

# *Research on the Teaching Path of International Law in Colleges and Universities under the Background of the "the Belt and Road Initiative"*

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**Abstract:** With the "the Belt and Road Initiative" as the research background, and the international law teaching in colleges and universities as the research object, this paper analyzes the role of international law teaching in the training of international talents, the construction of the "the Belt and Road Initiative" and the improvement of the soft power of international law. On this basis, the paper proposes strategies for constructing teaching paths from the perspectives of teaching teams, teaching courses, teaching methods, and teaching platforms based on the actual situation.

## **1. Introduction**

The "the Belt and Road Initiative" not only brings new development opportunities to China's international exchanges, but also puts forward higher requirements. As the foundation of international exchange, integrating international law into university teaching has important developmental and strategic significance.

## **2. The Importance of International Law Teaching in Colleges and Universities under the Background of the "the Belt and Road Initiative"**

### **2.1. Promoting the Cultivation of High-Quality International Talents**

International law is a legal norm that coordinates the development of relations among sovereign countries and upholds relevant interests. It follows the principle of equality among all sovereign states and plays an indispensable role in regulating the exchange behavior of various countries in economic, political, and cultural aspects. The role and status of international law determine its importance in talent cultivation; Only through in-depth learning and full understanding of international law can students quickly integrate and adapt to international development, becoming high-quality international talents that the country needs. On the one hand, international law is a true reflection of the current international situation, and the relevant legal provisions in international law are formulated based on the current international development situation, with a certain degree of timeliness and realism. Teaching international law in universities can help students understand the current situation of international development, grasp the basic attributes and laws of international

development, recognize China's position and image in the international community, have a comprehensive and scientific understanding of international relations, and cultivate students' international perspective and global thinking. On the other hand, international law is a powerful tool for safeguarding rights and interests. Due to its equality and impartiality, international law is recognized by various countries and has considerable legal effect and rights protection functions. Through international law teaching, students can deepen their understanding of the legal provisions in international law and improve their ability to apply international law. They can use international law as the norm for their future international communication and work, respect the rights and interests of other countries, regulate their behavior to maintain China's international image, and flexibly apply international law to solve international problems and conflicts they encounter, to defend the legitimate rights and interests of oneself and our country.

## **2.2. Boosting the High-Quality Construction of the "the Belt and Road Initiative"**

The "the Belt and Road Initiative" is an important plan and measure for China to strengthen international exchanges and enhance international influence. With the historical reputation of the ancient silk road, we hold high the banner of peaceful development, mutual benefit and win-win results, actively carry out a high degree of economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation with countries along the "the Belt and Road", and jointly build the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "Maritime Silk Road". This is not only of great significance for the sustainable development of China's foreign economy and the establishment of a good international image, but also conducive to the rational allocation of world resources, the healthy operation of the economy, and the construction of a peaceful coexistence situation. At present, China has made significant achievements in the construction of the "the Belt and Road Initiative", which has been widely recognized and actively participated by other countries. However, there are still some countries and individuals with bad motives who are hostile to our country, attempt to discredit the "the Belt and Road Initiative", interfere with the "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction, and have caused certain negative effects on the steady progress of the construction work. International law teaching in colleges and universities can provide a substantial pool of legal talents for China's "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction, [1] build a risk prevention and control mechanism with talents as the core, effectively respond to problems and risks arising from subjective and objective factors in the construction process, and use legal means to accelerate the construction while safeguarding the fundamental rights and interests of the country. It can promote the "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction to always maintain sufficient development vitality and high-quality development level.

## **2.3. Accelerating the Efficient Development of International Law's Soft Power**

International law plays an indispensable role in maintaining international order stability, coordinating the interests and demands of all parties, and formulating international rules. Promoting the healthy development of international law is not only a necessary prerequisite for the steady operation of international exchanges, but also a responsibility and responsibility for China as a major country in the world. Only by attaching importance to the research and exploration of international law, constantly improving the soft power of international law, and actively participating in the process of improving international law, can China effectively promote the sustainable development of international law and maintain its progressiveness, scientific and comprehensive nature, and use international law to enhance the international voice of global governance. International law teaching in universities can fully leverage the academic value of universities, promote relevant teachers and professors to conduct in-depth academic research on international law, and obtain significant research results. This not only effectively improves the

quality and efficiency of teaching, but also helps to promote the progress and transformation of research on international law in China, greatly enhancing the soft power of international law. Furthermore, international law teaching in universities has sown the seeds of future engagement in international law related industries among students; The development and improvement of China's international law cause will receive a continuous stream of new impetus, and future development achievements are immeasurable. [2]

### **3. The Specific Path of International Law Teaching in Colleges and Universities in the Context of the "the Belt and Road Initiative"**

#### **3.1. To Strengthen the Teaching Force of Teachers and Promote the Professionalization of Teaching**

Quality is the lifeline of talent education and cultivation; Maintaining the high-quality development of international law teaching in universities is of great significance. As implementers of teaching, implementers of courses, and guides of students, teachers' teaching abilities and levels often determine the quality of teaching. Therefore, the primary link in constructing the teaching path of international law in universities is to forge a professional teaching team and enhance the teaching strength of teachers. We must adhere to the combination of "bringing in" and "going out". On the one hand, colleges and universities should increase capital investment in talent recruitment to provide generous salary and complete promotion channels to attract experienced and successful workers in the "the Belt and Road Initiative" construction to serve as double mentors, so as to inject new vitality into the development of the university's faculty. On the other hand, teachers with outstanding performance in international law teaching should be screened through comprehensive assessment and evaluation to provide them with out of school learning, such as the channels and costs of "the Belt and Road Initiative" study visits, so as to promote teachers to expand their international vision, establish advanced ideas, learn rich theories and gain practical experience. Secondly, we must adhere to the combination of "the old lead the new" and "the new lead the new". Universities should not only seize the rich teaching experience of backbone teachers, but also establish teaching groups with backbone teachers as the core, which can comprehensively cultivate and impart experience to young teachers, and promote their rapid integration into international law teaching. Universities should make full use of the advantages of active thinking and strong innovation ability of young teachers, regularly organize young teachers to jointly explore new methods and ideas in international law teaching, fully utilize their subjective initiative, exchange experience and share information, and promote the development of young teachers' overall teaching ability towards professionalization.

#### **3.2. To Carry out Bilingual Teaching Courses to Promote In-Depth Teaching**

From the perspective of international communication, it is far from enough to only proficiently grasp the legal provisions and related content of international law. Flexible application of international law according to the actual situation is the proper meaning of international law teaching. As the most widely used language in international communication, English plays a crucial role in the application of international law. This requires universities to carry out bilingual teaching courses to help students deepen their learning of international law from both Chinese and English perspectives. Firstly, universities should carry out reasonable curriculum planning. Bilingual teaching is quite challenging and requires students to have a certain knowledge foundation. Therefore, bilingual teaching courses should be set up after students have mastered basic knowledge of international law. In the early stages of course development, pure English teaching methods

should not be directly used. Instead, a transition should be made through a combination of Chinese and English, gradually increasing the part of English teaching to help students adapt to teaching changes. [3] Secondly, universities need to develop textbooks. Teachers should select bilingual textbooks with moderate difficulty based on students' knowledge level and learning ability, and organize and summarize the key and difficult points before the course is launched, in order to achieve secondary development of the textbooks. In the teaching process, teachers guide students to combine and reflect on textbook knowledge with international forms, promote the third development of textbooks, and make full use of textbooks as a powerful tool.

### **3.3. To Utilize Case Teaching Methods, and to Promote Teaching Effectiveness**

Scientific and effective teaching methods have positive significance for the smooth progress and efficiency improvement of teaching. The case teaching method is the most popular and widely applicable teaching method in today's education, which has a high degree of compatibility with international law teaching. Integrating it into international law teaching can promote the overall improvement and efficiency of teaching work. To use the case teaching method reasonably, the first step is to pay attention to the selection of cases. Teachers should collect relevant cases based on the theme and key content of teaching. The length of the cases should be short or moderate. If they are too long, they will not match the teaching hours. [4] Moreover, the selected cases should preferably be recent and widely influential cases, in order to make the teaching more effective and interesting, and thus stimulate students' learning interest and exploration desire. Secondly, teachers should guide students to analyze and explore cases. Teachers should raise specific questions based on the relevant content of the case, and students should discuss in groups based on the knowledge learned in the course. The results of the group discussion should be evaluated and analyzed. Not only should problems that arise during the discussion be identified and corrected in a timely manner, but also new ideas from students should be fully recognized and praised.

### **3.4. To Build an Online Teaching Platform to Promote the Extension of Teaching**

International law covers a wide range, involves rich knowledge points, and is in a dynamic state of development. It is a course that requires continuous learning. Relying solely on the teaching knowledge and resources provided by the teaching curriculum is difficult to provide comprehensive international law teaching to students, let alone complete the task of cultivating high-quality international talents. In response to this situation, universities should actively utilize internet technology to build exclusive online teaching platforms, in order to effectively extend and supplement course teaching. Firstly, universities should establish teaching resource modules in online teaching platforms. Universities should organize and summarize all available teaching resources, display and store high-quality teaching courses and courseware created by their teachers, domestic and foreign electronic textbooks, classic films related to international law, and records of major international events in modules, and provide free reference and download for teachers and students. This will help teachers and students to learn and improve their knowledge reserves, legal understanding, and other shortcomings in a targeted manner. Secondly, universities should establish communication and discussion modules in online teaching platforms. In this module, colleges and universities should push forward international events with high timeliness and authenticity, as well as China's latest achievements in the "the Belt and Road Initiative", and all students should analyze and discuss them from multiple perspectives based on their knowledge of international law, so as to promote students to pay attention to and apply international law based on a clearer understanding of the international development situation. [5]

## 4. Conclusion

To sum up, international law teaching in colleges and universities is of great significance in talent training, the construction of the "the Belt and Road Initiative" and the improvement of the soft power of international law. Path construction from the perspective of teaching teams, teaching courses, teaching methods and teaching platforms can promote the good operation and long-term development of international law teaching.

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