



LAWS8089

International Trade Law

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Dalma Demeter Contact via via iLearn
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to LLM or MIntTrdeComLaw or (Admission to JD and LAWS600 or LAWS8001)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description The unit introduces students to the principal areas of international trade law and policy, and in particular examines the legal regime governing the international exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property under the WTO. Topics include the WTO dispute settlement system; rules on non-discrimination; rules on market access; rules on unfair trade; preferential trade agreements.

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: Critically appraise the scope of various multilateral trade agreements and other legal principles embedded in international trade.

ULO2: Analyse how international trade law impacts on national trading policy and practice, and confronts controversial and pressing issues of trade and finance in the contemporary era of economic globalisation.

ULO3: Evaluate the way economic, political and ethical values shape the development of international regulation and relevant standards.

ULO4: Apply multilateral trade agreements, case law, and soft law to resolve legal problems in international trade law.

General Assessment Information

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 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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Professional Skills	20%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Observed
Take home exam	30%	No	30/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
Research Essay	50%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Professional Skills

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will develop essential legal professional skills through structured classroom activities such as oral advocacy, critical reasoning, strategic problem-solving, collaborative work, team leadership, mootings, 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:

- Critically appraise the scope of various multilateral trade agreements and other legal principles embedded in international trade.
- Analyse how international trade law impacts on national trading policy and practice, and confronts controversial and pressing issues of trade and finance in the contemporary era of economic globalisation.
- Evaluate the way economic, political and ethical values shape the development of international regulation and relevant standards.
- Apply multilateral trade agreements, case law, and soft law to resolve legal problems in international trade law.

Take home exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 3 hours

Due: **30/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The take-home exam will include multiple-choice questions, short answer theoretical questions, and/or problem questions on a range of topics covered in this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically appraise the scope of various multilateral trade agreements and other legal

principles embedded in international trade.

- Analyse how international trade law impacts on national trading policy and practice, and confronts controversial and pressing issues of trade and finance in the contemporary era of economic globalisation.
- Evaluate the way economic, political and ethical values shape the development of international regulation and relevant standards.
- Apply multilateral trade agreements, case law, and soft law to resolve legal problems in international trade law.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 27 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will be required to write a research essay focusing on aspects of the unit content.

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- Analyse how international trade law impacts on national trading policy and practice, and confronts controversial and pressing issues of trade and finance in the contemporary era of economic globalisation.
- Evaluate the way economic, political and ethical values shape the development of international regulation and relevant standards.
- Apply multilateral trade agreements, case law, and soft law to resolve legal problems in international trade law.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

Lectures: one weekly pre-recorded lecture, available in echo360 on iLearn. Lectures start from week 1, to week 12 inclusive.

Tutorials: one weekly in person/fortnightly online tutorial, according to details available in the academic timetable. ON campus tutorials for the internal cohort start in week 1. Online tutorials for the external cohort start in week 2.

Resources

The required textbook is:

Peter van den Bossche and Werner Zdouc, *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization - Text, Cases and Materials* (5th edn, 2022, Cambridge University Press). Students can purchase the electronic textbook from online resellers such as [Booktopia](#), [Amazon](#) and [Zookal](#).

An alternative textbook is the simplified version of the same text: Peter Van den Bossche, Denise Prévost, *Essentials of WTO Law* (2021)

Additional readings will be made available 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.

Unit Schedule

Weekly topics:

1. International trade law and the WTO
2. GATT and the MFN and NT principles
3. WTO Dispute Settlement
4. GATS
5. Tariff Barriers
6. Non-tariff barriers
7. Exceptions
8. Dumping and subsidies
9. Technical barriers to Trade
10. SPS Agreement
11. TRIPS agreement
12. Regional trade agreements and the way forward

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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)