

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

International humanitarian law 420 (PUR 420)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Law
Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	Admission to the relevant programme and Final Year Academic Level.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Public Law
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

*For LLB

- What is international humanitarian law (the law of war)?: the distinction between ius ad bellum and ius in bello
- The historical development and sources of international humanitarian law (IHL)
- Different types of armed conflict: The distinction between international and non-international armed conflicts
- Distinction between combatants and civilians
- The prisoner of war (POW) status: soldiers, spies, mercenaries and guerrillas
- Conduct of hostilities: legal restraints on how war is to be waged (including the prohibition of certain weapons and the targets that may be engaged during hostilities)
- The distinction between genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes
- Winners or losers: war, international politics and the implementation of IHL
- The protection of women and children during armed conflict
- Accountability or impunity: the prosecution of war crimes by national courts, ad hoc tribunals (the ICTY and ICTR) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- The devil made me do it: superior orders and command responsibility during war
- The role of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant

yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.