## Module description: International NGO Law and Policy Project

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| **Module Code** | w.BA.XX.2NGOPro.XX |
| **ECTS Credits** | 3 |
| **Language of Instruction/Examination** | English |
| **Module Description** | The International NGO Law and Policy Project (INLPP) provides free legal, policy, research, communications, and advocacy services to NGOs and nonprofits around the world. INLPP clients include human rights organizations in Switzerland and globally. Although our legal expertise is limited to questions of Swiss, U.S. and international law, our policy-related research and advocacy expertise is global in scope. The work is conducted primarily in English. The INLPP is staffed by students in the ZHAW's School of Management and Law working under the supervision of the Director, Dr. Nyasa Steger. The INLPP provides ZHAW students with an opportunity to use the knowledge and skills developed through their academic coursework to solve real-world challenges for clients. ZHAW students provide client services to NGOs and nonprofits working in a wide range of cultural, political, and legal environments. Students collaborate in assigned groups to develop teamwork, interview, and problem-solving skills through research, writing, communication, advocacy, and creative thinking in order to meet the clients' needs. |
| **Organizational Unit** | Abteilung Business Law |
| **Module Coordinator** | Nyasa Lisa Steger |
| **Program and Specialization** | • Elective module (see module table) |
| **Legal Framework** | Academic Regulations BSc dated 29.01.2009, for the degree programs in Business Administration, International Management, Business Information Technology, Business Law, Business Law and Applied Law, first adopted on 12.05.2009 |

| **Module Category** | **Module Type** Compulsory Elective | **Program Phase** Main Study Period |
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| **Prerequisite Knowledge** | A proficient command of the English language written and spoken is required. Previous coursework in legal English, public international law, and legal systems, and Anglo-American law is helpful but not required. |
| **Contribution to Program Learning Objectives (by the concerned Module)** | • Professional Competence<br>• Methodological Competence<br>• Social Competence<br>• Self-Competence |
| **Contribution to Program Learning Objectives** | **Professional Competence**<br>• Knowing and Understanding Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance<br>• Apply, Analyze, and Synthesize Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance<br>• Evaluate Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance<br>**Methodological Competence**<br>• Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking<br>• Scientific Methodology<br>• Work Methods, Techniques, and Procedures<br>• Information Literacy<br>• Creativity & Innovation<br>**Social Competence**<br>• Written Communication<br>• Oral Communication<br>• Teamwork & Conflict Management<br>• Intercultural Insight & Ability to Change Perspective<br>**Self-Competence**<br>• Self-Management & Self-Reflection<br>• Ethical & Social Responsibility<br>• Learning & Change |

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| **Module Learning Objectives** | Students...<br>• acquire professional competence.<br>• acquire social competence.<br>• acquire methodological competence.<br>• acquire self-competence. |
| **Module Content** | • Client relations, legal and policy research and analysis, oral and written communications, complex problem-solving, advocacy, cross-cultural understanding, and teamwork. We will provide professional services in English to a variety of potential NGOs in Switzerland and globally. |
| **Links to other modules** | This module is linked to the following modules: |
| **Digital Learning Resources** | • Teaching Materials |
| **Methods of Instruction** | • Explorative Learning<br>• Literature Review<br>• Problem-Oriented Teaching<br>• Interactive Instruction<br>• Case Studies<br>• Application Tasks<br>• Project Work — Social Settings Used:<br>• Pair Work<br>• Group Work<br>• Individual Work |

**Type of Instruction**

| | Classroom Instruction | Guided Self-Study | Autonomous Self-Study |
|---|---|---|---|
| Large Class | - | - | |
| Small Class | - | - | |
| Group Instruction | 14 h | - | |
| Practical Work | - | 70 h | |
| Seminar | 6 h | - | |
| **Total** | **20 h** | **70 h** | **0 h** |

**Performance Assessment**

| End-of-module exam | Form | Length (min.) | Weighting |
|---|---|---|---|
| - | | | |
| **Permitted Resources** | | | |

| Others | Assessment | Format | Length (min.) | Weighting |
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| Written Assignment | Grade | Gruppenarbeit | 0 | 50.00 |
| Timesheet, journal reflection, teamwork, problem-solving, weekly meetings, personal engagement, and work contributions | Grade | Einzelarbeit | 0 | 25.00 |
| Talk/oral presentation | Grade | Gruppenarbeit | 15 | 25.00 |

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| **Classroom Attendance Requirement** | 100%<br><br>Attendance is expected for all seminar (all-class) instruction and during the weekly supervision meetings with the group and the Director. In some cases, remote/hybrid attendance may be acceptable, but the majority of attendance is expected in person. There is one required pre-semester all-class meeting (online). This meeting will take place approximately two weeks prior to the start of the semester. |
| **Compulsory Reading** | |

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| **Recommended Reading** | |
| **Comments** | This project-based module generally follows a standard 14-week semester schedule through a combination of in-person and virtual engagement among student teams, the Project Director, and NGO clients.<br><br>There is a mandatory pre-semester class meeting (online), two weeks before the start of the semester.<br>• **Pre-Semester Class Meeting:** One pre-semester all-class meeting, two weeks before the start of the semester (online). During this meeting, students are assigned to client organizations and project groups. After this class meeting, during the two weeks leading up to the start of the semester, students are expected to prepare for the semester by learning about their clients, engaging in background research and project planning.<br>Students are required to participate in three additional structured all-class meetings throughout the semester:<br>• **Mid-Semester All-Class Meeting:** These meetings focus on identifying challenges, group problem-solving, and receiving feedback on work-in-progress presentations. This class meeting also covers key themes such as intercultural collaboration and cultural competency.<br>• **Final Presentations – Final Two Weeks of Semester:** Each group presents its work, reflects on the project experience, and discusses issues encountered (e.g., defining project scope, managing client expectations, obtaining feedback), along with strategies used to address them.<br><br>**Independent Work Requirement**<br>In addition to the all-class seminars and the weekly supervision meetings with the Director, students are expected to dedicate at least 5 hours per week to independent, substantive work on their client assignments. This includes regular communication with group members and clients, as well as research, drafting, and preparation tasks related to the project deliverables. |