



LAWS8052

Trade and Environment Law

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2025

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Shawkat Alam

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Contact via ilearn

Room 214, 17 WW

Wednesday 12-1pm

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to LLM or MIntTrdeComLaw or (Admission to JD and LAWS600 or LAWS8001)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the ways in which trade and environment issues are addressed in a variety of international legal instruments, ranging from, the United Nations through to global and regional free trade agreements. It provides an overview of international institutions, policies and instruments such as the UN, GATT, the WTO, NAFTA, the World Bank and the IMF as they relate to environmental issues. It also, where appropriate, compares the achievements of one legal instrument with those of others in the area of trade and the environment. It particularly focuses on the interests and concerns of developing countries on this pressing issue.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Explain and critique linkages between international environmental law and international trade law through an enquiring, critical and creative approach to the existing debates and tensions surrounding the trade-environment nexus.

ULO2: Critique key institutions and actors through which international environmental law

and international trade law interact.

ULO3: Explain and critically assess how law, politics and the self-interest of nation-states play a critical role in the inter-relationship of trade, environment and sustainable development.

ULO4: Evaluate the relationship between trade-related economic growth and the environmental impacts in the pursuit for sustainable development, especially as related to the interests of developing countries.

ULO5: Assess where the relationship between international environmental law and international trade law can be expected to develop in the future, especially having regard to the objectives of sustainable development and making recommendations for policy development and institutional reform.

General Assessment Information

Please consult the unit iLearn page for detailed instructions for assessments in this unit. Class participation This assessment is about active engagement in tutorials; not mere attendance. Contributing to tutorial discussions and tutorial exercises throughout the entire semester will be the primary activity marked for this assessment. Online contributions to the weekly discussion forums can add to the class participation, not replace it - except when absence from a tutorial is notified in advance and approved as justified.

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error. The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Late Submission Policy A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to online exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours. Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor. Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration Students should submit applications for Special Consideration

electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Professional Skills</u>	20%	No	Ongoing
<u>Take Home Assessment</u>	30%	No	13/04/2025
<u>Research Paper</u>	50%	No	01/06/2025

Professional Skills

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will develop essential legal professional skills through structured classroom activities such as oral advocacy, critical reasoning, strategic problem-solving, collaborative work, team leadership, mooting, simulated client consultations, legal presentations or demonstrations, doctrinal analysis and problem solving, and/or collaborative legal research. These activities are designed to develop students' professional capabilities including capacity to communicate legal concepts clearly and engage professionally with diverse audiences in diverse contexts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critique linkages between international environmental law and international trade law through an enquiring, critical and creative approach to the existing debates and tensions surrounding the trade-environment nexus.
- Critique key institutions and actors through which international environmental law and international trade law interact.
- Explain and critically assess how law, politics and the self-interest of nation-states play a critical role in the inter-relationship of trade, environment and sustainable development.
- Evaluate the relationship between trade-related economic growth and the environmental impacts in the pursuit for sustainable development, especially as related to the interests of developing countries.

- Assess where the relationship between international environmental law and international trade law can be expected to develop in the future, especially having regard to the objectives of sustainable development and making recommendations for policy development and institutional reform.

Take Home Assessment

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **13/04/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will provide a written response to a set question designed to stimulate inquiry into conceptual linkages underpinning the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critique linkages between international environmental law and international trade law through an enquiring, critical and creative approach to the existing debates and tensions surrounding the trade-environment nexus.
- Critique key institutions and actors through which international environmental law and international trade law interact.

Research Paper

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **01/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

A research paper on a set question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critique linkages between international environmental law and international trade law through an enquiring, critical and creative approach to the existing debates and tensions surrounding the trade-environment nexus.
- Critique key institutions and actors through which international environmental law and international trade law interact.

- Explain and critically assess how law, politics and the self-interest of nation-states play a critical role in the inter-relationship of trade, environment and sustainable development.
 - Evaluate the relationship between trade-related economic growth and the environmental impacts in the pursuit for sustainable development, especially as related to the interests of developing countries.
 - Assess where the relationship between international environmental law and international trade law can be expected to develop in the future, especially having regard to the objectives of sustainable development and making recommendations for policy development and institutional reform.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

Teaching is by means of 12 lectures (pre-recorded) and 6 live tutorials (via zoom), which will run fortnightly commencing week 2. Please consult the official timetable. Students are expected to watch pre-recorded weekly lectures that will be made available for each week in Echo 360 via the iLearn page.

Students are expected to have **prepared for the tutorials** by watching the lecture and reading the prescribed materials for that week, and preparing any tutorial exercises assigned for that week on iLearn. Active participation in tutorials is assessed.

This unit is worth 10 credit points, which equates to 150 hours of work. Therefore, students should expect to commit an average of 10 hours per week to this unit, including all scheduled and unscheduled activities and preparing and executing the assessment tasks.

Recommended textbooks for this course are:

- ***Environment & Trade: A Handbook*** (International Institute for Sustainable Development 2005) Available here: <https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/envirotrade_handbook_2005.pdf>
- Delimatsis, Panagiotis, Leonie Reins and publisher Edward Elgar Publishing, **Trade and Environmental Law**, ed Panagiotis Delimatsis and Leonie Reins (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021)

- Shawkat Alam, *Sustainable Development and Free Trade Institutional Approaches* (Routledge 2008). Available through the library catalogue.

Additional readings will be prescribed through iLearn.

Students require access to a computer, internet with decent speed and a secure/reliable server. The iLearn page contains all Unit requirements and a weekly schedule for teaching, readings and tutorials. Information about all assessment tasks is also available on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and

courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/

[offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](#).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)