and liability
- International environmental governance

Day 12: International Trade and Investment Law

- WTO: GATT, GATS, TRIPS
- Most-favoured-nation and national treatment
- Trade remedies: anti-dumping, safeguards
- Bilateral investment treaties and ISDS
- Regional trade agreements: AfCFTA

Day 13: Diplomatic and Consular Law

- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations
- Diplomatic privileges: inviolability, immunity
- Consular functions and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations
- Consular immunities and limitations
- Breach and severance of relations

Day 14: International Organisations and Regional Integration

- UN system: General Assembly, Security Council, ICJ
- Specialised agencies: WHO, ILO, IMF
- African Union: organs and legal framework
- SADC: treaty and institutions
- Privileges and immunities of organisations

Day 15: Foreign Relations Law and Treaty Implementation

- Foreign relations power: executive vs legislative
- Treaty-making process: negotiation, signature, ratification
- Domestic implementation: monism vs dualism
- Executive agreements and MOUs
- Case studies: South African practice

Day 16: International Law and National Security

- National security exceptions in treaties
- Counter-terrorism: UN conventions and Security Council resolutions
- Targeted sanctions and due process
- Use of force in self-defence against non-state actors
- Intelligence sharing and legal limits

Day 17: Integration and Capstone Exercise

- Review of key principles
- Case study: South Africa's foreign policy challenges
- Drafting legal opinions
- Group presentation and peer critique
- Emerging trends: cyber law, space law

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **20 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 6**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 59,200.00	R 59,200.00
1	In-House	R 76,900.00	R 76,900.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 88,800.00	R 88,800.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
12 Aug 2026	03 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
13 Aug 2026	04 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
14 Aug 2026	07 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
17 Aug 2026	08 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
18 Aug 2026	09 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 259999) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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