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INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



IMLI COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

(26 MARCH-8 MAY 2026)

IMO International Maritime Law Institute

OVER 35 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

SYNOPSIS

The fluidity and complexity of modern maritime security challenges demand an in-depth understanding of the law of the sea, maritime law, and national policies and regulations before formulating responses. Newly emerging challenges and transformed threats, including maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the use of unmanned vessels, remain largely unregulated under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

This has necessitated the adoption of various international conventions and protocols. Hence, the need for such a comprehensive Course. The Course also addresses the protection of offshore installations and the coasts of maritime States, highlighting the contribution of international organizations, particularly the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the importance of regional cooperation.

Additionally, it examines the special status of warships and explores the jurisprudential contributions of international courts and tribunals to

to this branch of law.

The Course offers participants—senior government officials and shipping executives—the opportunity to interact with professionals in an academic atmosphere, reinforcing their knowledge, skills, and proficiency in international maritime security law.

By the end of the Course, participants are expected to be equipped with theoretical, legal and strategic operational knowledge, enabling them to respond to and advise the industry, maritime forces, and government departments on maritime security-related issues. The IMLI Course on International Maritime Security Law has been specifically designed to address critical maritime security threats to the international rule of law at sea and the freedom of navigation. It provides an in-depth analysis of these threats, existing international laws, and the legal framework and State practices aimed at deterring them.



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OPENING CEREMONY:

- Welcoming Address by **Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez** (Director, IMLI)
- Inaugural Address by **Mr. Damien Chevallier** (Director, Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organization)

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:

Part I: The Foundations of Maritime Security Law

- **Introduction to Maritime Security Law** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI)
- **Maritime Criminal Jurisdiction** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Warships** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Right of Approach and Visit** – Professor James Kraska (Chairman and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, Stockton Center for International Law, US Naval War College)
- **Right of Hot Pursuit** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel

Part II: Core Maritime Security Threats and Responses

- **Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Use of Force against Pirates** – Professor Robert McLaughlin (Australian National University, Canberra)
- **Prosecution of Pirates** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Maritime Terrorism** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Use of Force** – Mr. Philippe Hermes (TBC)
- **Legality of Enforcement Activities** – Judge Dr. Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea)
- **Port Security Threats** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **ISPS Code** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel



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- **Intentional and Unlawful Damage to Marine Environment** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **Drugs and Arms Trafficking at Sea** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **Slave Trade and Unauthorised Broadcasting** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **IUU Fishing and Related Crimes** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **FAO International Fisheries Law and Ensuring Compliance Thereof**– Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Chief, Development Law Service, Food and Agriculture Organization)
- **Enforcement Cooperation in Combating IUU** – Professor Stuart B. Kaye (Director, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, University of Wollongong)
- **Mixed Migration, Human Smuggling and Stowaways** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **Search and Rescue and Mixed Migration** – Professor Patricia Vella de Fremeaux (Head, Department of International Law, University of Malta)
- **The Duty to Render Assistance at Sea: Balancing Safety Obligations with Security Concerns** – Dr. Felicity Attard (Senior Lecturer, Department of International Law, University of Malta)
- **Search and Rescue Operations** – Brigadier Clinton J. O'Neill (Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta)

Part III: New Frontiers and Future Challenges

- **Wildlife Smuggling at Sea** – Mr. Watchara Chiemanukulkit (Chief, International Affairs Division, Marine Department, Thailand)
- **Cybersecurity in Maritime Domain** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhhal
- **Autonomous Ships and Maritime Crimes** – Professor Anna Petrig (Research Dean and Chair of International Law and Public Law, University of Basel)
- **Dark Fleet: Legal and Security Challenges** – Mr. Martin Cauchi-Inglott (Director of the Global Centre for Maritime Sanctions Monitoring and Project Director for CRIMARIO II)



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- **Fraudulent Ship Registration** – Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO)
- **Geopolitical Impact of Sanctions on Shipping** - Professor Henning Jessen (Professor, The Nippon Foundation Chair in Maritime Law and Digital Change)
- **Submarine Cables and Pipelines** – Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel
- **Regulating Submarines under International Law** – Professor Natalie Klein (Associate Dean (Academic, UNSW Faculty of Law and Justice)
- **Sea Level Rise and Security** – Dr. Antoine Grima (Head of the Department, Environmental & Resources Law, Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta)

Part IV: Governance and International Cooperation

- **Government Responsibilities in Maritime Security** – Mr. Andrew Clarke (Technical Officer, Maritime Security Section, Maritime Safety Division, Maritime Safety Division, IMO)
- **IMO Model on the Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security** – Mr. Andrew Clarke
- **UN Security Council and Maritime Peace** – H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier (Under-Secretary-General, SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations)
- **EU's Perception of Maritime Security and Challenges in Protecting the Common Domain** – (EMSA) (TBC)
- **Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy** – Dr. Ali Kamal-Deen (Director-General, Ghana Maritime Authority)
- **Maritime Security Challenges in South America** – Admiral Hermann Aicardo León Rincón (Rear Admiral, Colombian Navy)
- **IMO's Response to Maritime Security Threats** – Mr. Jeremy Greenwood, Head of Maritime Security Section, Maritime Security Section Maritime Safety Division



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Course is highly recommended for officials of maritime administrations, navies and coast guards, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other security agencies involved directly or indirectly in maritime security affairs. It will also be beneficial for professionals involved in the maritime industry including lawyers, port officers, marine insurers, shipowners, and operators.

The Course will be delivered in hybrid mode. Candidates who attend 80 per cent of the lectures will be eligible for a certificate of attendance.

TUITION FEE

€2,150

To apply, please contact us by no later than 25 March 2026 at admissions@imli.org

Bearing in mind that eminent personalities from all over the world deliver lectures in the Institute's programmes, candidates applying to the programme are required to be flexible as the dates of lectures may be subject to change. The Institute reserves the right to make changes to the programme.

For more information on the Institute and its programmes and courses, visit <https://imli.org/>

