

THE INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LAW DEPARTMENT OF UTRECHT UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A
NEW SUMMER SCHOOL ON

UNILATERAL SANCTIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IN GLOBAL POLITICS

FROM 14 TO 18 JULY 2025

This course will introduce participants to the various legal and policy aspects of unilateral sanctions under international law. Distinguishing unilateral sanctions from UN Security Council measures, it will focus on questions under international law that arise under jurisdiction and human rights law. It will also focus on the EU's restrictive measures as well as how 'non-Western' states perceive unilateral sanctions, and include the effectiveness of sanctions at enforcement international norms.

Description

Over the years, unilateral sanctions have been making the headlines. Such measures are to be distinguished by sanctions adopted by an international organization against its member states, such as UN Security Council sanctions. Undoubtedly, the most reported upon sanctions are those adopted by the EU and the US against Russia for its aggression against Ukraine. These measures are frequently referred to as 'unprecedented'. Actors adopting sanctions have gone out of their way to impose maximum costs on Russia by freezing its Central Bank assets, blocking its access to SWIFT, prohibiting import of Russian goods, etc. To ensure third states comply with their restrictions, they have progressively extended their jurisdictional reach.

Whereas there is much commentary on these measures' effectiveness and political implications, there is very little discussion on these measures' legality. How far can states and organizations, such as the EU, go when imposing such measures? Are there any limits under general international law that these actors should be aware of lest their responsibility can be invoked? Importantly, one should ask how unilateral sanctions influence and shape international politics? What is their impact on the 'international order', and are they an effective at enforcing, or at least promoting, international norms?

Aim of the course

The course aims to equip students with the knowledge on the current legal regime that governs unilateral sanctions, including not only its certainties but also its grey areas and controversies.

It is suitable for those who plan to study, or work in, the field of unilateral sanctions. The course will also be beneficial to those who already work in this field and who want to deepen their knowledge.

Target audience

The course targets (advanced) students with a basic knowledge and understanding of public international law. For this reason, it is best suited to those who have a degree in public

international law or who have followed a course during their studies. It is also open to professionals of different disciplines who have experience with international law and/or issues relating to its enforcement.

Please contact the course director in case of doubt.

Study load

One intensive week (Monday to Friday) of interactive lectures, research visits and presentations.

Agenda

All lectures will take place at Janskerkhof 2-3, room 019.

Monday, 14 July		
12h30 to 13h	<i>Registrations and introduction, including a lunch</i>	Lunch provided by Utrecht University
13h15 to 15h	<i>Lecture</i>	Unilateral sanctions under public international law, Dr Alexandra Hofer
15h15 to 17h	<i>Lecture</i>	Unilateral sanctions and the principle of non-intervention, Felipe Silvestre (UGent)
Tuesday, 15 July		
11h to 12h45	<i>Lecture</i>	Sanctions adopted by International Organizations, Prof. Maruša Veber (University of Ljubljana)
13h15 to 15h	<i>Lecture</i>	The EU's restrictive measures, Celia Challet (UGent)
15h15 to 17h	<i>Lecture</i>	Sanctions' Circumvention, Francesca Finelli (University of Luxembourg)
Wednesday, 16 July		
11h to 12h45	<i>Lecture</i>	Extraterritorial sanctions, Prof Cedric Ryngaert and Nashab Parvez
14h to 16h	<i>Excursion to the Dutch MFA in the Hague</i>	Please bring your <u>passport</u>.

	Unfortunately, if you have selected the online option, it will not be possible to follow this meeting. This is due to technical limitations at the Dutch MFA.	<p>If you are an EU national an identity card is sufficient.</p> <p>It is assumed that all in-person participants will attend this session; if this is not the case, please inform Alexandra Hofer.</p>
Thursday, 17 July		
11h to 12h45	<i>Lecture</i>	Unilateral sanctions and human rights, with Dr Machiko Kanetake
13h15 to 15h	<i>Guest lecture</i>	The humanitarian consequences of sanctions, with Mohammad Kanfash
15h15 to 17h	<i>Lecture</i>	Unilateral sanctions as a tool of enforcement in the international system, Dr Alexandra Hofer
17h15 onwards	<i>Drinks at Hoffman</i>	
Friday, 18 July		
11h to 16h	<i>Final activity – more details to follow</i>	