

## **Graduate Diploma in International Economic Law**

### **1. Background**

The proposal is for a new Graduate Diploma in International Economic Law. Students who enrol in the new Graduate Diploma will be required to complete four subjects from a list of current and newly developed subjects in the postgraduate curriculum. The existing subject "Principles of International Law" will be compulsory for most candidates and will be required to be completed before any optional subjects.

The proposed new course reflects a growing interest and demand for scholarship and teaching in the field of international economic law within Australia. This demand has heightened in recent years given Australia's prominent role in the current WTO "Doha" negotiations as well as the conclusion of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement and the debate surrounding the negotiations towards an Australia-China trade agreement. It is expected that the Graduate Diploma will attract significant interest from members of the Australian legal profession as well as policy officers in government including staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

There is also a growing interest in this field in many of the countries in South-East Asia. This demand stems from such diverse impacts as the systemic causes of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s as well as a proliferation of bilateral trade agreements and accession processes into the WTO by countries as diverse as Vietnam, Cambodia, China Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. There is a scarcity of organized programs directed at international economic law in many of the countries of South-East Asia. It is expected that the Graduate Diploma will meet this latent demand for teaching in this growing field.

There are very few programs organized and directed towards the study of international economic law in Australia. One notable centre for study and research in this field is the Institute for International, Business, Economics & Law at the University of Adelaide ("IIBEL"). The IIBEL was formed in late 2002 and has a growing profile in the field, in part, due to its direction by Andrew Stoler, a former Deputy Director-General of the WTO. Despite its profile, the IIBEL has tended to focus to date on the provision of consultancy services and research and policy advice rather than developing organized postgraduate educational programs. The proposed Graduate Diploma in many ways reflects a timely response to a clear gap in the coverage of postgraduate programs in Australia.

At the international level, there are a variety of postgraduate programs directed towards the study of international economic law. There are, for example, a number of Master of Law programs in the United States that have directed emphases on international economic law. Prominent centres of excellence in this field include the University of Michigan, Georgetown University and New York University. The proposed Graduate Diploma is intended to match the quality of provision of services in these institutions.

### **2. Entry Requirements**

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to successfully complete the course using the following criteria –
  - an undergraduate degree in law at honours standard leading to admission to legal practice, or equivalent; or
  - an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline and at least one year of documented, relevant, work experience.
2. The Selection Committee may call for referee reports and employer references, conduct interviews and tests to assist with the selection process.

### **3. Course/Program Structure**

The Graduate Diploma in International Economic Law is a four subject, 50 point program.

Students may choose from the following subjects:

- 730-796 Developing Countries and the WTO
- 730-689 Free Trade Agreements
- 730-743 International Commercial Arbitration
- 730-634 International Trade Law
- 730-699 International Trade Remedies and the WTO
- 730-845 Legitimacy and the WTO
- 730-801 Principles of International Law
- 730-826 Principles of WTO Law
- 730-687 Trade and Environment
- 730-692 WTO Dispute Resolution and Case Law

### **4. Availability of course**

The course will be available to domestic and international fee-paying students on a full and part time basis from Semester 1, 2006