

MUHAMMAD NAQI

muhammadxnaqi@gmail.com | +44 (0) 7349 716443 | [Muhammad Naqi](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Understanding the international legal order, the evolving role and authority of the United Nations, the future of collective security, state responsibility in confronting emerging nuclear and cyber threats, and the relationship between legal norms and state conduct in the history of international law and international relations.

EDUCATION

January 2025 -
January 2026

LLM in International Law and International Relation

University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Award: Graduated with Commendation

Dissertation: 'A World Legislature? A Critical Examination of the UNSC's Legislative Authority' (Supervised by Professor Irene Couzigou)

Awarded a First-Class Mark

Examined the legislative authority of the Security Council under Chapter VII through Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), analysed against Articles 25, 39, 41, 42 and 103 of the UN Charter arguing that the Council's qualified legislative function is structurally under-legitimated and increasingly strained by P5 political dynamics. I highlighted that the cooperation of the member-states is often superficial, and no meaningful mechanism of judicial review constrains the Council's acts, leaving a need for procedural reform, and enhanced accountability.

Key modules and coursework:

International Law: Seminars covered the sources of international law and law-making, understanding the Security Council's Chapter VII powers, legislative resolutions, fight against terrorism, and targeted sanctions. Focused on human rights, the nuclear non-proliferation regime (NPT, IAEA, JCPOA), self-defence against nuclear threats. Produced an essay with a detailed academic discussion on the role and action of the UNSC in curtailing the nuclear threats.

Use of Force in International Law: Seminars covered the prohibition of force under Article 2(4) and its historical development. Much of the analytical focus was on the ambiguity of the term 'threat to peace, act of aggression' under Article 39, the scope of self-defence under Article 51 as well as anticipatory and pre-emptive self-defence by states. Coursework involved essay requiring critical analysis of advantages and disadvantages of the right to self-defence against non-state actors.

Theories and Concepts in International Relations: Studied the theories of neorealism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, and feminism and their impact on international relations through the history as well as in the current times. Coursework included an essay evaluating the strength of the nuclear taboo in the current times from a constructivist perspective.

Terrorism and Counter Terrorism: Examined the origins and evolution of terrorism, the dynamics of radicalisation, and the counterterrorism strategies of states.

September 2021 -
August 2024

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Upper Second Class Honours

University of London

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

May 2025	Presenter, Inaugural University of Aberdeen Law PGT Conference Presented independent research on the legislative authority of the UN Security Council to an audience of postgraduate students, academics, researchers, the presentation was subsequently developed into the LLM dissertation. Researched all instances of the Council imposing general, binding obligations on all member states beyond specific disputes, analysed the impact of these resolutions on the domestic legal frameworks of the states. Engaged with works of various academics, to understand the advantages and disadvantages of such a role.
Nov 2024 -Dec 2024	Legal Research Intern, Group Development Pakistan Completed an internship with a non-governmental organisation working on rights of children, contributing to the development of a legal database. I researched, gathered, and organised legal materials, including domestic legislation and case law relevant to child protection in Pakistan.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

May 2025	Organising Committee Member, University of Aberdeen Law PGT Conference Served on the organising committee of the conference, with responsibility for reviewing and assessing submitted abstracts across diverse fields of law. Contributed to shaping the conference's final programme and supported the management of logistics by providing technical support helping coordinate the smooth running of sessions for presenters and attendees.
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SKILLS

Languages	English (Fluent) and Urdu (Native)
Research	Skilled in legal research, analysis and literature review, developed throughout my LLM coursework. Experienced in OSCOLA referencing and using legal databases including Westlaw, HeinOnline, and the UN Digital Library.
Communication	Able to prepare and present written and verbal communications tailored to a range of audiences, including academics and students, as in the Law PGT Conference.
Collaboration	Worked collaboratively on group projects throughout my undergraduate and postgraduate studies, including a co-authored policy report on counterterrorism in Turkey. The interdisciplinary nature of my Masters involved collaborative work across both legal and political science environments.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

June 2026-	British Institute of International and Comparative Law
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REFERENCES

Professor Irene Couzigou Lecturer & LLM Dissertation Supervisor University of Aberdeen irene.couzigou@abdn.ac.uk	Dr Dimitrios Anagnostakis Lecturer University of Aberdeen dimitrios.anagnostakis@abdn.ac.uk
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