

Global Alliances and Refugee Rights: An International Legal and Social Approach

UGRA_016227

Departments	Department of International, European Union and Comparative Law
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	6
Teacher responsible	Manolo Garbayo Garcia - manolo.garbayo@esade.edu

Course Goals

Course Goals

1. Understand the practical implications of international refugee law and the crucial roles within the context of human rights.
2. Work in teams and individually to design and develop social responsibility initiatives that directly support refugee populations and partner organizations.
3. Collaborate effectively with institutions, governments, universities, corporations, and international organizations in the context of a community service project.
4. Develop skills in research, policy analysis, and proposal development to address complex global challenges.
5. Reflect critically on the integration of refugees, forced migrants, and similar underserved populations.
6. Articulate and present practical, sustainable solutions through cross-sector collaboration.

Previous knowledge

No specific prerequisites are required to enroll in this course. Students are expected to have a general interest in international law, human rights, and social responsibility. A willingness to engage with real-world challenges and work collaboratively with diverse communities and organizations is important.

Prerequisites

Research and Analytical Skills: Students should possess research and analytical skills to actively engage in case discussions, policy analysis, and proposal development. These skills are essential for evaluating the information presented and contributing meaningfully to class projects.

Curiosity and Openness to Learning: Students are expected to bring intellectual curiosity and a genuine desire to explore complex social and legal realities beyond the traditional classroom. An open and adaptable

mindset toward new methodologies, perspectives, and ways of learning is key to making the most of this course.

Commitment to Active Participation and Teamwork: Since the course combines interactive lectures, debates, and workshop activities, students are expected to be committed to active participation. This includes a willingness to collaborate in diverse teams, engage constructively in discussions, and present projects and proposals effectively.

Teaching methodology

This course applies an active and participatory methodology, centered on Service-Learning and Project-Based Learning. Rather than passive reception of content, students are expected to engage directly with real-world challenges, partner organizations, and the communities they serve. The key methodological components are:

Service-Learning: Students engage directly with the refugee community and relevant organizations, applying academic knowledge to real-world challenges and generating positive social impact. Learning and service are inseparable throughout the course.

Project-Based Learning: Students develop impactful, feasible solutions with expert guidance, integrating legal theory with professional practice and the realities of partner organizations.

Experiential Learning: The course prioritizes learning through direct experience — interaction with refugees, NGO representatives, corporate leaders, policymakers, and international organizations grounds every concept in lived reality.

Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Work: Students work in diverse teams, bringing together different academic backgrounds and perspectives. Collaboration across disciplines and cultures is both a learning outcome and a working method throughout the course.

Continuous Assessment: Student progress and participation are evaluated continuously through constant feedback, ensuring sustained engagement and iterative improvement throughout the course.

Description

Course contribution to program

Course Contribution to the Program

This elective course aligns with ESADE Law School's mission to drive social impact through education, experience, and real-world problem-solving. It utilizes the ****Service-Learning**** methodology, offering an opportunity — replicable each semester — for students to engage in an innovative project

that connects legal professionals, international organizations, corporate volunteers, and refugees. Direct collaboration with corporations, supranational organizations, governmental bodies, and NGOs gives this initiative significant institutional and professional weight, integrating students into the global legal and humanitarian community.

Through this course, students will gain practical experience working with refugees and migrants, allowing them to understand their trajectories and challenges. They will deepen their understanding of international refugee law, human rights, and corporate social responsibility through lived experiences. Participation in this course not only implies a contribution to a project of social impact but also develops students' ability to work in interdisciplinary environments and prepares their careers with a strong component of social responsibility.

Transversal Competencies for 21st Century Law (Esade Law School)

The course is designed for students to develop a set of critical skills that define an excellent lawyer in the current environment. Beyond technical legal knowledge, this course cultivates the capacity to read the world with clarity and intellectual honesty — understanding the forces, inequalities, and human realities that shape the legal landscape. Students will be equipped with professional, social, and human tools to navigate complex challenges with rigor and purpose.

At its core, the course is built on the conviction that the best lawyers are not only competent, but also deeply aware of their role in society. Through direct engagement with refugees, NGO representatives, policymakers, and corporate leaders, students will develop the empathy and solidarity needed to lead with a human-centric approach. They will be challenged to think creatively, argue persuasively, and collaborate across disciplines and cultures — skills that are as essential in the courtroom as they are in the boardroom.

The course ultimately asks students to go beyond analysis and take a stand: to commit to the kind of social and political transformation that makes justice not just a concept, but a practice.

Short description

Global Alliances and Refugee Rights: An International Legal and Social Approach is a Service-Learning elective at ESADE Law School that connects students directly with refugees, NGOs, international organizations, and corporate partners. Combining international refugee law, human rights, and corporate social responsibility, students work to design feasible, real-world solutions that support refugee populations — culminating in projects that can be handed over to partners for actual implementation.

Bibliography

Guy S. Goodwin-Gill; Jane McAdam; Emma Dunlop, *The Refugee in International Law*, Oxford University Press, 978-0198808572 (Book)

Alexander Betts; Paul Collier, *Refuge: Rethinking Refugee Policy in a Changing World*, Oxford University Press, 978-0190659158 (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Debates and case discussions

Fieldwork

Engagement with NGOs and refugee testimonies

Group presentations

Team project presentations to experts and partners

Essays

Reflection reports and final reflective essay

Interaction with visiting guest professionals

Interactive lectures + guest speakers (UNHCR, government officials, researches, professors, corporate leaders)

Project development and presentation

Project scoping, design, and mentored development

Projects with companies and consulting projects

Team projects tailored to partner/NGO needs

Content

#	Topic
1	Introduction Introduction to the Course Present the syllabus, methodology, and course objectives.
2	Identification of the Need Methodology and Social Impact Introduce Service-Learning as a framework for civic engagement and community impact. Learn from initiatives developed by educational institutions.
3	Preparation International Refugee Law Build a solid foundation in international refugee law through guest lectures by UNHCR speakers, government officials, and policymakers. Cover the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, regional instruments, and the legal status of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.
4	Preparation Corporate Social Responsibility and Refugee Integration Learn from CSR initiatives implemented by Esade's corporate partners. Explore strategies for integrating CSR in support of refugees. Workshops on identifying opportunities for cross-sector engagement.
5	Preparation Learning from NGOs and Refugee Testimonies Direct engagement with NGO

#	Topic
5	representatives and refugees. Gather first-hand testimonies to enrich understanding of current challenges, protection gaps, and potential solutions.
6	Reflection Midterm Reflection and Assignments Structured individual and group reflection on lessons learned across the preparation phase. Written assignments to consolidate understanding and define project directions. Students receive feedback before entering the project phase.
7	Action Project Scoping and Design Students and teams are formed around distinct project typologies (NGO support, awareness campaigns, CSR materials, advocacy tools, etc.). Define objectives, scope, and target beneficiaries. Structured design workshops with expert mentorship.
8	Action Project Development Intensive project development across multiple sessions. Teams work on research, content, and design. Peer feedback rounds and mid-project review with the instructor. Final development sprint to consolidate proposals.
9	Demonstration Project Presentations and Review Students and teams present their projects to peers and the instructor, Instructor provides in-depth feedback. Teams incorporate feedback and finalize deliverables. Formal handover to partner organizations where applicable.
10	Celebration Final Reflection and Closing Reflect on the course's learnings and experiences. Assess how acquired skills and knowledge can be applied in future professional or academic contexts.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Teamwork with companies or other organizations	1. Attendance and Active Participation — Continuous presence in sessions and constructive contribution to debates, workshops, and collaborative activities will be valued. This includes engagement with guest speakers, quality of in-class discussions,	Ordinary round	0.40%
Individual or team exercises	2. Assignments and Project — Evaluation of the research, development, and feasibility of proposed solutions, including the midterm assignments, team project deliverables, and presentations.	Ordinary round	0.40%
Report/reflection during study tour	3. Individual Reflection Reports — Personal documentation of learnings, ethical reflections, and growth throughout the course. Students will submit	Ordinary round	0.20%

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
	periodic reflection notes and a final reflective essay.		

PROGRAMS

- 113-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
 - 113 Year 1 (Optative)
- 113S-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
 - 113S Year 1 (Optative)
- DD05-Double Degree Program (exchange) (Undergraduates: Law)
 - DD05 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GBD23 Year 3 (Mandatory)
 - GBD23 Year 1 (Mandatory)
- GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GDL20 Year 5 (Optative)
- GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GDL23 Year 1 (Mandatory)
 - GDL23 Year 5 (Mandatory)
- GED20-Bachelor in Law (Undergraduates: Law)
 - GED20 Year 3 (Optative)
 - GED20 Year 1 (Optative)