Utrecht University will use enhanced knowledge clips in which the doctrines of international law are explained and questions are presented for discussion during the seminars. In addition, short clips (bites) are being developed in which specific subjects that students generally find difficult are explained.

What does the project involve?
Many law students find Public International Law to be difficult. International law is different from national law in terms of content and structure, and is therefore different from other courses that students take in the Bachelor’s programme. Moreover, the course is held in English. For this reason, Utrecht University will develop enhanced knowledge clips – 10-minute video clips in which a teacher explains a particular subject of International Law. These are knowledge clips that students must watch actively, as they have to complete assignments and can respond directly to what they see by asking the teachers questions. There will also be short clips (bites) of 2-3 minutes dealing with specific subjects that students generally find difficult.

The clips will be visually attractive and strong in content, and will be embedded in the Public International Law course by using them in lectures and linking assignments to them. Students will have a better understanding of the material, resulting in better educational success rates. Enriched knowledge clips are not yet being used extensively, so the experience gained by Utrecht University could be of interest to other courses and to other universities.

“With clips and bites, we encourage students to actively get to grips with the generally difficult subjects of Public International Law. The goal, of course, is a higher educational success rate.”
- Otto Spijkers

How can other institutions benefit from this project?
All higher education institutions that offer International Law – not only law faculties, but also Liberal Arts programmes and Social Sciences – can use the clips. Students who find it difficult to understand the material can study the clips and increase their educational success rate. The clips will be freely available to everyone under a Creative Commons License.

Open and online education incentive scheme
This project is being carried out as part of the 2017 Open and Online Education incentive scheme. SURF and the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science are challenging Dutch higher education institutions to experiment with different types of open and online education.

www.surf.nl/open-and-online-incentive-scheme

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