

## 1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
Degree	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LAW
School/Faculty	SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LAW
Year	FOURTH
ECTS	6
Type	OPTIONAL
Language(s)	SPANISH
Delivery Mode	ON CAMPUS
Semester	FIRST SEMESTER

## 2. INTRODUCTION

In this subject area we will study the practical application of concepts and legislation on environmental impact assessment and management in relation to human activities. We will also examine international law on the environment and the general and procedural principles that underpin it.

With regard to the current global context, where sustainable development and sustainability have become one of the great challenges of society in order to make socio-economic growth compatible with environmental protection, this subject area deals with the main aspects of **environmental impact assessment and management**. Students will learn about international, national and regional laws on environmental impact assessment, studying different concepts related to the environment and management tools such as ISO14000, 14001, the EMAS system, etc. Furthermore, the theoretical framework will be coordinated with practice so that students will learn simple techniques in their daily work, in order to help develop more environmentally sustainable personal, family and work lifestyles through workshops and practical exercises that will form part of the subject area.

Assessing the environmental impact of projects and activities is a fundamental requirement for the approval of such activities, and for the measurement of such impact according to international legislation.

This subject area also deals with basic concepts of environmental impact management in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## 3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Basic skills (CB, by the acronym in Spanish):**

- CB1: Students have demonstrated possession and understanding of knowledge in a study area that builds on general secondary education, and is typically at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.
- CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work professionally and possess the necessary skills, usually demonstrated by forming and defending opinions, as well as resolving problems within their study area.
- CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant information (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.
- CB4: Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- CB5 - Students have developed the learning skills necessary to undertake further study in a much more independent manner.

**Cross-curricular skills (CT, as per the Spanish acronym):**

- CT02: Self-confidence: Students should be able to act with confidence and with sufficient motivation to achieve their objectives.
- CT01 - Responsibility: Students should be able to accept the consequences of and take responsibility for their own actions.
- CT04 - Communication skills: Students should be able to effectively express concepts and ideas, as well as possess clear and concise written communication skills and effective public speaking skills.
- CT07: Teamwork: Students should be able to actively participate in achieving a common objective by listening, respecting and valuing the ideas and proposals of the other members of their team.

**Specific skills (CE, as per the Spanish acronym):**

- CE05: Understand law as a systematic, coherent whole, with awareness of topics of social, economic and environmental interest.
- CE06: Deliver a convincing legal argument with regard to a theoretical question related to one of the different areas of law.
- CE12: Develop critical awareness in the study of the legal system.

**Learning outcomes (RA, as per the Spanish acronym):**

R.1: Description of terms and concepts through lectures and autonomous learning (0.5 ECTS).

R.2: Reading and commentary of documents through autonomous learning (0.5 ECTS).

R.3: Literature reviews by means of autonomous learning. (0.5 ECTS).

R.4: Practical applications of theory through problem-based learning. (1 ECTS)

R.5: Quality circles through Case Studies (1 ECTS).

R.6: Completion of management reports and use of management tools through problem-based learning (1 ECTS).

R.7: Guided preparation of projects using lectures and problem-based learning (2 ECTS).

The following table shows how the skills developed in the course match up with the intended learning outcomes:

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB5, CT01, CT02, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA1: Description of terms and concepts through lectures and autonomous learning.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB5, CT01, CT02, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA2: Reading and commentary of documents through autonomous learning.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT01, CT02, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA3. Literature reviews using autonomous learning.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT01, CT02, CT04, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA4: Practical applications of theory through problem-based learning.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT01, CT02, CT04, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA5: Quality circles through case studies.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT01, CT02, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA6. Completion of management reports and use of management tools through problem-based learning.
CB1, CB 2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CT01, CT02, CT04, CE05,CE06, CE12	RA7. Guided preparation of projects using lectures and problem-based learning.

## 4. CONTENTS

The contents focus on the knowledge and application of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure in projects.

The aim is for students to know the scope of the EIA in decision-making in companies and organisations.

The contents also cover environmental impact assessment through the application of predictive methods.

Students will also learn about project planning and design of preventive, corrective and compensatory measures.

Finally, environmental impact management will be studied from a legal and economic point of view, introducing students to the area of analysis and legal advice in organisations and companies.

The subject area is divided into units, which are further divided into topics (four or five depending on each unit). Each unit is taught over 1-2 weeks.

**Unit 1. The environment and environmental management. Basic terminology.**

**Sources of international law, general and procedural principles in environmental matters.**

- Introduction. The environment and environmental management.
- Environment: Definition.
- Development and the environment.
- Sustainable development.
- Main sources of international law, general and procedural principles in environmental matters.
- Environmental management. Environmental management instruments.
- Growing demands for environmental regulation.

**Unit 2. National legislation on environmental impact. Conceptual, legal and institutional framework.**

- Introduction to environmental planning and management. Environmental impact assessment in the context of environmental management.
- Legal framework. Introduction to Environmental Law. Law on environmental impact assessments.
- Institutional framework. Administrative proceedings. Surveillance and accountability. Projects subject to environmental impact assessment.
- General method of carrying out environmental impact assessments.

**Unit 3. European legislation and environment/environmental impact agreements.**

**Unit 4. Environmental impact assessment.**

- Background knowledge.
- Administrative proceedings.
- Contents of an environmental impact assessment.
- Description of a project with an environmental impact.
- Environmental inventory.
- Environmental effects.

**Unit 5. Methods of identifying and assessing impact.**

- Protective, corrective and compensatory measures
- Environmental surveillance programmes.

**Unit 6. Environmental management.**

- Environmental management system.
  - Initial environmental review.
  - The standard.
  - Compliance with the law. Reference to environmental objectives.
  - Records.
  - Documentation control.
  - Operational control.
  - Corrective and protective action.

**Unit 7. Environmental audit.**

- Objectives of the environmental management system audit.
- Phases of the environmental management system audit.
- Audit methodology.

**Unit 8. The European framework. EMAS Regulation.**

- Environmental statement.
- Institutional process for registering organisations according to the EMAS Regulation.
- Implications of the EMAS Regulation on society.
- Community eco-label award scheme.

## 5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

- Case studies
- Collaborative learning
- Problem-based learning
- Lecture
- Mock scenarios

## 6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The types of learning activities, plus the amount of time spent on each activity, are as follows:

**On-campus:**

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	25
Link theoretical and practical content with current legal/social reality.	17.5
Activities aimed at raising students' awareness of ethical values and social responsibility.	50
Autonomous learning	5
Academic tutorials	10
Solve practical case studies that relate to a certain branch of law (real and fictional)	25

Development of legal argumentation technique.	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 h</b>

## 7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment methods, plus their weighting in the final grade for the course, are as follows:

Assessment system	Weighting
Essays and reports.	30%
Presentations.	20%
Practical exercises.	10%
Knowledge tests.	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

On the Virtual Campus, when you open the subject area, you can see all the details of your assessment activities, including the deadlines and assessment procedures for each activity.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

La Protección del Medio Ambiente en el Ámbito Internacional y de la Unión Europea. Autores: José Juste Ruíz y Mireia Castillo. Ed. Tirant Lo Blanch.

### 9.1.2,- DECLARACIONES, CONFERENCIAS Y PROTOCOLOS INTERNACIONALES:

- Declaración de Estocolmo sobre el Medio Humano, 1972  
<http://www.upv.es/contenidos/CAMUNISO/info/U0579218.pdf>
- Declaración de Río de Janeiro sobre Medioambiente y Desarrollo 1992  
<https://www.un.org/spanish/esa/sustdev/documents/declaracionrio.htm>
- Protocolo de Kioto sobre el cambio climático, 1997  
<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpspan.pdf>
- Declaración de Johannesburgo sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible, 2002  
<http://www.upv.es/contenidos/CAMUNISO/info/U0667148.pdf>
- Conferencia de la Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo Sostenible (Río + 20)  
[811MVOTMA - Documento hacia Rio 20.pdf \(un.org\)](811MVOTMA - Documento hacia Rio 20.pdf (un.org))
- Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, Durbán (Sudáfrica) 2011.  
<http://istas.net/descargas/1145091.pdf>

### 9.1.3,- WEB OFICIALES:

- 9.2.1.- Página oficial de la Unión Europea en materia de Medioambiente  
[https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/actions-topic/environment\\_es](https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/actions-topic/environment_es)
- Página oficial del Ministerio de la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO). Gobierno de España.  
<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/>

#### 9.2.- GESTIÓN E IMPACTO AMBIENTAL:

- **Ley 21/2013**, de 9 de diciembre de Evaluación Ambiental.
- **Directiva 2014/52/UE** del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo de 16 de abril relativa a la evaluación de las repercusiones de determinados proyectos públicos y privados sobre el medio ambiente.
- **Convenio** sobre evaluación del impacto en el medio ambiente en un contexto transfronterizo, hecho en Espoo en 1991.
- **Evaluación y gestión ambiental**. Capítulo 7. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.  
<https://upcommons.upc.edu/bitstream/handle/2099.1/5815/07.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y>
- Evaluación del impacto ambiental. FAO 2012 <http://www.fao.org/3/i2802s/i2802s.pdf>
- Curso NNUU integración de la información de riesgo climático en los PNA  
<https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=97&page=overview>
- Curso de la UPV sobre evaluación de impacto ambiental  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6kQim6ljTJtsZCSfXG44zDgSIOuViLX6>
- Curso de la UPV sobre procedimientos administrativos de la Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental (EIA)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE-i-kPDCoc&list=PL6kQim6ljTJtsZCSfXG44zDgSIOuViLX6&index=2&t=231s>

## 9. PLAGIARISM RULES

In line with the disciplinary rules for students of Universidad Europea:

- Plagiarism of all or part of any kind of intellectual work is considered a serious offence.
- Any student who commits the serious offence of plagiarism or cheating to pass an assessment test shall be disqualified from the corresponding exam(s), with the offence and reason for disqualification appearing on their academic record.