



MASTER OF LAWS

Course Code: LAW 643

Course Title: CROSS-BORDER MEDIATION: PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND PRACTICE

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Date Submitted : 3 June 2025

PRE-REQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE/MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

NIL

COURSE SPECIALISATION

Dispute Resolution

GRADING BASIS

Graded

COURSE UNIT

1 CU

FIRST OFFERING TERM

Academic Year: AY2018/2019

Academic Term: 22-27 April 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with a strong grounding in professional mediation, and the opportunity to develop practical skills as a mediator in domestic and cross-border settings. The stages of the mediation process and techniques for each stage are taught. Simulated role-play exercises focused on cross-border disputes are arranged to develop specialized skills as mediators.

After successfully completing this course students will:

1. Understand various models of mediation internationally
2. Be able to explain the purpose of each stage in the facilitative mediation process
3. Be able to demonstrate knowledge, application of ethics and skills of mediation
4. Be able to demonstrate conduct of a mediation process in a cross-border setting
5. Have the capacity to meaningfully reflect on their own performance as mediators in a structured and constructive way.

Successful and complete participation in this course may contribute towards **professional mediator accreditation requirements** with the **Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI)**.

This course is taught in hybrid mode.

Please ensure that you **check the timetable** for the course. In addition to the online sessions there are three face-to-face full day sessions that take place on the **Fridays of 12th, 19th and 26th September 2025**. These sessions are **compulsory**. Please check the timing for them below.

PRE-REQUISITE/ CO-REQUISITE/ MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

NIL

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Students will receive a Participant Handbook and selected readings.

In addition, students may refer to the following text: Nadja Alexander, Joel Lee and Lum Kit-Wye, Singapore Mediation Handbook, Lexis Nexis 2019.

Students are encouraged to read the [Kluwer Mediation Blog](#) for regular updates on cross-border mediation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Assessment details and criteria are provided in Week 1 and discussed with the instructor. There are three items of assessment in this course:

1. Participation in face to face and online mediation simulations, class discussions and other interactive activities such as Singapore Convention Week: 20%
2. Reflective Analysis on a mediation simulation as the mediator (1500 words): 50%. Due 17 October 2025, midnight 11.59 pm.
3. Take home exam: 30%. Due 17 October 2025 midnight 11.59 pm.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

This is a practice and skills focussed course that relies on case studies, role plays, skills activities and readings. It is interactive and student-focussed. Participation is imperative to learning and skill development. Each teaching and learning session will offer ample opportunity for students to participate. Students are expected to be prepared in terms of readings, engaged and self-motivated. The online sessions of equal importance as the face-to-face sessions.

Students are expected to engage constructively and critically and respond to the course contributions of other students. Contributions should demonstrate preparedness, critical and original thinking and ability to express complex issues in a concise and understandable manner. In particular, students are expected to participate constructively in all activities including role-plays and practice sessions.

Important: Academic Integrity

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offence.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

Proposed Class Schedule. Please note that some sessions are online, self-paced sessions and others are face-to-face. **The face-to-face sessions are compulsory workshops.** Please ensure your availability, especially for the face-to-face sessions.

Module/Date	Timing	Topics Covered
Modules 1 (25-29 August)	F2F and self paced learning online	Singapore Convention Week (SCM). You will receive an email about Singapore Convention Week -- a major international event taking place in Singapore. Events are free. You must register for at least one SCM event.

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 2 (1-5 September)	Self paced learning online	Introduction to mediation in a cross-border context

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 3 (8-11 September)	Self paced learning online	Mediator's opening statements.

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 4, 12 September (Friday)	10 am – 4 pm including breaks	Mediation process and skills.

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 5, 19 September (Friday)	10 am – 4 pm including breaks	Mediation process and skills.

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 6 26 September (Friday)	10 pm – 4 pm including breaks	Mediation process and skills.

Date	Number of Hours	Topics Covered
Module 7 (29 September – 3 October)	Self paced learning online and final Zoom call on 3 October 12 pm – 2. pm .	Pre-mediation Mediation models Optional topics on mediation law