

LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Environmental law is a dynamic and rapidly evolving field. This structured LLM by coursework develops advanced knowledge of environmental law and governance, with critical engagement with the concepts, principles, cases and debates shaping the field in South Africa, Africa and internationally.

FIVE ELECTIVE MODULES

1

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (IEL 812)

Explore how South Africa's environmental right is given practical effect through NEMA, sectoral legislation and governance across the three spheres of government, with particular attention to environmental litigation, compliance and enforcement.

2

ANIMAL LAW AND RIGHTS (CLL 821)

Examine the changing legal status of animals through questions of sentience, dignity, eco-ubuntu, legal personhood and rights, while comparing emerging approaches to animal governance across the Global South and North.

3

CLIMATE LAW AND GOVERNANCE (CLL 818)

Engage with the rapidly evolving law of climate change, from the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and African regional frameworks to South Africa's Climate Change Act 22 of 2024, while exploring climate litigation, the just transition, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and climate justice from a Global South perspective.

4

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND NATURE (CLL 819)

Discover how constitutional law is responding to changing understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world, through South Africa's environmental rights framework, comparative developments in animal rights, and the growing recognition of the rights of Nature.

5

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (IEL 811)

Trace the development of international environmental law from Stockholm 1972 to today, exploring the treaties, institutions and principles governing climate change, biodiversity, oceans and pollution, alongside international and African courts, tribunals, advisory opinions and the reception of international law in South Africa.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Law graduates seeking to specialise in environmental, climate or animal law; legal practitioners, government officials and regulators; professionals in civil society, industry and international organisations; and graduates of the UWC PGDip in Environmental Law and Management.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

A structured LLM offered full-time or part-time, combining coursework with a research paper or mini-thesis. Seminars are taught online, allowing students to participate remotely.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- An LLB or equivalent legal qualification, subject to the Faculty's LLM/MPhil admission requirements.
- A minimum average of 60% over the final two years of the LLB or equivalent degree. Applicants with an average of 65% or higher receive priority in the selection process.

APPLY NOW

www.uwc.ac.za/admission-and-financial-aid/apply

ENQUIRIES

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