



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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University Council

August 20, 2021

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Matthew Jue

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the School of Law for a new Graduate Certificate in International Law will be an agenda item for the August 27, 2021, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**Date:** January 29, 2021

**School/College/Unit:** School of Law

**Department/Division:** School of Law

**Certificate Title:** Graduate Certificate in International Law

**Effective Term:** Spring 2022

**Which campus(es) will offer this certificate?** Athens

**Level:** Graduate

**CIP:** 22000001

**Program Abstract:** The University of Georgia School of Law is proposing a Graduate Certificate in International Law designed for all graduate students seeking to add an internationally-focused legal dimension to their program of study. The field of international law is vast and inherently interdisciplinary, functioning as a space where subject matter experts, policy makers, and lawyers must work together to address the grand policy and legal challenges of our time. This proposed certificate program provides aspiring subject matter experts and policy makers with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to understand the laws, systems, and actors within international law. Students will attain this specialized training through a customizable plan comprised of academic coursework, extracurricular, and experiential requirements (see Section 4).

To assess the need of this program among graduate students, the School of Law conducted a survey. Results of the survey are found in Section 3 of this document. Overall, graduate students from a variety of academic disciplines expressed significant interest in this certificate program. The opportunity to take courses at the School of Law in a structured way while working towards an additional credential is noted as being particularly appealing; at the same time, students in the School of Law may benefit from learning alongside these internationally-minded graduate students with subject matter expertise relevant to their future legal practice. Additionally, support for this opportunity has been expressed from colleagues across campus (see Appendix B).

The Graduate Certificate in International Law will equip graduate students with advanced knowledge of international law. In addition, this program will contribute to the overall internationalization of campus, serving as an established structure for engaging in a variety of other interdisciplinary initiatives, such as joint publications, grants, research, service opportunities, externship programs, and more.

## 1. Purpose and Educational Objectives

**State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?**

The purpose of the Graduate Certificate in International Law is to equip graduate students with the ability to understand, participate in, and find solutions to the grand and interdisciplinary challenges faced in the field of international law. This will be achieved through:

- Rigorous, internationally-focused coursework in the School of Law.
- Ongoing opportunities to engage with academics and practitioners in the field of international law.
- Site visits, discussions, simulations, and other hands-on, experiential learning opportunities through study abroad programs and externships.
- Interdisciplinary research opportunities with on-campus and global partners.

A certificate program would formalize the building organic interest in international law from graduate students and provide an organized, systematic approach to learning for students who are not seeking a law degree. Additionally, this certificate program contributes to the University of Georgia's goal of internationalizing the campus by providing interdisciplinary paths for all graduate students to add an international dimension to their degree program. The 2025 Strategic Plan seeks to increase and improve opportunities to collaborate among academic units to drive interdisciplinary research and commercial activity. KPI 2.17 specifically supports the development and growth of degrees and certificates awarded among interdisciplinary graduate programs as a mechanism for fostering these opportunities for collaborations. This certificate program will position graduate and professional students to collaborate across traditional disciplines and provide them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to work together on solutions to the world's most complex problems.

## 2. Need for the Program

**Explain why this program is necessary. In addition, provide the following information:**

- Semester/Year of Program Initiation:** Spring 2022
- Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program:** Spring 2022
- Semester/Year First certificates will be awarded:** Fall 2023
- Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established):** 10+
- Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program:** The initial goal is to award the certificate to 10 students per year. Once the program has awarded the certificate to the first cycle of students and evaluated the number of competitive applicants each cycle, the School of Law will evaluate whether the program may need to expand to accommodate interest and, if so, which additional courses/opportunities would need to be added to the program at that time.

Currently, graduate students are permitted to register for courses offered by the School of Law. However, outside of the MSL and LLM degree programs, graduate students do not have the opportunity to gain a structured credential from the School of Law, nor is there any formalized guidance for course sequence or selection. This certificate program would also provide interested graduate students outside of the School of Law

with both events and experiential learning opportunities to compliment the knowledge gained in the classroom.

### 3. Student Demand

#### a. Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, which may include a student survey.

In summer 2020, a survey (Appendix A) was distributed on the Graduate Student Association listserv to gauge general interest in the idea of the certificate program across disciplines. 187 responses representing 16 colleges and academic units were collected from that survey. Overall, 138 of the 187 responses indicated a positive likelihood that, if the certificate were offered, they would pursue it. The remaining 49 surveys indicated they likely would not, although the majority of the negative responses mentioned that the students were actually interested in the program; however, they likely would not be able to pursue the certificate because of degree constraints and/or upcoming graduations (and therefore an insufficient timeline for completing another academic credential). A breakdown of the highest responses by college is below:

College	Total Responses	Total Grad/ Professional Students 2019	Percentage Response of College	Of those who responded: Positive Response	Of those who responded: Negative Response
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#### Highest No. Responses Overall

Franklin	43	1842	2.33%	74.41%	25.59%
SPIA	39	287	13.59%	82.05%	17.95%
Education	19	1695	1.12%	84.21%	15.79%
Law	18	620	2.90%	84.21%	15.79%
CAES	14	623	2.25%	78.57%	21.43%

#### Highest No. Positive Responses

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#### Highest Percentage of Responses by College

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CAES	14	623	2.25%	78.57%	21.43%
Vet Med	5	699	1.40%	80%	20%

**b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.**

If only 10% of the positive survey respondents successfully completed the program, the initial goal of graduating at least 10 students would be exceeded. This, coupled with the growing interest in graduate students participating in the Global Governance Summer School<sup>1</sup>, signifies that the interest is not only sustained, but growing. Once this certificate is established, reasonable enrollment seems very likely.

**c. To what extent will minority student enrollments be greater than, less than, or equivalent to the proportion of minority students in the total student body?**

Traditionally underrepresented students in higher education will likely have a proportional enrollment in this certificate as in the total student body. The School of Law actively embraces the University of Georgia's commitment "to be a diverse campus that is enriched and informed by the personal, cultural, and intellectual differences of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors." The certificate will model this commitment as well. Through partnerships with the Office of Institutional Diversity and the Division of Academic Enhancement, as well as ongoing support in the form of one-on-one advising with students enrolled in the certificate and intentionally inclusive messaging about the program, there could be a potential to attract a higher proportion of underrepresented students.

**4. Program of Study**

**Provide a detailed program of study for the certificate program, including:**

- a. Specific course prefixes, numbers, and titles**
- b. Identify any new courses created for this program**

The Graduate Certificate in International Law will require a completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours and is designed to be completed across 4-5 consecutive academic semesters, including summer. All students are required to take JURI 6640, Public International Law, as an introductory course, which will situate all students in the field of international law and provide them with information about the landscape of actors within the international arena. Other courses may satisfy this requirement with the approval of the School of Law. In addition, up to 6 hours of the required courses in International Law electives may, with the approval of the School of Law, be replaced by other graduate-level courses in related fields<sup>2</sup>. However, no more than 6 total credit hours toward the certificate may be taken outside the School of Law.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 13 applications submitted for the summer 2020 Global Governance Summer School, over half (7) were completed by students outside of the School of Law.

<sup>2</sup> For example, INTL 8220, International Law, INTL 8210, International Organizations, and INTL 8285, Human Rights, are courses regularly offered by the School of Public and International Affairs that have content applicable to the certificate program and could be taken by students in lieu of electives offered by the School of Law.

Required:

- JURI 6640, Public International Law (3 hours)
- JURI 7510, Independent Project (2 hours), including attendance at four Rusk Center events, with Exchange of Notes blog entry
- JURI XXXX, International Law Hackathon (1 hour)
- Two electives in International Law (6 hours)

Choose one of the following options:

- JURI XXXX, Global Governance Summer School (3 hours)
- Additional elective in International Law (3 hours)

International Law Electives:

*Courses highlighted in blue are offered annually*

Course ID	Course Name
JURI 6185	Comparative Constitutional Rights (2-3 hours)
JURI 6270	International Criminal Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 6273	Transnational Criminal Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 6390	Military Law (2 hours)
JURI 6425	Foreign Affairs and National Security Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 6640	Public International Law (3 hours)
JURI 6645	Laws of War (2-3 hours)
JURI 6670	International Human Rights (2-3 hours)
JURI 6675	International Business Transactions (1-3 hours)
JURI 6710	International Taxation (2 hours)
JURI 6720	International Commercial Arbitration (2-3 hours)
JURI 7205	International Law Colloquium (1-3 hours)
JURI 7360	International Trade Laws (3 hours)
JURI 7380	International Legal Research (1-2 hours)
JURI 7750	International Environmental Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 7830	Law and Institutions of the European Union (2-3 hours)
JURI 7885	Global Governance (2-3 hours)
JURI 7890	Immigration Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 7893	Business Immigration Law (2-3 hours)
JURI 7894	Refugee and Asylum Law (2-3 hours)

New Courses:

JURI XXXX, International Law Hackathon (1 hour)

This 1 credit hour course is a simulation designed around a contemporary issue in international law. Certificate students will partner with JD students in teams and design policy proposals around the designated issue. All students will receive initial asynchronously-delivered guidance

for policy design, as well as lectures from subject matter experts of varying viewpoints about their contemporary issue that are framed by professors familiar with the topics. Teams will submit and defend their proposals to a panel of professors and practitioners. All participants will conclude the Hackathon with a written reflection of their work and the policy design process.

Global Governance Summer School (3 hours)

- JURI XXXX, Select Topics in International Law: Study Abroad (2 hours)
- JURI XXXX, Independent Project in International Law: Study Abroad (1 hour)

This 3-credit hour study abroad experience provides students with experiential learning opportunities in the field of international law in Brussels, Belgium and The Hague, Netherlands as part of the School of Law's Global Governance Summer School program. Students will begin with a boot camp that will introduce them to foundational concepts in the field of international law. They will participate in a special topics course taught by School of Law faculty that examines a contemporary issue in the field of international law. They will engage in an independent project that involves meeting with a variety of academics, practitioners, and other experts in the field, and complete reflections and written assignments based on those interactions.

## 5. Model Program and Accreditation

- Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.**
- If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.**

At present, the only comparable certificate program available is offered by St. John's University. Their International Law and Diplomacy Advanced Certificate is for students either currently pursuing an M.A. or who have completed an M.A. Requirements for admission involve having completed 18 credits in government and politics/political science or equivalent and a 3.0 GPA. Upon being accepted to the program, students must complete 18 credits in International Relations and Comparative Politics courses. At least six credits must be taken from the following three-credit International Law and Diplomacy courses:

GOV 271, Theory and Practice of Diplomacy  
GOV 341, International Law: Law of Peace  
GOV 342, International Human Rights Law  
GOV 343, International Law: Law of International Transactions  
GOV 344, International Law: Law of War and Neutrality

It should be noted, however, that this program is taught by Government and Politics faculty, rather than by Law School faculty.

Some similar models appear to be designed for undergraduates who, while not subject matter

experts, would also likely not have a background in law. These programs do not appear to have a concentration solely in international law, but combine it with policy and/or international affairs. Some of these undergraduate programs include:

- American University’s Undergraduate Certificate in Politics, Policy and Law
- Florida International University’s Undergraduate Certificate in Law, Ethics and Society

It seems that the proposed Graduate Certificate in International Law has some overlapping similarities with these programs, including much of the academic content required by the programs. However, the most significant difference in the academic offerings is that the proposed certificate program would provide students access to School of Law faculty. At present, the content of some of these courses (e.g., Human Rights, Diplomacy, War Studies) is available in various forms through the School of Public and International Affairs. However, offering them through the School of Law would provide the desired legal perspective that many graduate students are seeking.

One other notable difference is the focus on academic content. The proposed certificate program takes an innovative approach; while focusing on academic courses, it enhances the course of study with experiential learning opportunities (e.g., Global Governance Summer School, International Law Hackathon) and has a requirement to engage with practitioners and academics in the field through events, which will add a practical and applicable dimension to their certificate.

## 6. Student Learning Outcomes

**Describe the proposed learning outcomes for the certificate program.**

Students who complete the Graduate Certificate in International Law will:

- Gain an academic, historic, contemporary, and practical understanding of the field of international law and its applications.
- Be familiarized with some of the grand challenges in the field of international law.
- Have the opportunity to learn and work alongside JD candidates, which would both expand their professional network and provide a new dimension to their studies.
- Gain access to a range of professional development opportunities, both formal and informal.
- Gain structured opportunities for interdisciplinary research and other initiatives.

## 7. Assessment

**Describe how the learning outcomes for the program will be assessed.**

Learning Outcome	Assessment
Gain an academic, historic, contemporary, and practical understanding of the field of international law and its applications	This will be assessed through the projects and tests of each individual academic course, as outlined in their respective syllabi.



<p>Be familiarized with some of the grand challenges in the field of international law</p>	<p>This will be assessed through the projects and tests of each individual academic course, as outlined in their respective syllabi. Additionally, the final policy proposals in the International Law Hackathon will provide an assessment of students' familiarity with a key issue and their approach to solving it.</p>
<p>Engage in academic discussions and projects alongside JD candidates, which would provide a new dimension to their studies</p>	<p>This will be assessed formally through the International Law Hackathon, in which JD and graduate students will work together to develop policy proposals with both subject matter expertise and legal understanding.</p>
<p>Gain access to a range of professional development opportunities, both formal and informal</p>	<p>This will be assessed throughout the program. Attendance and engagement with events, in addition to the formal mentorship received by School of Law faculty during the students' Independent Project, will result in formal and informal opportunities to diversify students' professional and academic networks. Additionally, each class at the School of Law will provide students with the opportunity to build professor-student relationships.</p>
<p>Engage in structured opportunities for interdisciplinary research and other initiatives</p>	<p>This will be assessed formally through the International Law Hackathon, in which JD and graduate students will work together to develop policy proposals with both subject matter expertise and legal understanding. Additionally, there will be grant opportunities through the Dean Rusk International Law Center, the GLOBIS Human Rights Lab, and other on-campus entities that will require an interdisciplinary expertise in international relations and international law. Students in the certificate program will be given the opportunity to apply for these as they arise.</p>

## Appendix A



The School of Law is in the preliminary stages of designing a Certificate in International Law for graduate students. The intended audience is graduate students who are interested in adding an international legal dimension to their program of study.

As part of the design process, we would like to collect feedback from current graduate students about the program.

This survey is intended to:

1. Gauge general interest in the certificate program
2. Inform the design of the certificate program; and
3. Provide an opportunity for students to provide feedback on the general idea

This survey consists of five questions and an optional comment section, and the Estimated Time Burden is 5 minutes.

Please submit your survey no later than 11:59pm EST on Sunday, July 19. All questions should be sent to Sarah Quinn, squinn@uga.edu

Assuming you had adequate time left in your degree program, how likely would you be to participate in a Certificate in International Law program?

Definitely yes

Probably yes

Probably not

Definitely not

What factors would make you more likely to participate?

What factors would make you less likely to participate?

What topics, experiences, and/or skillsets would you hope to see included in the design of this certificate program?

(Ex: Courses covering international trade, the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program, internship placement, etc.)

Please list your current college and specific program name.

(ex: School of Public and International Affairs, Masters in International Policy program)

Additional comments/ questions:

## Appendix B

In January 2021, the School of Law reached out to the academic units on campus whose students expressed the highest levels of interest in the certificate. Each academic unit was sent a copy of the proposal, and was asked for any feedback based on their particular students' academic needs and/or programmatic constraints.

Overwhelmingly, support from on-campus colleagues was positive. The proposal was initially sent to 23 colleagues working in a total of 14 colleges/units, listed below. These colleagues shared with additional colleagues. Of the 12 responses received, 3 of the contacts (2 from SPIA, 1 from Public Health) asked if the School of Law could take into account students from their programs who may not have the curricular flexibility that would allow them to take 15 additional academic credits. Thus, a provision allowing for up to 6 academic credits from the International Law electives to be substituted with comparable courses from the student's program of study, approved in consultation with the School of Law, was included. The remaining feedback unanimously supported the idea, remarking that it is "a tremendous opportunity" for students and a "nice recruiting tool" for prospective students.

Outreach to Colleges and Academic Units included:

- Mary Frances Early College of Education
- School of Public and International Affairs\*
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Social Work
- College of Public Health
- Terry College of Business
- College of Pharmacy
- Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications
- College of Family and Consumer Sciences
- College of Engineering
- The Graduate School
- The Division of Academic Enhancement

\*A letter of support from the Dean of the School of Public and International Affairs has been attached to this proposal.



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June 18, 2021

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
University of Georgia  
Holmes/Hunter Academic Building  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Committee Members:

Following consultation with the School of Law and following amendments to the draft proposed Certificate in International Law, SPIA adds its voice of support for the proposal. We agree with our Law School colleagues that there is much value to offering graduate students, from across fields of study, an interdisciplinary curriculum in international law. We appreciate that the School of Law welcomes the participation of other UGA units that can make intellectual contributions to the certificate, including from fields like international relations, comparative politics, and international political economy.

SPIA regularly offers courses at the graduate level in international law, international organizations, and human rights. The School looks forward to having these and other relevant courses become available to students in the proposed certificate program.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Auer  
Dean and Arch Professor of Public and International Affairs

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Graduate Certificate in International Law

**College:** School of Law

**Department:** School of Law

**Proposed Effective Term:** Spring 2022

School/College:

- School of Law Dean, Mr. Peter “Bo” Rutledge, 1/29/21

Graduate School:

- Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Ron Walcott, 4/14/21

Additional Support:

- School of Public and International Affairs Dean, Dr. Matthew Auer, 6/18/21