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# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Law of the Sea

90 Credits

Tromsø

The Programme Description was approved by the rector of the University of Tromsø on 19.12.2007 in case F 186-07, on authority from the board of the University of Tromsø.

It was last amended by the board of the Faculty of Law in case FS 43/18 on 07.12.18, pursuant to Section 4 (2) of the regulation for academic studies at the University of Tromsø.

<b>Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Law of the Sea</b>	Bokmål: Mastergrad i havrett (LL.M.) Nynorsk: Mastergrad i havrett (LL.M.) Engelsk: Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Law of the Sea
<b>Degree obtained</b>	The Master's Degree Programme in the Law of the Sea leads to a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in the Law of the Sea.  The Faculty of Law issues the diploma.
<b>Target group</b>	<p>The oceans cover over 70 percent of the surface of the Earth. Humans depend on the oceans for life, work, food, travel, and human health. The ocean is the world's greatest reservoir of biodiversity, including marine mammals, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and countless of other species.</p> <p>The Master of Laws in Law of the Sea program aims to broaden the traditional approach to the Law of the Sea from jurisdictional issues to also include substantial law such as conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and protection of biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>Although the program has a clear global profile, it has also a distinct Arctic dimension. Much of the Arctic consists of marine areas. Global climate change will increasingly subject these areas to various uses such as navigation, oil and gas exploitation, fisheries and research. The Arctic regions provide unique opportunities for studying both global and regional legal approaches to protect and preserve the marine environment.</p> <p>The target group for the programme are students and practitioners with an interest in expanding their knowledge in the international law of the sea and the environment.</p>
<b>Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge</b>	<p>Students are admitted to the programme once a year. To qualify they must, at minimum, hold a bachelor degree or equivalent of at least three years duration in law or political science at university level. They must also document knowledge of the fundamentals of international law and international politics.</p> <p>All courses will be held in English. Therefore applicants must document adequate proficiency in English.</p> <p>Applicants must enclose an essay of approximately two pages in English where they describe their background and motivation for taking this Master's degree.</p>

	There are approximately 20 available places on the programme, where the best applicants based on background, academic results and the motivational letter are admitted.
<b>Certificate of good conduct</b>	No
<b>Suitability assessment</b>	No
<b>The study programme's Learning Outcome</b>	<p>During the LL.M-programme the candidates shall acquire knowledge, skills and general competence enabling them to hold positions dealing with law of the sea issues.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the candidates are to acquire and develop the following qualifications:</p> <p><b>Knowledge</b></p> <p><b>An LL.M. candidate in the law of the sea shall have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- advanced knowledge on the central subjects of the law of the sea</li> <li>- specialized knowledge on other subjects of the law of the sea</li> <li>- knowledge on scientific research methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <p><b>An LL.M. candidate in the law of the sea shall be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify and analyze questions of theoretical and practical character in a methodological and ethical proper manner</li> <li>- apply the relevant sources of law independently and critically</li> <li>- identify the limitations of existing law and discuss need for changes and thereby contribute towards legal innovations</li> <li>- independently undertake a limited research work under supervision in accordance with norms of research ethics</li> <li>- organize and apply extensive and complex information, including identifying main and sub- research questions</li> <li>- communicate in English both orally and in writing legal reasoning in a clear and precise manner</li> </ul>

	<p>- stay up to date on legal developments within the law of the sea and to further develop his/her qualifications</p> <p><b>General Competence</b></p> <p><b>After passing the program, the LL.M candidate in law of the sea can:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the field of the Law of the Sea individually and in cooperation with others</li> <li>- communicate reasoning within the field of the Law of the Sea in a clear and precise manner, orally and in writing to the academic community and the public</li> <li>- apply knowledge and skills acquired within the field of the Law of the Sea to other fields of international law, and for all tasks and projects where relevant</li> <li>- identify and reflect on ethical dilemmas that may arise within the field of the Law of the Sea in particular and deal with these in a responsible manner</li> <li>- apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the field of the Law of the Sea to carry out tasks within given timeframes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academic content and description of the study programme</b></p>	<p><b>Programme structure and length</b></p> <p>The LL.M programme is 90 ECTS credits.</p> <p>The programme is a full-time study at campus Tromsø that extends over three semesters. The programme is at master's level affecting its content and structure, reflected in the content and extent of the curriculum, in the active involvement of the students during classes and in mandatory hand-ins and exams.</p> <p>The study is organized to ensure consistency between the knowledge, skills and general competence to be acquired, the exercises during the classes and the final exams. The study promotes the oral and written ability of description.</p> <p>A successful examination pass in the first unit is a prerequisite for admission to the following part of the LL.M-program. Meaning that a successful examination pass in Semester 1 (JUR-3050 and JUR-3054) is a prerequisite for admission to the following part of the LL.M-program; semester 2 (JUR-3052 and JUR-3053). The same</p>

rule applies for JUR-3910, where Semester 1 and 2 must successfully be completed and the courses passed, before admission to the last part (semester 3) of the program.

### **Course descriptions**

A separate description of each of the five mandatory courses is developed, where the subject and main themes are described.

The course descriptions are found [here](#).

#### **First semester:**

JUR-3050 General Law of the Sea

The course provides a general introduction to the Law of the Sea, i.e. the rules and principles of international public law that cover the different maritime zones and uses of the seas.

Exam: Digital 6 hours written exam, held in November/December.

JUR-3054 General Law of the Sea II

The course is a continuation of JUR-3050. It provides in-depth analysis of key selected topics that were previously covered in JUR-3050 at an introductory level.

Exam: Digital 6 hours written exam, held in November/December.

#### **Second semester:**

JUR-3052 Protection of the Marine Environment by International Law

The course focuses on the international legal rules concerning the protection of the marine environment from adverse effects of different human uses and the sustainable use of marine resources.

Exam: Digital 6 hours written exam, held in April/May.

JUR-3053 Law of the Sea and the Arctic

The course focuses on Law of the Sea and Arctic legal perspectives and issues.

Exam: Digital 4 days home exam followed by oral exam, held in April/May.

	<p><b>Third semester:</b> JUR-3910 Master’s thesis</p> <p>Approved by the Faculty of Law, students select their own topic within the Law of the Sea for an individual research project.</p>																		
<p><b>Table: programme structure</b></p>	<p>The programme consists of five obligatory courses:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Semester</th> <th>Course name</th> <th>Credits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. semester</td> <td>JUR-3050 General Law of the Sea</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. semester</td> <td>JUR-3054 Law of the Sea II</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. semester</td> <td>JUR-3052 Protection of the Marine Environment by International Law</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. semester</td> <td>JUR-3053 Law of the Sea and the Arctic</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. semester</td> <td>JUR-3910 Master’s thesis in Law of the Sea</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Semester	Course name	Credits	1. semester	JUR-3050 General Law of the Sea	15	1. semester	JUR-3054 Law of the Sea II	15	2. semester	JUR-3052 Protection of the Marine Environment by International Law	15	2. semester	JUR-3053 Law of the Sea and the Arctic	15	3. semester	JUR-3910 Master’s thesis in Law of the Sea	30
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<p><b>Learning activities, examination and assesement</b></p>	<p><b>The starting point</b></p> <p>Students at the program are taught by legal experts from the Faculty of Law and other institutions, such as intergovernmental organizations, international tribunals, academics and practitioners.</p> <p>The teaching includes lectures, problem-based seminars, writing courses, moot-court experiences and excursions to relevant institutions, where in all activities students are active participants.</p> <p>The study programme is based on active interaction between the faculty staff and the students. The students are to acquire knowledge through their own activities and in interaction with fellow students and faculty staff. The students are expected to be active during classes and to undertake both voluntary as well as mandatory assignments.</p> <p>The study programme is linked to the requirements and expectations of society to ethical and professional conduct of the</p>																		

legal profession. The teaching, assignments and exams shall reflect the different types of tasks the students will have to deal with in their future professional careers. The objective is to be achieved through active participation of the students during the courses; through study, discussions and papers.

Lectures will provide for the introduction to the themes while problem-based seminars is the major form of teaching where students and teachers identify and discuss legal questions. Students are also encouraged to hand in papers during the courses to develop their knowledge on subjects and analytical skills.

### **Student activity**

The students have an important responsibility for their own learning. It requires them individually and in groups with fellow students to:

- Work actively with collecting, acquiring and processing the learning content
- Prepare for and to be active during classes and to undertake necessary supplementary work after classes
- Keep oneself updated on new international legislation, case law, etc.

### **Learning environment**

The faculty and the students cooperate on creating a social and academic environment of high quality. The study programme shall provide for close contact between the students and the Faculty staff. The students are to actively participate in the quality assurance and be able to contact the Faculty staff.

The students have access to the facilities of the University Library and its resources, including the open study halls.

### **Teaching**

The purpose of the teaching is to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the programme as described above. The teaching is meant as a supplement and inspiration to the self- activities of the students. It shall strive to be research-based and provide for dialogue between student and teacher. The teaching shall prepare the students for their futures roles. The teaching methods are

varied to take into account the different ways of learning and the distinctive character of the subjects, available teachers and literature. Use of legal systems of information (databases etc.) is part of the teaching.

The main part of the teaching is undertaken as seminars while a smaller proportion is to be given as lectures. Lectures are to present the main elements of the subject and provide the students with an overview of and in-depth presentation of central themes. In addition to this, guest lectures will be offered to help widen the students' perspectives. The seminars are problem-oriented. Lead by a teacher, the students are expected to individually or in groups to actively participate through oral presentations, discussions, projects or similar.

The language of instruction is English.

### **Exams and assessments**

The students are assessed during and at the end of the study programme. The forms of assessment include work requirements, a six hour written school exam, a home exam followed by an oral exam, and at the end of the study programme each student must write a master's thesis. The exams and thesis are graded A-F, with F as not passed. Students that fail or have other legitimate grounds for absence may repeat exams, cf. Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø Sections 21 and 22.

The exam question papers are given in English, and the answer papers must be delivered in English. The oral exam is also conducted in English. The master's thesis must be written in English.

### **Exam requirement**

JUR-3050 and JUR-3053 have work requirements which must be approved before the students are permitted to take the exam. These work requirements relate to the participation in the writing courses offered within those courses, and the delivery of written assignments.

In order to write the master thesis, students must attend the mandatory writing course offered under JUR-3910, and have their thesis proposal approved by the Programme Academic Director.

### **Dispensation**

	In exceptional circumstances, The Academic Affairs Committee may grant dispensation from the requirement of previous examination passes found in <b><i>“Academic content and description of the study programme”, subsection “Programme structure and length”</i></b> upon application.
<b>The study programme’s relevance</b>	<p>The programme qualifies students for jobs both at national and international level, within the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in national diplomatic service, in non-governmental organizations, as well as public administration and industry and commerce.</p> <p>Further, our students have been selected for internships at leading international institutions, such as the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).</p> <p>Students may also be qualified to make a career within academia as doctoral students within law of the sea or other research areas. The programme does not qualify, on its own, for admission to the PhD programmes in Law and Political Science at the University of Tromsø.</p>
<b>Work scope</b>	<p>The LL.M-programme is a full-time study programme of 90 credits, with a nominal study length of three semesters.</p> <p>To reach the study programme’s Learning Outcome the students have to work 40 hours a week with the studies included lectures, seminars and self-study.</p>
<b>For master’s theses/independent work in master’s degrees</b>	<p>During the last semester, the students have to write a 30 credit Master’s thesis in Law of the Sea.</p> <p>The Master’s thesis in Law of the Sea can only be written individually.</p> <p>The students can find information about the Master’s thesis in the course description for the subject JUR-3910 and the <a href="#">Regulations for the Master of Laws in Law of the Sea program</a>.</p>
<b>Language of instruction and examination</b>	English
<b>Internationalisation</b>	The Faculty of Law wishes to offer internationally oriented studies.

	<p>The Master's program in Law of the Sea is an international master's degree programme and consists of international and national students.</p> <p>The language for teaching, syllabus, instruction, examination and thesis in this programme is English.</p> <p>We have a continuous focus on developing international collaborations and extending our exchange agreements with other institutions over the whole world.</p> <p>The Faculty of Law and its centre for the Law of the Sea often have visits from international and national guests, and often organize conferences and workshops that are internationally oriented. In that connection, the students and public are welcome to participate in such international events and guest lecturers.</p>
<b>Student exchange</b>	<p>The Faculty of Law has two student exchange agreements for our LL.M students.</p> <p>The student exchange is voluntary and not a part of the mandatory part of the programme. The students may undertake academic exchange during the third semester as part of writing the thesis, and the length is approximately two weeks.</p> <p>The exchange period at our two partner universities would allow the LL.M. students to gain access to additional academic resources and different research environments that could prove useful as they write their master thesis.</p> <p>More information about the student exchange agreements and how to apply here.</p>
<b>Supervised professional training</b>	No
<b>Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility</b>	The Faculty of Law has the overall administrative responsibility for the programme. The Academic Affairs Committee constitutes the program board for the Master's Degree Programme in Law of the Sea.
<b>Quality assurance</b>	<p>The quality of the programme will be ensured through the use of inter alia feed-back from students and teachers and other quality indicators as described in the quality assurance system adopted by the Faculty of Law.</p> <p><a href="#">Quality assurance system for the educational activities at UiT</a></p>

**Other regulations**

The following rules apply for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Law of the Sea:

[Regulations for the Master of Laws in Law of the Sea program](#)

[Regulations for student admission to the UiT](#)

[Regulations for academic studies at the UiT](#)

[Regulations for examinations at UiT](#)

[Regulations for studieutvalget at the Faculty of Law UiT \(only in norwegian\)](#)

[Ethical Guidelines Supervision](#)

Visit the [Faculty of Law](#) and [UiT](#).