

TEACHING GUIDE

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LAW OF TOURIST APPLICATION

GRADO EN TURISMO (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 01-07-2026



I.-Subject Identification

Type	FORMACIÓN BÁSICA
Teaching period	1 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in which the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

I. INTRODUCTION

The curriculum for the BA Degree in Tourism (hereinafter, BDT) includes three main subjects intended to provide specific legal training for students who will work in the tourism industry. These include Law and Legislation; Administrative Tourism Law; and, finally, Basic Legal Principles of Tourism Application (hereinafter, BLPTA). Among these, BLPTA is aimed at providing students with their first common, basic, and cross-disciplinary training in Law.

Students beginning BDT studies must be offered, from the outset, introductory training in the most significant aspects and issues of Law in general and of Tourism Law in its private and international context, specifically. This knowledge will serve as a required basis for addressing subsequent legal subjects. Hence, the curriculum of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the Rey Juan Carlos University has scheduled the subject of BLPTA for the first quarter of the first academic year of BDT. Ultimately, this subject offers a comprehensive program that addresses the main legal issues, institutions and concepts of Private Law and Tourism Law.

In particular, students will acquire knowledge of the different legal systems and traditions of Law (their concept, areas, jurisdictions, and sources; as well as legal principles, rules and standards, with their types, effectiveness, and application); the subjects and objects of Law (natural and legal persons, companies and corporation forms, organizations and assets), the exchange of goods and services (Law of obligations and contract Law, as well as basic contractual forms), or the ownership, property and tenancy of assets (property Law and rights *in rem*), to then examine the strictly tourism-related regulatory framework (consumer protection, tourism contracts, timeshares and long-term holiday products, contractual and non-contractual liability, international legal framework of tourism, particularly in the context of the EU, rules of Private International Law applicable, international litigation, ADRS, compliance and standardization).

Knowledge of all these topics, along with the completion of various hands-on exercises, will allow students to acquire the necessary skills to adequately perform their professional activities in an international context.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of BLPTA is to provide students with basic knowledge of Law, the private regulatory framework of tourism, and the main legal institutions involved in the development of tourism activities and services.

The aim is for university students enrolled in this subject to acquire a general understanding of Law with relevance to the tourism industry, without foregoing, at the same time and where appropriate, an understanding and practical application of the most common issues and institutions in tourism legal affairs.

Furthermore, when circumstances permit, the student is expected to be fluent in international legal texts and documents relevant to the subject being taught.

III. PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Considering that this subject has an evident introductory legal focus, and given the purpose and nature of theoretical and practical classes scheduled, no prior legal knowledge and skills are required.

Due to some of the activities to be carried out, it is advisable that the student be fluent in the management of the Virtual Campus platform and have social skills for teamwork and public speaking.

III.-Learning outcomes



CG03. Ability to analyse and synthesise

CG18. Ability to solve problems

CE07. Understanding of the legal framework governing tourism activities.

CE09. Understanding of the principles of tourism: its territorial, social, cultural, legal, political, employment and economic dimensions.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.



IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

SECTION I. THE LEGAL SYSTEM

LESSON 1. LAW AND THE SOURCES OF LAW

- 1.- Law and its sources. Hard Law and Soft Law. The European Union Law and other legal systems.
- 2.- Civil Law and Common Law. Concepts and institutions. Legal areas and jurisdictions. Conflicts of laws and jurisdictions.
- 3.- Consumer protection. In particular in the context of the EU.
- 4.- Tourism Law. Main legal issues and topics.
- 5.- Sustainable and inclusive tourism: legal basis, characteristics and strategies. Governance, compliance and CSR.

LESSON 2. THE RULES OF LAW. APPLICATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

- 1.- The legal rules. Definitions and structure. Standardization, principles and private Law development.
- 2.- Types of legal rules. Nature and characteristics. Special mention to the rules of private international Law applicable to tourism.
- 3.- Sanction, promulgation and entry into force of legal rules.
- 4.- Application, interpretation and effectiveness of legal rules.

SECTION II. LAW OF PERSONS. GENERAL CONCEPTS

LESSON 3. LEGAL PERSONALITY. SUBJECTS OF LAW AND OBJECTS OF LAW

- 1.- Legal subjects: concept and classes.
- 2.- The natural person. Personal rights. Protection. Capacity and legal status. Legal age of majority.
- 3.- The legal person. Concept and nature. Classes, main forms and legal regimes. Company and corporation Law.
- 4.- Nationality, residence and domicile. Rules of private international Law applicable.
- 5.- Registries. Classes and general issues.

LESSON 4. POWER OF ATTORNEY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 1.- Concept, nature and scope.
- 2.- Types of POAs.
 - 2.1. Lasting Power of Attorney and Enduring Power of Attorney.
 - 2.2. Legal representatives.

SECTION III. PROPERTY LAW, LAW OF OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACT LAW. GENERAL ISSUES

LESSON 5. LEGAL TRANSACTIONS. PERSONAL ENTITLEMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS. LEGAL RIGHTS

- 1.- Concept and rules of private international Law applicable.
- 2.- Legal transactions. Concept and nature.
- 3.- Legal rights, personal entitlements, and individual rights. Legal actions and claims. Concept and elements. Exercise and limitations.
- 4.- Property Law. Concept, object and extent.

LESSON 6. LAW OF OBLIGATIONS

- 1.- Concept and elements. Sources of obligations. Special reference to consumer protection.
- 2.- Performance of obligations. Contractual liability. Excuses.
- 3.- Non-performance of obligations. Breach of contract. Remedies.

LESSON 7. CONTRACT LAW

- 1.- The contract: concept and basis. The legal principle of freedom of contract.
- 2.- Main elements of a contract. Types of contracts.
- 3.- The formation of a contract.
 - 3.1. Adhesion contracts.



- 3.2. Contractual information.
- 3.3. Terms and conditions.
- 4.- Void and voidable contracts. Concept and types of ineffectiveness of contracts.
- 5.- Main types of contracts in the tourism industry.

LESSON 8. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONTRACT LAW IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

- 1.- Consumer protection and services providers. Nature of tourism contracts. Online contracting of tourist services.
- 2.- The legal protection of tourists/consumers. The tourist as a consumer. In particular in the context of the EU.
- 3.- GSC and PSC. Abusive clauses.
- 4.- The resolution of contractual disputes in the tourism industry. Litigation and ADRS for consumers. Self-regulation. Mediation and arbitration.

LESSON 9. TORT LAW

- 1.- Concept and extent.
- 2.- Difference between contractual and non-contractual liability. Reference to EU Regulations applicable.
- 3.- Strict liability, intent and negligence. Gross, ordinary and slight negligence.
- 4.- Tort liability and criminal offences.

LESSON 10. PROPERTY LAW IN GENERAL

- 1.- Concept of property rights or rights in rem. The difference with credit rights. Economic content.
- 2.- Acquisition of rights in rem.
- 3.- Types of rights in rem.
- 4.- Registries.

LESSON 11. TIMESHARE AND LONG-TERM RIGHTS IN HOLIDAY PRODUCTS

- 1.- Directive 2008/122/EC on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts
- 2.- Definition and nature of timeshare rights. Resale and exchange of timeshare rights and long-term holiday products.
- 3.- Special rules on advertising, pre-contractual and contractual information, the right of withdrawal and ban on advance payments during the withdrawal period.

LESSON 12. GENERAL NOTIONS REGARDING FAMILY LAW AND INHERITANCE LAW

- 1. Family Law. Matrimonial property regime.
- 2. Inheritance Law. Testacy and intestacy succession rules. Family business succession.

NOTE: The lecturers teaching this subject will be entitled to enhance or reduce the contents of this program according to the particular necessities and characteristics of students.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Theoretical sessions	Explanatory lecture classes
Practical sessions	Hands-on exercises will be given during the course
Academic tutorials	Learning feedback
Realización de Pruebas	Completion of knowledge tests



V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	40
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	16
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	4
Academic tutorials	28
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	20
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	20
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	20
Preparation for tests and/or exams	32
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme		
Type	Period	Content
Academic tutorials	Week 1 to Week 15	Learning feedback during the course may be given in different forms: either oral or written tutorials, peer to peer, individual or in group tutorials. This activity will be, in principle, an on-site learning activity or, as the case may be, where appropriate, a distance learning activity, using the Virtual Campus eLearning platform, and/or other online collaboration tools like Microsoft Teams.
Tests and/or exams	Week 5 to Week 15	Completion of knowledge tests as described in the assessment systems criteria.
Practical sessions	Week 5 to Week 15	Hands-on exercises will be given during the course, which the student must complete individually or in a group, as directed by the lecturer, using the knowledge explained in class and/or using appropriate tools.
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 15	This learning activity consists of explanatory lectures. It is an on-site learning activity in which the lecturer will explain the basic contents of the subject.



VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.

All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.

The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).

Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.

The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

The qualification assessment system within the EHEA framework is based on continuous assessment and, especially, in this subject, which will be carried out as described below:

1. ORDINARY ASSESSMENT. It consists of two parts:

a) Continuous Assessment. Completion of different learning activities during the quarter. The students will be informed of the type (e.g., exercises, case studies, assignments, oral presentations, mid-term exams, in-class participation, etc.), number and grade by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter.

The weighting of all continuous assessment activities will be 40% of the final grade.

These activities **CANNOT BE RETAKEN/RESUBMITTED OR REASSESSED** in the extraordinary assessment period, when due to their exceptional characteristics. Nevertheless, where applicable, the grade obtained during the quarter will be maintained in the different assessment periods.

b) Examination. An exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus will be given. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)

The weighting of the final exam will be 60% of the final grade as detailed in the Degree Program's description.

The minimum mark to be obtained to pass the subject will be indicated in advance by the lecturer.

This activity **CAN BE RETAKEN OR REASSESSED** in the extraordinary assessment period.

2. EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSMENT. Like the ordinary assessment, it consists of two parts:

a) Continuous Assessment. As detailed above, where applicable, the grade obtained in the continuous assessment during the quarter will be maintained in the extraordinary assessment period.

Grade weighting: 40% of the final grade.

b) Examination. As in the ordinary assessment, an exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus will be given. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)

Grade weighting: 60% of the final grade.

The minimum mark to be obtained to pass the subject will be indicated in advance by the lecturer.

The mention "NO-SHOW" will be reserved for students who have NOT TAKEN ANY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY during the assessment period.

3. EARLY ASSESSMENT. According to Article 19.4 of the Regulations for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of the Rey Juan Carlos University, students may demand that one of the two annual assessment periods take place in September.

The assessment method will consist in the completion of an exam covering the entire content of the subject syllabus. The students will be informed in advance by the lecturer of the specific format (e.g., multiple-choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)

The mark obtained in the exam will be the final grade of the subject.

Assessment System	Assessment Activity	Weighting	Retaken or Reassessed in the extraordinary assessment period	Minimum Grade	Contents	Date
AS1	Final assessment test with the specific format informed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter (e.g., multiple choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.)	60%	YES	5*	The entire content of the subject syllabus	In the official assessment period (ordinary/extraordinary)

AS2	Continuous Assessment. Completion of different learning activities during the quarter, which tend to assess knowledge and skills acquired in the subject, and whose format, number and grade will be informed by the lecturer (e.g., exercises, case studies, assignments, oral presentations, mid-term exams, in-class participation, etc.) at the beginning of the quarter.	40%	NO. As detailed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter	NO (Cumulative Assessment)	The entire content of the subject syllabus	Throughout the quarter
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* Or the minimum grade informed in advance by the lecturer

Calculation of the final or overall grade

The final or overall grade will be calculated by the weighted average of the marks obtained in the different assessment activities (of AS1 and AS2), provided that the minimum grade indicated for AS1 (i.e., Final Assessment Test) has been achieved.

If the Final Assessment Test does not achieve the required minimum grade, the final grade for the subject will be the one obtained in this Final Assessment Test.

To pass the subject, the weighted average obtained must be 5 or higher, as informed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter.

If the minimum required grade was achieved in the Final Assessment Test, but the weighted average with the remaining assessment activities is less than 5, the Final Assessment Test may be retaken/reassessed in the extraordinary assessment period to achieve a higher mark.

The mention "NO-SHOW" will be reserved only for students who have not taken any assessment activity during the appropriate assessment period.

Extraordinary Assessment

As in the ordinary assessment, the final or overall grade will be calculated by the weighted average of the marks obtained in the different assessment activities (of AS1 and AS2), provided that the minimum mark established for AS1 (Final Assessment Test) is reached.

The mark obtained in the continuous assessment (AS2) during the quarter, and its weighting in the final grade, will be maintained as the case may be in the extraordinary assessment period. Therefore, as detailed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter, these activities could not be resubmitted/retaken/reassessed in the extraordinary assessment period.

Regarding the Final Assessment Test (AS1), its format (e.g., multiple choice, short questions, essay or essay questions, etc.), minimum mark, and weighting in the final grade (60%), will be the same in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment period.

If the Final Assessment Test does not achieve the required minimum grade, the final grade for the course will be the one obtained in this Final Assessment Test.

To pass the course, the weighted average obtained must be 5 or higher, as informed by the lecturer at the beginning of the quarter.

If the minimum required grade was achieved in the Final Assessment Test, but the weighted average with the remaining assessment activities is less than 5, the Final Assessment Test may be retaken/reassessed in the extraordinary assessment period to achieve a higher mark.

The mention "NO-SHOW" will be reserved for students who have not taken any assessment activity during the appropriate assessment period.

The assessment activities of AS1 will be retaken/reassessed on the official date of the extraordinary assessment period set by the University.

Additional notes and remarks

To take the assessment tests, students must bring an identity card (e.g., ID, passport, driver's license, or URJC student ID), which may be requested at any time.

The use of any bibliographic materials, as well as the use of electronic or communication devices such as tablets, PCs, mobile phones, e-books, etc., or any other type of device, is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the lecturer.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.

Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty



Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

VIII.-Teaching resources and materials

Basic bibliography

Ruiz-Rico Ruiz, José Manuel & Quesada Sánchez, Antonio José (eds.): Lessons in Tourism Law, Madrid, Tecnos, 2022

Holiday Law: The Law Relating to Travel and Tourism. Author: Grant D. & Mason S. Publisher: Sweet & Maxwell, London, UK (5th edition, 2012)

Gruberg, Martin: Introduction to Law, University Press of America, 2003

Jaap, Hage, Waltermann, Antonia & Akkermans, Bram (Eds.): Introduction to Law, 2nd ed., Cham (CH), Springer, 2017

Calster, Geert van: European private international law. Commercial litigation in the EU, 3rd ed., Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021

Beaumont, Paul & Holliday, Jayne (eds.): Guide to Global Private International Law, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021

Consultation bibliography

The Business of Tourism Management. Author: Beech J. & Chadwick S. (Ed.) Publisher: Pearson Education Limited, Harlow, UK (2006)

The Management of Tourism, Pender L. & Sharpley R. Publisher: SAGE Publications Ltd., London, UK (2005)

IX.-Professors

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E-mail address	rafael.martin.rivera@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Privado
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Ayudante Doctor/a
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorías póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	1
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docencia	2

