

Law & Safety in Public Service I

Course guide 2026 - 2027

Semester	Fall (semester 1)
Inholland location(s)	Rotterdam
Inholland faculty	Business, Finance & Law
Language of instruction	English
Cycle	Bachelor level (Year 3 - 4)
Number of ECTS	30

Subjects

Subject title	ECTS	Course code
Negotiations in International Relations and International Law	5	1422LWS31Z
Terrorism and Risk Analysis	5	1422LWS32Z
Research methods and skills	10	1422LWS33Z
International Humanitarian Law and Criminal Justice and Intercultural Communication	5	1422LWS35Z
Good Governance	5	1422LWS34Z

Content subjects

Negotiations in International Relations and International Law

In this course, students learn how to apply the discipline of international law in the underlying legal layers of this specific field of law. The concepts of state responsibility, the formation and application of customary law principles, international dispute settlement and international legal personality will be addressed and studied. International case law, formed by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, will be used as a backbone of this course. Students are examined in a written test. In the course Negotiations, students are taught how to conduct legal analysis and how to integrate this in an official document. Next to this, the course enables the group of students to debate the theory of principled negotiation; students will give presentations about the different components of this negotiation method. Furthermore, students ought to apply the objectives of principled negotiation in the settlement of peace negotiation.

Terrorism and Risk Analysis

Students will gain insight in actual threats and learn which strategies could be applied to prevent terrorism attacks. Students conduct a risk analysis in light of a particular assigned terrorism case.

Research methods and skills

In this module, students are taught to design and carry out valid and reliable research. Students are also taught methods used to present such research. The student can select and apply valid and reliable research (methods) whilst working on a project and is able to conduct literature review whilst working on a joint research project. Moreover, the student conducts different types of observations and analyses the data. Added to that, students can construct a questionnaire and showcase knowledge of interview techniques in real life situations. Lastly, the student shows initiative in data collecting and progresses in the level of analyzing such data and is able to present the results of their research in a scientific manner.

International Humanitarian Law and Criminal Justice and Intercultural Communication

Students are equipped with the theory of intercultural communication and learn how to apply it in an intercultural setting. For the course International Humanitarian Law and Criminal Justice, students learn what the core principles of humanitarian law (Geneva Law) are and how it correlates to individual prosecution before the International Criminal Court in The Hague. By focusing on historic events, conflicts, wars and armed attacks, students will be affiliated with legal and illegal practices conducted in war zones. Special attention will be given to, among others, weaponry, genocide, international politics, WWII, the Red Cross, propaganda and much more. In doing so, students will be equipped with the humanitarian law theories and principles

and learn how to apply them in different situations human rights violations, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, war and conflict. Given this is a course with a strong legal connotation, the so-called IRAC analysis for legal scholars will be practiced and ultimately examined in a written test.

Good Governance

In this course, students learn to critically reflect on what constitutes good governance within a changing public policy-making system, characterized as the shift from 'government' (hierarchical steering of society) to 'governance' (societal steering through networks).

Students engage with a range of theoretical perspectives on good governance drawn from ethics, public administration, and organizational studies. These frameworks serve as building blocks for developing their own informed view on what good governance entails.

Building on these theoretical perspectives and their personal view on good governance, students apply their understanding to real-world cases and reflect on their future professional roles.

Learning outcomes

Negotiations in International Relations

- The student can explain the theory of principled negotiation
- The student can apply the guidelines of principled negotiation in a peace negotiation

International Law

- The student can apply the main principles of international law
- The student can execute a legal analysis of a situation of international law
- The student knows the main methods of dispute resolution and can apply these to international cases

Terrorism and Risk Analysis

- The student acquires basis knowledge of various types and forms of terrorism
- The student can identify terrorism as a special form of political violence
- The student is able to describe different goals and meanings of terrorism
- The student is able to work out terrorist threats to society
- The student is able to work out a Risk Analyse on Terrorism
- The student is able to compare theory and practice in a Research project on Terrorism and Risk Analysis

Research Methods and Skills

- The student can select and apply valid and trustworthy research (methods) while working on a project
- The student is able to conduct a literature review while working on a joint research project
- The student conduct different types of observations and analysis the data
- The student can construct a questionnaire
- The student shows knowledge of interview techniques in real life situations
- The student shows initiative in data collecting and growth in the level of analyzing data
- The student is able to present the results of their research in a scientific manner

International Humanitarian Law and Intercultural Communication

- The student can apply the main principles of criminal justice and humanitarian law to concrete situations
- The student can analyze the competent legal institutions in order to understand what humanitarian law means for the further development of international criminal law
- The student learns about the four core crimes mentioned in the Rome Statute, including the elements of the crime and the principles and laws humanitarian law
- The student can adopt a legalistic approach
- The student is able to apply the so-called IRAC-method of legal analysis
- The student can explain intercultural communication and relate it to intercultural theory

Good Governance

- The student is able to describe the transformation from 'government' to 'governance';
- The student can analyze real-world policy-making processes using theories of network- and public governance;
- The student can distinguish between theoretical perspectives on good governance;
- The student is able to develop their own vision on good governance, based on the discussed good governance theories;
- The student can reflect critically on good governance in real-world policy-making and governance processes;
- The student can advise on good governance issues.

Mode of delivery, planned activities and teaching methods

Lectures, projects and group work

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Appropriate basic knowledge of law, the EU common and security policies, ability to understand the main elements of the principles and rules

Recommended or required reading and/or other learning recourses/tools

To be announced

Assessment methods and criteria

Written exams, presentation and papers

Lecturer(s)

International Coordinator Business, Finance and Law: Irina Rasseino -
Irina.Rasseino@inholland.nl