

## SAKSFRAMLEGG

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Til:  
Studieutvalget ved Det juridiske fakultet

Møtedato:  
01.02.2024

Sak:

Orienteringssak: Rapport fra arbeidsgruppe med mandat om å utrede og foreslå endringer av LL.M programmet i Havrett - Report by the work group with mandate to investigate and propose changes of the LL.M in Law of the Sea programme

### Innstilling til vedtak:

The Academic Affairs Committee takes note of the working group's report with recommendations on changes to study and course plans for the Master of Laws (LL.M) in Law of the Sea programme.

### Bakgrunn:

The periodic evaluation of the LL.M program in Law of the Sea (hereafter the LL.M program) was carried out in the period September 2022 to February 2023, and the committee's report was submitted as a matter of orientation to the Academic Affairs Committee (hereafter Studieutvalget) in March 2023<sup>1</sup>. Studieutvalget was prefigured to receive a new case on how the input from the evaluation committee should be followed up, and in a new case presented in June 2023<sup>2</sup> the following decision was made:

- “1. The Academic Affairs Committee takes note of the report from the periodic evaluation of the LL.M programme Law of the Sea.*
- 2. The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the Dean establishes a working group to investigate and propose changes to the LL.M programme Law of the Sea, based on, among other things, the periodic evaluation report.*
- 3. The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the working group be given a mandate as set out in this case presentation with any comments that emerge at the meeting.»*

The working group's mandate was described as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> [Meeting of March 29 2023, case SU 13/23](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Meeting of June 13 2023, case SU 33/23](#)

*“The working group is requested to undertake a comprehensive review of the LL.M Programme, with the aim of investigating and operationalising changes in the programme’s academic profile and composition.*

*The study programme’s academic profile and composition.*

- a) Relevant factors here are present and future challenges in the law of the sea, geopolitical conditions, relevance to working life, etc.*
- b) In the proposal for adjustment of the programme’s academic profile and composition, the working group is requested to pay particular attention to the relationship between the academic profile and future recruitment to the programme of study. From autumn 2023, students outside the EU/EEA will be required to pay tuition fees for all three semesters at UiT, which is expected to have an impact on the applicant pool for the programme, both in terms of the number of applicants and their place of origin.*
- c) The working group is also requested to take into account relevance to the business sector and society in the event of a proposal regarding a changed programme profile. “*

The working group appointed by the dean has consisted of the former academic director of the LL.M programme, associate professor Maria Madalena das Neves, current academic director of the programme, associate professor Youri van Logchem<sup>3</sup>, as well as associate professor Eva van der Marel, and senior adviser in the faculty administration, Jørgen Ytreberg.

The working group has in its report addressed in detail the main issues given in the mandate. In short, the group suggests that the following main changes for the following main areas of the programme should be implemented for the 2025/2026 academic year:

- a) Admission requirements
  - Clarifying the admission requirements by defining the 80 ECTS specialization needed to qualify for the programme.
  - Forego the two-page motivation essay as part of the admission requirements.
- b) Creation of a new course replacing JUR-3054 *General Law of the Sea II*
  - JUR-3054 *Uses of the Oceans*, where the work group address both suggestions of the external evaluation committee and the need to align the course description and learning outcomes with the other courses to achieve better overall coherence of the programme.
- c) Changes to course descriptions and learning outcomes.
  - Implementing recommendations of the external evaluation committee, in particular regarding the inclusion of certain other general topics in the first semester of the programme.
  - Aligning the course descriptions and learning outcomes in all the four main courses offered in the LL.M programme.
- d) Changes to evaluation formats
  - Change of exam format in JUR-3054 from a 6h written school exam to a home assignment over the course of 7 days without taking an oral exam.
  - Transforming the moot court held in JUR-3054 into a mandatory assignment.
- e) Changes to the LL.M Programme description

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<sup>3</sup> Academic director from January 1st, 2024.

- Updating the text according to the suggested changes and improving the existing text of the study plan.
- f) Possibility of offering both a small (30 ECTS) and a large (60 ECTS) master's thesis
- The working group considers that it would be positive to allow students to choose between writing a small or a large master thesis – describing three ways of achieving this possibility. However, the group recommends that the Faculty makes a cost-benefit analysis before deciding if offering both a small and a large master's thesis within the programme is feasible and appropriate.

The submitted report with annex I and II (attachments 1-3) concludes the working group's assignment.

The academic director of the LL.M programme, associate professor Youri van Logchem will in cooperation with the Vice Dean of Education, associate professor Signe Veierud Busch, consider the work group report and propose any possible changes in accordance with relevant UiT regulations and routines.

Signe Veierud Busch  
vice dean of education

Jørgen Ytreberg  
senior adviser

*Dokumentet er elektronisk godkjent og krever ikke signatur*

Vedlegg

- 1 Work Group Report - Proposals for revision of the LL.M. in Law of the Sea Master's Programme
- 2 Annex I - Course Descriptions
- 3 Annex II - LL.M Programme Description - Study Plan