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## Structure report & profile

### Chair of Public International Law (1 fte)

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## 1. Introduction

The Chair of Public International Law (PIL) is a structural chair (*kernleerstoel*) at the heart of the department of International and European Law. The Chair has been held by Professor André Nollkaemper (Dean of the Amsterdam Law School from 2016 until the end of 2023). After his deanship, Professor Nollkaemper is appointed as university professor.

When Professor Nollkaemper was recruited the Chair was still named ‘International Law and International Relations’ (*Volkenrecht en Internationale Betrekkingen*), which was then changed to ‘Public International Law’ (*Internationaal publiekrecht*) in 2001. For the purposes of recruitment, a profile was drawn up, but not a structure report. While the present structure report and profile therefore in some ways starts afresh, it will also continue paths and practices that have been well-established in the meantime. The Chair has performed crucial functions for the purposes of teaching, research, valorisation and administration that need to be continued.

It has been the purpose of the Chair to function as a focal point and leadership position in public international law with a possibility of specialization in any combination of sub-fields or theoretical approaches, but without further limitation *ab initio*. To the contrary, a wide knowledge of general international law, strong doctrinal knowledge, and the capacity to work, or at least converse, across different specializations is an important feature of the Chair.

International Law is a topic of public interest and of considerable societal relevance. The domain of the Chair deals with questions of international legality generally, and with their implications for Europe and the Netherlands in particular. The persistence of war and conflict, the nested crises of the climate and of social justice, of migration etc.—they all call for the expert input from a vocal Chair in public international law.

## 2. Embedding of the chair

The Chair of PIL is embedded within the department of International and European Law and stands at the center of the section of International Law at the Amsterdam Law School, University of Amsterdam.

The teaching and research take place in line with the Faculty Strategic Plan, the UvA Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the UvA Education and Research Vision.

Societal relevance is notably an important part of research and education at the UvA, and the societal relevance of the Chair is evident from news feeds, from public debate, and from student interest.

### *a. Position within the department and chairgroup*

The Chair shall, by default, lead the section of International Law. The Chair thus mirrors and complements the other section of European Law, and its Chair.

The PIL section currently counts 20 fte, and 26 colleagues. This includes five full-time (1fte) and two part-time (0,1fte) Professors in specific sub-fields of Public International Law (PIL). None of these professorships has the general, cross-cutting outlook as the present Chair of PIL.

Coordination and cooperation with the European Law section within the department is key regarding

teaching activities. Beyond the department of International and European Law, the Chair in PIL coordinates with other Chairs, notably in International Criminal Law and in Military Law (both part of the Department of Public Law).

*b. Research center and school(s)*

The research of the Chair is carried out within the ambit of the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL) and withing present and future collaborations. ACIL is one of the faculty's largest research centers and is home to the researchers of the section of international law, as well as members from other departments, notably public law. It counts just over 50 researchers and about 20fte.

Centered on the mission of 'promoting the critical understanding and progressive development of international law', ACIL unites a diversity of perspectives on international law. ACIL has repeatedly been assessed as excellent. The latest external research assessment of 2023 once more observed that '[t]he research produced at ACIL is agenda-setting in the discipline.'

The Chair in PIL contributes to the excellence of research at ACIL. ACIL has several active collaborations, notably with the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) and the Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law (ACT). Its researchers take part in other collaborations such as Research Priority Areas (RPAs) at the University level, and they contribute to other networks. The Chair shall equally take an active role in seeking and facilitating collaboration within the faculty, the university, and beyond.

Given the societal relevance of PIL, the Chair contributes to knowledge-transfer (valorisation and impact) and makes active contributions to public discourse.

The Chair has traditionally emphasized the reception and implementation of international law in the European and Dutch legal order and there are good reasons to continue with that emphasis. Such an emphasis corresponds to highlighting the societal relevance of international legal debates in European and Dutch contexts in particular, in line with the vision of the Amsterdam Law School.

### **3. The field of expertise of the chair/Subject area of the chair**

The Chair has wide and deep expertise in general Public International Law and its doctrine. The Chair can work across different sub-fields and appreciates different theoretical approaches. Knowledge of the European and Dutch legal orders and their interaction is a strong asset. There is otherwise no further limitation *ab initio*. As stated above, a wide knowledge of general international law, strong doctrinal knowledge, and the capacity to work, or at least converse, across different specializations is an important feature of the Chair.

### **4. Activities in the areas of research, education, leadership and valorisation**

#### *a. Description of the research to be carried out from the chair.*

The Chair in PIL produces innovative research on general PIL—on cross-cutting questions and specific sub-fields. The research is rooted in an impeccable command of legal doctrine, and it advances such doctrine. It draws on interdisciplinary insights and is open to a variety of different approaches to the law, in line with the Faculty Strategic Plan. The Chair interacts comfortably with the diversity of doctrinal and other theoretical approaches within ACIL and the section. In coordination with the Research Director of ACIL, the Chair actively seeks cooperation and collaboration within the faculty, the University and beyond.

#### *b. Description of the education to be developed and provided by the chair.*

The Chair contributes to the teaching of PIL in the bachelor as well as graduate (LLM) programmes and partakes, in collaboration with the Programme Directors, in the further development of the teaching programmes.

With regard to teaching in the bachelor programme, this notably includes the compulsory courses ‘*Internationaal en Europees Recht*’ in year 1 and ‘*Internationaal Publiekrecht*’ in year 3. The chair, together with the programme directors of the bachelor programme, oversees the contents and organization of these courses, and teaches a number of classes.

The Chair takes an active role in overseeing and shaping the LLM track in PIL, together with the Programme Director and Track Coordinators. The Chair thus complements the Professor in International Economic Law and Governance, who does the same for the track in International Trade and Investment Law.

The Chair will also actively participate in graduate level teaching in the LLM on Public International Law, in (some of the) general compulsory courses general compulsory course such as ‘Principles and Foundations of International Law’, as well as in electives linked to the expertise of the Chair holder.

#### *c. Description of the management tasks to be performed*

The Chair should take an active role in the leadership of the section and the department, notably as head of section and, in coordination with the head of section of European Law, also as head of department. The tenure for these specific leadership positions can alternate with other Professors in the section and department; it is expected that the Chair assumes these roles at the beginning of her/his appointment for a minimum of three years.

Leading the section implies responsibility for the budget and financial planning of the section, as well as its personnel policy, including hiring and promotions, based on Strategic Personnel Planning. Yearly evaluations with staff members are an important part of the latter.

*d. Valorisation*

The Chair makes active contributions to knowledge-transfer vis-à-vis stakeholders and interested actors; she/he makes active contributions to public debates and is ready to speak to media on PIL related issues.

*e. Leadership*

The Chair contributes to the leadership of the section and department in an inspiring and facilitative fashion. She/he shows a clear, proven commitment to ensuring social safety, is aware of considerable work pressures, and is pro-active in tackling related issues. She/he is committed in word and spirit to further fostering diversity and cultivating a positive and collaborative work environment.

*f. External Funding*

The Chair seeks external, additional funding for research and teaching activities for her/his own activities and that of the section, department, and other research collaborations.

## 5. Profile

The Chair holding Professor has:

- a graduate degree and PhD in Law;
- excellent doctrinal knowledge of general Public International Law; a demonstrated interest in the question of the relationship between international and domestic legal orders is an asset. This expertise and interest can be demonstrated by high-quality publications in established international fora, invited conference papers and presentations, fellowships, consultancies, etc.;
- inspiring leadership, communication, and inter-personal skills that facilitate colleagues' flourishing, and an eye for the diverse strengths and personal development needs of staff;
- readiness to take up the position of head of section (possibly head of department) from the start of the appointment;
- willingness and proven ability to perform administrative, organizational and managerial tasks;
- experience in applying for competitive research or teaching grants;
- readiness to contribute to further developing an excellent research group in the field of Public International Law, anchored at the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL);
- a proven interest in interdisciplinary collaboration;
- Proven ability to successfully supervise PhD students and/or junior researchers;
- excellent didactic skills, as evidenced, among other things, by evaluations and educational qualifications (such as BKO, SKO); ability to engage in research-based teaching;
- national and international networks, and contacts necessary to initiate relevant national and international partnerships;



- excellent command of Dutch in speaking and writing including the capacity to teach in Dutch, or commitment and ability to reach such a level within 2-3 years;
- excellent command of the English professional language.