

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE | Continuing Education Programme

# International Water Law and the Law of Transboundary Aquifers

19 September > 11 December 2016



In partnership with

**DIPLO**

With the support of



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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and Cooperation SDC



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DE DROIT



## Direction

- **Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.
- **Professor Makane M. Mbengue**, Faculty of Law and Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva.
- **Dr. Mara Tignino**, Platform for International Water Law and Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva.

## Coordination

- **Dr. Mara Tignino**.

## Partners

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
- DiploFoundation.



## Acquire solid competencies of legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water cooperation: rise to one of the major challenges for sustainable management and protection of fresh water resources

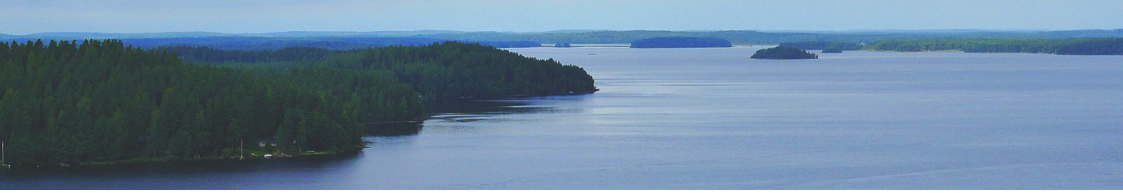
**T**he governance and protection of fresh water is one of the biggest challenges facing the planet over the next decade. With the steady increase of the world's population, urbanization and environmental degradation, the competing demands of the riparian States will continue to grow and amplify the risk of disputes.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the Agenda 2030 aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and to “implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation”. Instruments and norms of international water law are paramount to the achievement of the SDG 6 which will become crucial in coming years.

Legal knowledge and skills are required by professionals to negotiate and implement legal and institutional frameworks on transboundary water resources. The strengthening of capacities is essential for efficient and effective water cooperation and the sustainable management of water resources.

The e-Learning Programme on International Water Law combines legal knowledge and expertise with new technologies, stimulating dynamic interactions between the participants and experts, to equip participants with the required knowledge and skills.

This programme benefits from the University of Geneva Law Faculty's longstanding expertise in international law and its dedicated Platform for International Water Law, as well as from the inputs of the Geneva Water Hub experts.

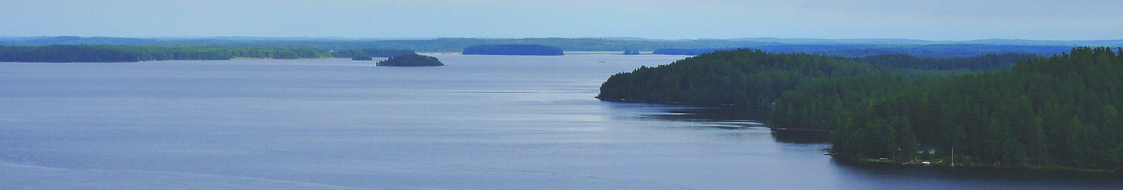


## Objectives

- To gain sound knowledge of international water law.
- To acquire an in-depth understanding of the multifaceted aspects related to the governance of water resources.
- To foster reflection allowing a more effective use of legal tools.

## Skills and competencies

- Interpret and apply the legal instruments, principles and norms of international water law in order to contribute to prevent and settle water disputes.
- Identify and use key instruments and principles of the law of transboundary aquifers.
- Explain the current legal developments in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to the creation of instruments promoting equitable access and sustainable use of water resources.
- Develop legal skills for the negotiation and implementation of fresh water agreements.
- Promote cooperation and prevent conflicts arising from water use and the sharing of fresh water resources.
- Promote and support public participation in water management issues.
- Create synergies among local, regional and international actors working on water issues, such as the United Nations and regional organizations.



## Audience

Professionals from different backgrounds including law, international relations, hydrology, engineering or economics. Government officials (diplomats, technical and scientific specialists working in transboundary water issues), international organizations staff, NGO, civil society representatives, academics and professionals from the private sector.

## Pedagogical approach

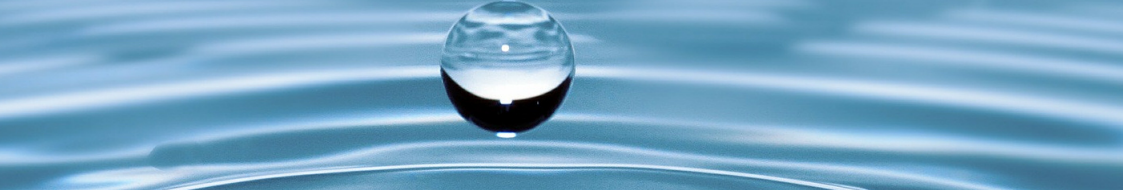
- A structured and flexible modular e-learning programme designed for professionals.
- A focus on theoretical and practical knowledge as well as hands-on experience with case studies.
- Interactive lessons, webinars, thought-provoking videos and an updated audio-visual library.
- Strong collaborative activities such as peer-reviews and discussion groups to facilitate learning.

## Tutoring and coordination

Personalized support and feedback is provided for all activities, both online and offline. An online tutor guides participants through their learning experience and facilitates collaborative work and knowledge exchange throughout the course.

## Evaluation modalities

All modules comprise online assessment exercises and written assignments. The final exam consists of a case study.



## Structure

The programme includes 6 thematic modules each one lasting one or two weeks and a 7<sup>th</sup> module consisting in the resolution of a case study. The completion of the programme corresponds to 4 ECTS credits equivalent to 120 learning and training hours.

A one-week module corresponds to 10-12 hours of teaching and learning per week including audiovisual material and reading of legal texts and literature. Depending on the module, the participants will have between 3-4 hours of online activities (i.e. discussion forums, quiz, answers to case-studies etc.) and an average of 6 hours of personal work (i.e. reading of legal texts and literature and preparation of online activities) per week.

A two-week module includes an average of 20 hours of learning and teaching.

The seventh module consists of about 10-12 hours of learning and teaching including the preparation of the final case study.

## **M<sub>odule</sub> 1 | Sources and Concepts of International Water Law**

1 week | 19-25 September 2016

11 hours | 4 hours online and 7 hours offline

- Explaining the characteristics of international actors in the development of international water law.
- Defining the sources of international water law.
- Comparing diplomatic and judicial methods for settling international water disputes.

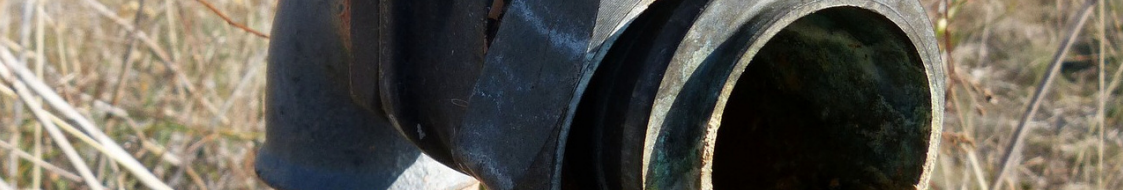
## **M<sub>odule</sub> 2 | The Evolution of International Regulation on Transboundary Water Resources**

2 weeks | 26 September-9 October 2016

19 hours | online and offline

- Analyzing the key aspects and scope of the 1997 Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- Describing the activities of the League of Nations, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the development of international water law.
- Differentiating between the work of the International Law Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).





## Module 3 | **The Law of Transboundary Aquifers**

2 weeks | 10-23 October 2016

23 hours | online and offline

- Understanding and analyzing the principles applicable to the management and protection of transboundary aquifers.
- Examining and assessing the relationship between the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on Transboundary Aquifers of 2008, the 1997 Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the Model Provisions on Groundwater Resources of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- Identifying the main rules of the existing agreements on transboundary aquifers.


## Module 4 | **The Principles of the Law on Transboundary Water Resources (1st part)**

2 weeks | 24 October-6 November 2016

21 hours | online and offline

- Examining the content of the principle of equitable and reasonable use, the obligation not to cause significant harm and the principle of cooperation.
- Discussing and providing examples of international judicial decisions dealing with international water law.
- Understanding the role and function of river basin organizations.





**M<sub>odule</sub> 5 | The Principles of the Law on Transboundary Water Resources (2nd part)**

2 weeks | 7-20 November 2016

21 hours | online and offline

- Explaining the role of water in international environmental law and human rights law.
- Defining and assessing the human right to water and sanitation.
- Identifying the norms on the protection of water during armed conflicts.

**M<sub>odule</sub> 6 | Water and International Economic Law**

1 week | 21-27 November 2016

13 hours | online and offline

- Understanding the linkages between water and international economic law.
- Differentiating between international trade law and international investment law.
- Defining the functions of *amicus curiae* in arbitrations dealing with water.

**M<sub>odule</sub> 7 | Case Study: Analysis and Legal Resolution**

1 week | 28 November-4 December 2016

10 hours | online and offline



# Application information

## Admission requirements

- A recognized University degree (Bachelor, Master, Ph.D or equivalent).
- Two years of relevant professional experience related to the management and protection of water resources.
- Fluency in English, particularly written and reading abilities.
- Applicants must have a computer and a reliable internet connection for the programme duration. They must possess basic computer skills such as navigating the Internet and using Microsoft Word.
- Applicants must submit a CV and a motivation letter explaining why the knowledge of international water law is relevant to their work and how it will be applied to carry out their professional duties.

## Selection process

- The selection is made by the Scientific Committee on the basis of candidates' academic qualifications and professional experience.
- A maximum of 35 participants will be selected to participate in the programme.

It is possible to register for modules 2, 3, 4 and 5 separately. However, priority is given to those candidates who will follow the whole programme.

## Tuition fees and scholarships

- The entire programme costs CHF 900.-
- An individual module costs CHF 130.-
- Scholarships are available for participants coming from developing countries.

## Application and registration deadlines

- For the entire programme: 12 September 2016.
- For modules 2 and 3: 19 September 2016.
- For modules 4 and 5: 18 October 2016.

Qualified candidates can apply for the whole course or individual thematic module(s) by completing the online form at

[www.unige.ch/formcont/waterlaw](http://www.unige.ch/formcont/waterlaw)

For more information

**Dr. Mara Tignino**

Platform for International Water Law | Geneva Water Hub

[www.unige.ch/droit/eau](http://www.unige.ch/droit/eau)

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