

VIU Graduate seminar **international Law in the age of AI and Cyber**

International Law in the Age of AI and Cyber

October 26-30, 2026

**Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

VIU Graduate Seminar

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Scientific Coordinator
Andrea Gattini,
University of Padua

VIU Global Challenges
Initiatives

In the last ten years, digitalization has been challenging fundamental categories of international law, such as State sovereignty, use of force and non-intervention in internal affairs, economic governance, and how they must be reconsidered and adapted to the digital domain. In this regard, the Graduate Seminar will investigate the practice of States, especially their stance on the application of international law to the cyber domain, as well as the initiatives of international organizations, among them a pivotal role is being played by the United Nations, which is striving to identify the content of applicable international law rules.

Besides a general perspective of international law, the Seminar will also take into account the digital strategy of some major global players, foremost the European Union, which has been a world-wide forerunner, in subjecting the use of AI to an intensive regulation, the AI Act, which entered into force on 1 August 2024. This legal instrument, however, has been met with severe criticisms in some quarters of civil society and industries, as well as from some third states Governments, notably the US. The Seminar will focus also on the possibly clashing positions from the Global North and the Global South in regulating the digital domain.

The Seminar is composed of four different blocks. First, it will investigate how AI and Cyber impact on the sources of international law, as well as on primary rights, such as sovereignty and intervention or the no-harm rule beyond the environment. Second, the Seminar will deal with the challenges posed by the AI and Cyber on economic governance and security, both internationally and domestically. Third, it will analyze how AI and Cyber are transforming traditional tenets of international humanitarian law, in light of the deployment and use of new technological devices in warfare. Finally, the Seminar will shed light on how the AI and Cyber may alter the traditional international law regime of attribution and responsibility, and the dispute settlement systems as we know them.

This Graduate Seminar will be led by

- University of Padua, Italy
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- University of Exeter, UK
- Waseda University, Japan

Faculty

Andrea Gattini, University of Padova

Gleider I. Hernández, KU Leuven

Mariko Kawano, Waseda University

Kubo Mačák, University of Exeter

Marco Dimetto, University of Padova

Aleksandra Kuczerawy, KU Leuven

Ana Beduschi, University of Exeter

Philippa Webb, University of Oxford

Andrea Crescenzi, National Research Council of Italy

Methodology

The Graduate Seminar will involve a combination of frontal lectures and interactive, and workshop-like activities. Open discussions with the participants will be stimulated and debates animated.

Topics

- AI and Cyber and sources of international law
- AI and Cyber and primary States' rights
- AI and Cyber and global economic governance
- AI and Cyber and security interests of States
- AI and Cyber and armed conflict
- AI and Cyber and humanitarian action
- AI and Cyber and State responsibility
- AI and Cyber and international dispute settlement

Learning outcomes for participants

Participants will learn to work in an international context, across different legal perspectives and approaches. Thanks to the Seminars, participants will get familiar with advanced notions of international law and how such notions must be reinterpreted, if not reconstructed, to face innovations brought about by digitalization.

Dealing with the impact of technologies, among them primarily AI, participants will also develop analytical skills to identify and eventually redress gaps in the legal regime of technological

sovereignty of States, as well as to ensure the safeguard of human rights in the digital environment. That presupposes an understanding of the nature and scope of international obligations incumbent upon States, and a full comprehension of the activities and role played by private actors (namely, tech companies) in providing for the most diverse ICT services to both States and individuals.

Who can apply?

This Graduate Seminar is offered to Master students, PhD students, and junior researchers with a background in International Law, EU Law, Public and Comparative Law, Criminal Law, Human Rights Law, Cybersecurity Sciences, Economics and Finance, Political Sciences, and International Relations. Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions; applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated.

Fees & Grant Support

Full fee waiver scholarships are available for a number of students from VIU member institutions. In addition, grant support is available to cover partially or fully the costs of international travel. Accommodation is provided free of charge.

The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is Euro 1.150 VAT included. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

Credits

Participation in the Graduate Seminar is considered equivalent to **2 ECTS**.

The program is available on the VIU website.

Applications

January 15– June 25, 2026 via the VIU website

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae, and a photo.

VIU Graduate Seminars

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines.

They are suited to both Master's and PhD students as well as junior researchers and are open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions. The young researchers will receive support in defining their research proposal. Significant cooperation among departments in the member institutions is expected.

Venice International University is a consortium of 23 institutions, representing 14 countries throughout the world. The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research, and training/capacity-building programs. Students from non-member institutions may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Location



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