Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR LAW

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 29-06-2026

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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	4 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	3
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

This course examines international relations from the perspective of diplomatic and consular intercourse, particularly, it covers Spanish and European practice. This is an international legal regime basically established by four international treaties (the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations (1961), the Vienna Convention on consular relations (1963), the Convention on special missions and the Convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents (1973)). The Treaty on European Union is applicable to the EU institutions and Member States. Besides, customary international law and the so called 'comitas gentium' play an important role in the subject-matter. The recognition of diplomatic privileges and immunities contributes to the development of friendly relations among nations. And, this regime is used as a point of reference in the development of related areas of international law. As per Spanish legislation, the course also covers the Ley 2/2014 de la Acción y del Servicio Exterior del Estado.
Assigned readings will provide a rounded picture of the international responses to State practice. The course will be a combination of lectures and discussions.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG02. Students must be able to apply acquired knowledge to professional work and posses the skills that can be demonstrated by means of reasoning and defence, as well as problem-solving.
CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.
CE01. Students must acquire general knowledge on the source, development and nature of legal systems and protocols governing actions and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations in national and international scenarios.
CE12. Students must understand and be able to apply the rules and protocols of international relations between international participants and States.

- 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.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

The course is divided into four parts. First, the course explores the different entities representing States and international Organisations in the international arena. Second, it surveys the establishment of diplomatic missions, the performance of their functions, the members of the mission, their privileges and immunities, as well as the end of diplomatic functions. The course then moves on to an examination of special missions and multilateral diplomacy. Finally, the course will analyze the specifics of the consular institution, and so the differences between diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities.
Lesson 1: Diplomatic and consular relations in the international society.
Lesson 2: The creation of Diplomatic and Consular law.
Lesson 3: The codification process and the General Codifing Conventions.
Lesson 4: The applicaton of the Diplomatic and Consular law.
Lesson 5: The Diplomatic functions.
Lesson 6: The Diplomatic Mission and its members. The relationship activities of the Diplomatic Mission.
Lesson 7: The statute of the Diplomatic Mission.
Lesson 8: The statute of the members of the Diplomatic Mission.
Lesson 9: The Diplomacy in the International Organisations and the ad hoc diplomacy.
Lesson 10: The Consular functions.
Lesson 11: The Consular Office and its members.
Lesson 12: The Consular statute. The statute of the Consular Office and the statute of the members of the Consular Office.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Other activities	Movie about the subject
Other activities	Lecture of a Diplomat about his/her work

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	8
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	20
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	2
Academic tutorials	4
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	5
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	10
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	40
Preparation for tests and/or exams	1
Total student workload	90

VI.-Methodology and academic programme		
Type	**Period**	**Content**
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 14	Lectures
Practical sessions	Week 1 to Week 14	Discussions, cases, presentations

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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

Students performance will be evaluated on the basis of:
-A final exam: (50%)
-The resolution of practical exercises: (50%). All tests are reassessable.
The grading scheme for the extraordinary will be based on the same criteria.

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.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
Elieen DENZA, Diplomatic Law, Commentary on the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Oxford University Press, 2008
Ian Brownlie, Principles of Public International Law, Oxford University Press, 2008
Eduardo Vilariño Pintos, Curso de Derecho Diplomático y Consular, Madrid, Tecnos, 2018
José Antonio de Yturriaga Barberán, Los órganos del Estado para las relaciones exteriores. Compendio de Derecho Diplomático y Consular, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación, 2016 http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/Ministerio/EscuelaDiplomatica/Documents/160224Embajador%20Yturriaga%20Web.pdf
Antonio Pastor Palomar, "Embajadas y Consulados Compartidos. La práctica de España en el marco de la UE y de la Comunidad Iberoamericana de Naciones", Revista de Derecho Comunitario Europeo, 2016
José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, Curso de Derecho internacional público y Organizaciones internacionales, Madrid, Tecnos, 2019
Consultation bibliography

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	ÁNGELA TRUJILLO DEL ARCO
E-mail address	angela.trujillo@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público II
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Asociado/a
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	0
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	0

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