

Call for Applications

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE ROLE OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IN UNITED NATIONS FIELD MISSIONS

The Barcelona International Peace Centre (BIPC) and 2gedar-PeaceOps and Development Network are pleased to announce the *Intensive Course on the role of the Legal Affairs Officer in United Nations Field Missions*, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from **November 11-15, 2019**.

Overview

Legal Practice in United Nations Peacekeeping and Field Missions is very specialised and of very wide scope, requiring – in addition to a solid academic and practice legal background – command of the very specific circumstances of legal practice in Peacekeeping and Political Mission environments. A Legal Affairs Officer in a United Nations (UN) Field Mission is the source of advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on all legal aspects of the mission concept, the mission's mandate and its operational activities, as well as any issue of international and national laws. Legal Offices also provide advice on administrative, personnel, financial and procurement matters related to the missions operational activities. These include questions on the interpretation and application of UN regulations and rules, UN privileges and immunities, status of forces and mission agreements, legal relations with host country governments, third party claims against the UN, rules of engagement and International Humanitarian Law issues related to UN police and peacekeeping military forces. Legal Affairs Offices work in close collaboration with all substantive programmatic units within a mission, including rule of law, protection of civilians, human rights, civil and political affairs, peacekeeping intelligence, force commanders and police commissioners. The Senior Legal Adviser has the final authority over all legal matters at the Mission level and works directly with the Office of Legal Affairs at UN HQ.

A Legal Office is headed by a Senior Legal Adviser, usually at the D1 or P5 level, supported, depending on a Missions size by P4, P3, P2, UNVs, and National Legal Officers.

Objectives

This international training course will familiarize participants with the very practical elements of legal practice in peacekeeping and political missions of the UN, with UN Agencies Funds and Programmes. Likewise, it may benefit to those professionals working in national and international NGOs, development agencies and other stakeholders operating in field missions. In addition, it also aims to prepare participants for the recruitment processes as legal officers with the UN Secretariat and field missions. The overall objectives of the course are therefore to:

- Provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of legal practice in UN Field Missions;
- Receive extensive materials and practical guidance and insights from highly experienced current and former senior legal advisers and officers;
- Provide participants with effective tools in a highly specialised area of law;
- Prepare candidates for recruitment as UN legal officers.

Methodology

The course focuses on the technical aspects of the work of legal affairs officers and other fundamental skills that these Officers should apply in the field. The course format includes a combination of lectures, small group discussions, practical exercises and peer exchange of experiences.

Participants will be provided in advance with extensive range of documents and materials which they will be expected to become generally familiar with prior to their attendance to the course. The course itself will focus on the practical elements of the applicability of these materials to actual legal and field practice.

For whom is this course?

The course is designed to benefit lawyers wishing to become Legal Officers with United Nations Field Operations, UN Agencies Funds and Programmes, and would be of interest to legal officers in Ministries of Foreign Affairs dealing with UN portfolios, military and police legal officers contemplating peacekeeping and observation missions as part of their pre-deployment training, legal research institutes and other international organisations and donors supporting field missions.

Generally, participants will be expected and will be given priority to enrol if they hold a Law Degree qualifying for legal practice in any recognized jurisdiction, will be fully conversant with written and spoken English at a professional working level, and will have a minimum of 2 years PQE in the practice of law. Candidates not meeting all these criteria may be accepted at the discretion of the organizers and subject to availability of places.

Trainers

The organizers put great emphasis on delivering the course with a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary team. The course will be led by [Michela de Carli](#) and [Manuel Calzada](#). Michela de Carli has more than 15 years' legal experience with UN Peacekeeping, serving as a Legal officer in the Supreme Court of Kosovo with EULEX and as a Legal Officer with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Cote D'Ivoire, UNAMID, in Darfur, Sudan, and UNMISS in South Sudan. Manuel Calzada is the principal drafter of the course, based on previous experiences to train incoming legal officers. Manuel is currently Director of Legal Affairs with UNAMID, the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur, Sudan. Manuel brings over 20 years' experience working on legal and judicial with the United Nations and other international organizations. Other senior trainers and experts with experience in different programmatic areas will be brought in for particular sessions, to ensure a variety of approaches and perspectives. Guest trainers from international organisations will be brought in to share their experiences.

Dates & location

November 11-15, 2019 at Sant Felip Neri House in Barcelona, Spain. It will start at 9:00 on Monday 11 of November and end around 15:30 on Friday 15 of November.

Language & cost

The course will be taught in English. The course fee is 2000 Euros. This fee includes course materials, refreshments, and lunch. It does not include the cost of traveling to/from Barcelona, visa, accommodation, insurance, and other meals, such as dinner.

Please note that this course requires a minimum number of participants. Unfortunately, the organizers cannot provide any scholarships or waivers for the course fees, but we can provide participants with letters of support in obtaining sponsorship, within the participant's country of residence or work. We can provide logistical assistance and letters in support of participants' visa applications upon request. Payment arrangement information will be included in acceptance letters.

Upon registration, the organizers will provide information about different accommodation options, including within the venue where the course will take place.

How to Apply

The application deadline is the **1st October 2019**, but acceptance onto the course will be granted on a rolling basis. To apply for the course, please submit your current Curriculum Vitae and the completed application form to Eva Lopez, course coordinator, at info@bcnpeacecenter.org. Please see the enclosed application form for further details. Alternatively, it can be downloaded [here](#).

If you have any questions about the application process, program, or logistics, please contact Eva Lopez at info@bcnpeacecenter.org

ABOUT US

Barcelona International Peace Center (BIPC) – www.bcnpeacecenter.org

The Barcelona International Peace Center (BIPC) is the outcome of an initiative to promote the culture of peace through dialogue, awareness-raising, and training in crisis management and conflict resolution. Created in 2009, the BIPC is the only center of its kind in Spain. Its work is inspired by the philosophy of centers around the world specializing in crisis management and peace operations. The BIPC's main activity is an international specialised training program designed to meet the extensive learning needs of civilian personnel and to equip them with the skills they need to engage in field operations around the world. The center offers a range of training courses aimed at professionals working in peacebuilding, complex crisis management, and humanitarian affairs.

2GEDAR PeaceOps & Development Network - www.2gedar.com

2gedar PeaceOps & Development Network designs and presents specialist, practical and hands-on training programs in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and public development sectors. Our courses aim to prepare participants for the realities of actual field needs. Our courses and presentations seek to provide the required skills to successfully face entrance examinations and interview requirements into United Nations and UN Agencies, Funds and programs, each course focused on a very specific area of practice and occupational group. Specialized courses are also designed for pre-deployment training of peacekeeping missions' troop and police contingents.

Practice areas include political, legal affairs, protection, emergency response, security, intelligence, mission support and logistics, human rights, rule of law, civil affairs, gender, ethics and SEA, human resources, and internal justice processes.