

Legal Management and Shipping Business Masterclass

20 September – 1 October 2027
Vienna (Austria)

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Ref: 321601_141526 **Date:** 20 September – 1 October 2027 **Location:** Vienna (Austria) **Fees:** 10600 GBP

Why This Course

In the fast-paced and highly regulated shipping industry, legal knowledge is not optional—it is essential for safeguarding operations, managing risks, and ensuring compliance. Professionals in maritime businesses must navigate international conventions, complex contracts, and operational challenges while protecting organizational interests and assets.

This intensive 10-day program is designed to equip participants with a deep understanding of maritime law and shipping business practices. Through a blend of theory, case studies, and practical exercises, attendees will develop the expertise to manage legal and operational risks, negotiate contracts effectively, and make informed strategic decisions in the maritime sector.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By attending this program, you will be able to:

- Understand the principles of maritime law and international shipping regulations.
- Draft, review, and manage shipping contracts and charter agreements with confidence.
- Apply risk assessment and management techniques tailored to maritime operations.
- Navigate dispute resolution processes, including arbitration, mediation, and litigation.
- Anticipate emerging trends and legal challenges in the shipping industry.

The Program Flow

Day 1: Introduction to Maritime Law and Shipping Business

- Overview of maritime law and its significance
- Key players and stakeholders in the shipping industry
- Roles of international maritime organizations
- Current trends and operational challenges

Day 2: Legal Framework of International Shipping

- International conventions governing shipping trade
- Flag state and port state control
- Ship registration, nationality, and documentation
- Maritime zones and jurisdictional considerations

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A graphic of a chessboard with several chess pieces. A large gold king piece is in the foreground, with a silver pawn and a silver knight behind it. The board is white and grey, with concentric circles in the background.

Day 3: Shipping Contracts and Charter Parties

- Types of shipping contracts and charter agreements
- Key contractual clauses and obligations
- Bills of lading and their legal implications
- Resolving contractual disputes and available remedies

Day 4: Carriage of Goods by Sea

- Legal regimes for cargo transportation
- Carrier obligations, liabilities, and limitations
- Cargo claims management
- Multimodal transport legal considerations

Day 5: Marine Insurance and Risk Management

- Principles and types of marine insurance
- Risk assessment techniques in shipping
- Claims handling and settlement processes
- Implementing risk mitigation strategies

Day 6: Maritime Safety and Environmental Regulations

- SOLAS and maritime safety standards
- MARPOL regulations and pollution prevention
- Ballast water management
- Compliance strategies for shipping operations

Day 7: Ship Finance and Maritime Liens

- Ship financing methods and legal requirements
- Maritime liens, mortgages, and creditor rights
- Arrest of ships and judicial sales
- Bankruptcy and insolvency implications in shipping

Day 8: Dispute Resolution in Maritime Law

- Litigation versus arbitration in maritime disputes
- Procedures at maritime arbitration centers
- Mediation and alternative dispute resolution methods
- Enforcement of maritime judgments and awards

Day 9: Emerging Issues in Maritime Law and Business

- Cybersecurity and data protection in maritime operations
- Legal implications of autonomous vessels
- Climate change and maritime law
- Blockchain applications in shipping transactions

Day 10: Case Studies and Practical Applications

- Analysis of landmark maritime legal cases
- Simulations of contract negotiations
- Crisis management scenarios in shipping operations
- Future trends and strategic planning in maritime law and business

Individual Impact

Participants will leave the course with:

- Confidence in navigating complex maritime legal frameworks.
- Skills to draft, review, and negotiate shipping contracts effectively.
- Enhanced risk management capabilities for operational and strategic decisions.
- Practical tools for dispute resolution and crisis management.

Organizational Impact

Organizations will benefit from:

- Reduced legal and operational risks in maritime operations.
- Stronger compliance with international maritime regulations.
- Improved efficiency and confidence in contract management.
- Enhanced capacity to handle disputes and emerging industry challenges.

Training Methodology

- Interactive discussions on maritime legal frameworks and operational practices
- Case studies and real-world scenario analyses
- Group exercises in contract negotiation and risk assessment
- Simulation of crisis management and dispute resolution
- Action planning for implementation of best practices

Beyond the Course

By the end of the program, participants will be ready to:

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- Navigate international maritime law with confidence.
- Make informed legal and strategic decisions in shipping operations.
- Lead contract negotiations and dispute resolutions effectively.
- Contribute to their organization's compliance, risk management, and operational success in the maritime sector.

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