

# Nordic Master programme 2017

## Application

### 1. Start - Important information on the application

#### 1.1. Reference number and joint programme name

Reference number NMP-2017/10004

#### The official title of the joint programme

Nordic Master in Environmental Law

#### Acronym (if applicable)

NOMPEL

#### 1.2. Joint programme editor access

#### 1.3. Joint programme read access

### 2. Consortium - Joint programme consortium and partners

#### 2.1. Coordinating institution Coordinating institution's contact information

##### 2.1.1. Coordinating institution

Uppsala University (SE)

##### Note

##### 2.1.2. Consortium coordinator

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## 2.2. Partner institutions Partner institutions' contact information

### 2.2.1. Partner institutions

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Institution: NO-UiT The Arctic University of Norway (NO-UiT)  
Campus: NO-Campus Tromsø (NO)  
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### 2.2.3 Degree awarding partners

## 3. Basic information - Basic information on the joint programme

### 3.1. Basic information on the joint programme

#### Main discipline(s) / subject area(s)

1: Law (213)

#### Definition on disciplines / subject areas

#### Official names of the awarded degree(s) in national language and in English

Master i Rättsvetenskap (120 hp), Master of Laws (120 credits)

**Type of degree** Joint degree

#### Webpage

#### Accreditation status

### 3.2. Start of the programme

The programme begins in:

Academic year 2019/2020

## 4. Summary - Summary of the joint programme

### 4. Summary of the joint programme

Uppsala University (coordinator), University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu and UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø (partners) intend to start a Nordic Master Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) for 25 students. One objective is to attract and prepare students for future PhD studies and thereby promote sustainability in academic environmental law research at Nordic and other universities. Another objective is to meet the increasing demand for environmental law expertise in non-academic work, not least in the sustainable energy sector.

NOMPEL includes three main phases in accordance with a progression in learning outcomes. The first phase entails a broad introduction to the topic, indicating the role of law and the functions of particular environmental legal instruments in environmental policies. The student will also learn how international and EU environmental law interact with national law. In the second phase, students specialise in basically two environmental legal areas: (i) the law on effective management of natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity and (ii) climate change and energy law. During the third phase, the student shall produce a thesis in either of the two legal specialisation fields, covering the Nordic perspective.

NOMPEL will internationalise higher education in the Nordic region, inter alia, by including in the education important links between national, EU and international law; by providing students from different countries to work together and cooperate, by engaging lecturers from different countries and through student mobility. NOMPEL is based on excellence and high quality by engaging professors and other lecturers with a PhD exam, with positions at three law institutions with long experience in environmental law research and education. The courses are research oriented and based upon problem solving. NOMPEL includes also cooperation with the industry and the labour market, not least by engaging practitioners as lecturers.

## 5. Contents - Contents of the joint programme

### 5.1. Relevance Relevance

#### 1. Introduction

As a basis for prohibitions and restrictions, and mostly for economic incentives, law plays an essential role in the implementation of environmental policy objectives, such as counteracting and adapting to climate change, converting to sustainable energy systems, halting the loss of biodiversity, ensuring good air and water quality and achieving sustainable management of forests, fish, minerals and other natural resources. These issues are all part of "environmental law", which we define very broadly; not only specific protection legislation is included, but also e.g. legislation on physical planning, recycling of materials, sustainable energies and exploitation of water, minerals and other natural resources.

The legal implementation is part of environmental law in a multilevel governance framework – nationally, within the EU and internationally. Within each state, environmental issues are regulated on central, regional and local level. It is overall an extensive complex of rules with complicated relations within and between regulatory levels, regulating conflicts between different public and private interests. Environmental law is therefore a growing field for advanced legal research, and not least in the Nordic countries. There is also an increasing demand for educated specialists in the day to day application of environmental legislation, in e.g. courts, central and local authorities, industries, law firms and other consultancies, interest groups and organisations on national level, but also within EU and internationally.

The Nordic countries have long traditions in cooperating in the field of law. They are collaborating in developing legislation (the 1974 Nordic Environmental Protection Convention is one example). Academic cooperation has also been frequent, e.g. within different environmental law networks (see further below, part 3). The Uppsala, Tromsø and Joensuu universities intend to continue and expand the Nordic academic cooperation by developing a Nordic Master Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL).

The two main objectives of NOMPEL are to attract and prepare students for future PhD studies and to meet the increasing demand for environmental law expertise in non-academic work. There is a need for Nordic co-operation on a joint Master Programme since the capacity – as regards number of students and research-based teaching – in each country is limited and it would be even more difficult to establish comprehensive and full environmental law programmes on a more permanent basis at single universities. Despite the fact that there are differences in regulatory and governance traditions between Nordic countries, they are fairly close to each other in comparison to traditions in other countries. Future regulatory and governance challenges are to large extent common in a globalized world for all Nordic countries. This provides a fruitful basis for shared educational efforts. Through NOMPEL the students may also benefit from a wider range of international expertise and contacts, see section below on internationalisation.

## 2. Internationalisation

NOMPEL will internationalise higher education in the Nordic region. The courses include analyses of the close links between national, EU and international law. The programme also includes comparisons of how different Nordic countries and other countries have implemented international environmental conventions and EU environmental law. Furthermore, internationalisation is accomplished as students from different countries participate, by engaging lecturers from different countries and through student mobility; each student will study at the three universities in Uppsala, Tromsø and Joensuu. During the courses, students from different countries will be organised in work preparation groups, providing a platform for educational and intercultural exchange.

Cultural exchange with the general student body at the university in question will be encouraged. First of all, law students from the existing and ongoing master law programmes at the three universities will be invited to take part in the courses offered under NOMPEL. Group work, joint student presentations and peer feedback as well as company visits will provide the basis for academic, social and cultural interaction between the student groups. The language of instruction for NOMPEL is English. Students will also have the possibility to take basic language courses in Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian while studying in Uppsala, Joensuu and Tromsø. These courses are offered free of charge, the courses can be taken along the Master studies and the credits gained will be included in the students' study records.

## 3. Cooperation between higher education institutions in the Nordic region

Nordic research training co-operation within the field of environmental law goes back to the beginning of 1990's, within the network Cesam. From 2003–2011, the cooperation continued under the auspices of first the Nordic Environmental Law Network (NELN) and subsequently the Nordic Environmental Law, Governance and Science Network (NELN+) funded by NordForsk. Another important cooperation was established in the Nordic Research Network for Sámi Law and Environmental Law (NORSEL, 2002 – 2007). These networks have facilitated the establishment of a unique research cooperation among environmental academics in the Nordic countries through a long series of joint activities (i.e. conferences, workshops and research visits), with a special objective to encourage PhD students in environmental law. Although funding of those networks has ceased, the Nordic cooperation in research remains very active, now in a more informal way. Nordic scholars meet continuously at conferences (e.g. those arranged by the European Environmental Law Forum) and PhD dissertations etc. and work together in research publications. There is e.g. a specific academic Nordic Environmental Law Journal, with at least two issues each year: [www.nordiskmiljoratt.se](http://www.nordiskmiljoratt.se). The journal publishes peer reviewed papers from both senior researchers and PhD students.

Consequently, NOMPEL should be regarded an expansion of an already existing cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Nordic Region. The Nordic community will be consolidated

by NOMPEL, attracting new PhD students. The programme will also establish a closer educational cooperation between Nordic law institutions, entailing exchange of experiences in teaching methodology.

#### 4. A programme based on excellence and high quality

All partners are leading centres in the field of environmental law, specialising in, inter alia, climate change and energy law, law on management of water and other natural resources and conservation of biodiversity. All three institutions have made substantial contributions to research and development, both nationally and internationally. They represent a team with substantial experience and expertise in the different areas of environmental law and in different national and international contexts.

Most lecturers in the programme courses will be professors or other academics with a PhD degree in law and with profound knowledge in environmental law research and education. In addition, non-academic experts with important experience from application of environmental law in practice will occasionally be engaged. The courses will foremost include seminars based on problem solving; involving environmental legal theory and methodology on advanced level (see further Joint Curriculum Design). The programme is thus essentially research-based and offers good opportunities for graduates to careers in PhD research. The advanced level of education will also promote careers in non-academic working life.

#### 5. Relation to other master programmes in environmental law – added value and innovation

Nordic universities have since long provided environmental law courses and programmes on graduate and postgraduate levels. Some courses have a pure legal perspective whereas others include law in a multi-disciplinary approach. The consortium has identified a number of existing master programmes where Nordic states are involved and compared those with NOMPEL:

- The University of Eastern Finland Law School offers a two-year Master Degree Program in Environmental Policy and Law that started in 2012. This multidisciplinary full-time program's main focus is on natural resources governance, environmental and climate change law, but compared to NOMPEL that has a clear environmental law focus, UEF Law School's MDP programme is organized between two disciplines; environmental law and environmental policy.
- A MSc in Renewable Energy, operating on a semester-based rotation between Paris, Stockholm, Barcelona and Lisbon, has a broad interdisciplinary angle that remains strongly rooted in a deeper technological and business-understanding of renewable energy, not the legal perspective.
- The Faculty of Law at Stockholm University has at several occasions, last time 2013, provided a one year Master programme, with focus on environmental law issues in a transboundary context. It is not decided if and when this course will be offered again. NOMPEL focuses less on international law and more on Nordic and comparative law and specialises in climate and resource management law.
- The University of Iceland (Reykjavik) provides a one year LL.M. in Natural Resources and International Environmental Law, focusing on legal rules relating to natural resources and issues of environment or resource management in an international and European perspective.
- The University of Tromsø provides a one and a half year LL.M. in the Law of the Sea, focusing on the international legal framework on jurisdiction over maritime areas, rights and obligations in regard of access to the areas and their resources as well as protection of the marine environment.
- The North Sea Energy Law Program is organized by the University of Aberdeen in collaboration with the Universities of Oslo, Groningen and Copenhagen. The programme is mainly rooted in the oil and gas industry and the fossil fuels sectors. It is also mainly taught as a distance learning program, with two weeks residential periods at each partner university.
- Oslo University provides a 1 ½ year master in public international law. Students specialize in Climate and Energy law, but only during one semester and in environmental law, also one semester. The perspective in both courses is merely international law.

All in all, there are several master programs in the fields of environment and energy. These postgraduate programmes are here and there overlapping NOMPEL. However, the combined focus on climate change law and energy, and on natural resources management and biodiversity, is specific for NOMPEL (the programme's three phases are described in the Joint Curriculum Design). Furthermore, the NOMPEL has a unique Nordic perspective. It focuses on legal systems and mechanisms that in many cases are seen as frontrunners in a global context.

An additional added value of NOMPEL is the long-standing experience of its partners in offering research and full programs or multiple courses within the scope of environmental law, which facilitates the creation of a comprehensive and well-coordinated joint degree programme.

NOMPEL gives the students the opportunity to complete their studies through mobility, research, training, intellectual and intercultural interaction amongst researchers, practitioners and specialists in three different Nordic contexts. For this reason, NOMPEL represents enhanced knowledge, deepening knowhow and a broadening scope compared to other existing postgraduate programme, in spite of their excellence and relevance.

NOMPEL is a working-life oriented programme that is built to reflect the recruitment needs of the public, private and academic sector. NOMPEL will contribute to facilitating and strengthening the connections between research, businesses and lawmakers. Well-connected with the relevant public authorities, the green industry and the legal sector, the programme serves as a platform for the professional orientation of the students and ultimately, their recruitment. The consortium's natural and long-standing connection between academics and practice will greatly facilitate the students' future transition into the labour market. The teaching methodologies and language and the mandatory mobility will meet the increased need for staff with international skills and international insights and language competencies as well as staff that are willing and able to work across countries and cultures.

## 6. Relation to academic research and non-academic working life

### Academic research

The need for future academic research is obvious, both for deeper, theoretical analyses of applicable environmental law and for developing new legal tools and approaches to promote a sustainable development. Several universities in the Nordic countries include research departments or groups in environmental law that need additional educated experts for both research and research-based teaching. An important objective of the programme is to attract new PhD students in environmental law. As the programme is based on problem solving and active student participation and will encourage the ability to reflect and to ask critical questions in combination with training in academic writing and appreciation of high academic standards, the students will be well prepared for future academic research in environmental law. Furthermore, the knowledge acquired during the master programme will form an important basis for the future environmental law PhD students both in their research and in their teaching in environmental law, before and after their PhD exam.

### Non-academic working life

Today, the Nordic countries are facing profound structural transformations, in particular the transition towards a green, low carbon and resource efficient economy. Transforming the economy along this path will provide important sources of jobs. This is not least relevant in connection with mitigating climate change and promoting renewable energy and also in a sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity. NOMPEL focuses on these areas (see Joint Curriculum Design). Vinnova, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems has in the report "Measuring Green Jobs?: An Evaluation of Definitions and Statistics for Green" (TemaNord 2012:534, p. 89) pointed to the fact that "environmental knowledge is becoming increasingly important in areas and fields where it previously has not been necessary, like in pharmaceuticals, health, financial, and law". It is assumed that the transition will benefit mainly high-skilled workers, thus emphasizing the need for education however not only in engineering and natural science, but also in law.

Available evidence shows that in particular the renewable energy sector is experiencing very strong employment dynamics, with wind, solar and biomass technologies progressing most rapidly. On the international level, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has estimated that globally, 6.5 million people are working directly or indirectly in the renewable energy sector (Renewable Energy and Jobs: Annual Review 2014). In the EU, it is estimated that the renewable energy sectors support employment for 1.2 million workers in the EU<sup>28</sup>. Looking ahead, the European Renewable Energy Council predicts that by 2020 renewable energy could provide employment for two million citizens in Europe (EU Skills Panorama 2014).

Consequently, the sustainable energy sector plays a major role in the global economy as an important and growing source of employment and human welfare. The transformation experienced as climate change, security concerns and scarcity of resources are forcing countries to move towards a more sustainable consumption model will undoubtedly lead to further job creation in the new energy-related sectors, an increased security of supply, and hopefully also tools to combat climate change and environmental degradation. However, the transformation has impacted a wide variety of legal frameworks and economic and policy instruments nationally, in the EU and around the globe, the design and effectiveness of which is equally diverse. Herein lays a challenge: it is increasingly difficult for professionals to get a full understanding of the environmental and energy sectors and the legal mechanisms and forces that shape it.

NOMPEL thus aims at fulfilling a major gap in higher education in the ever-growing field of energy, climate, natural resources management, biodiversity and other environmental related issues.

## 7. Collaboration between HEIs, industry and labour market in the Nordic Region

In order to link NOMPEL to the industry and the labour market, the programme will engage experienced practitioners as guest lecturers in the courses. The courses will also include study visits to companies, authorities, courts and other organisations where environmental law is applied in practice. During the visits, the students will have an opportunity to learn more about how environmental and energy law form part of the activities carried out by the company in question, or they may experience how a court or administrative appeal board work in practice. Company visits, such as visits to private consultancies offering legal services in the field of environmental law will inform students of employment possibilities within the private sector. Places to visit may be e.g. the European Forest Institute (EFI, <http://www.efi.int/portal/>) in Joensuu, The Land and Environmental Court of Appeal in Stockholm (<http://www.markochmiljoooverdomstolen.se/>) and the secretariat of the Arctic Council and the regional office of the Fisheries Directorate in Tromsø.

## 8. Student learning outcomes

NOMPEL is designed to reach good and measurable results in students' learning outcomes (knowledge, competences, and skills). The programme shall give the students a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework which determines the development of environmental regulations at an international level, within the EU, and at a national and industry level. Based on the specialized focus and the high expertise of the lecturers, the students will learn how to apply and give advice on the legal challenges associated with a green, low carbon and resource efficient economy. The objective of NOMPEL is to produce postgraduate candidates with competencies in three complementary domains: Knowledge and understanding, intellectual competencies and practical competencies (these are specified in Joint Curriculum Design).

## **5.2. Joint curriculum design Joint curriculum design**

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#### 1. Student learning outcomes

The objective of NOMPEL is to educate and examine master students with competencies in three complementary domains:

(i) Knowledge and understanding: Candidates who can:

- identify and comprehend complex environmental legal issues concerning, inter alia, the role of law in connection with (a) implementation of climate policies and in particular the transformation to sustainable energy systems, and (b) effective management of natural resources including halting the loss of biodiversity;
- raise fundamental questions about the concepts of sustainable development, natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, climate change and sustainable energy systems;
- identify and understand international, EU and Nordic environmental and energy specificities and interests and the interaction with national policies and interests in the Nordic countries;

- identify and understand the economic and policy concerns in solving the legal problems and issues arising in this field;
- communicate and draw up legal solutions both orally and in writing;

(ii) Intellectual competences: Candidates who have the:

- ability to reflect on various environment law topics and to ask critical questions from a legal perspective;
- ability to synthesize concisely the complexity of intricate energy and environmental regulation topics and to create an overview of these topics;
- ability to work independently and to carry out an integrated and comprehensive legal analyses of national and transnational environmental and energy law issues;
- ability to seek out and select relevant legislative documents and cases;
- ability to comprehend national and transnational environmental and energy law problems and to set up a solution;
- ability to successfully undertake written assignments, deliver oral presentations and conduct small-scale research in an area of sustainable environmental and energy law, that will be of value in developing policy and professional practice and applying regulatory frameworks and implementing instruments related to climate change, sustainable energy systems, effective management of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity.

(iii) Practical competencies: Candidates who can:

- correctly and comprehensively advice and guide clients within the issues of environmental law, in particular in relation to climate change, sustainable energy, resource management and biodiversity;
- contribute to the design and development policies and regulations with the aim of managing climate change, sustainable energy systems, effective resource management and conservation of biodiversity;
- develop the competencies required to professionally advise businesses, organizations and public authorities on the adoption, implementation, supervision, development and control of sustainable energy and environmental regulation mechanisms;
- manage and develop the area of national and transnational environmental and energy regulation, including identifying new solutions to support the transition to a sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient economy;
- independently initiate and implement collaborations that embrace different legal disciplines; and
- take part in the new developments and transitions taking place in the Nordic countries, in Europe and globally, in accordance with internationally agreed aims on climate change, sustainable energy systems, effective resource management and conservation of biodiversity.

## 2. The programme

The three partners

NOMPEL is jointly developed by the universities in Uppsala (coordinator), Tromsø and Joensuu (partners).

The Faculty of Law at Uppsala University has a long tradition in environmental law research and education. According to a Nordic research evaluation of law faculties in 2011, the environmental law unit in Uppsala was regarded as particularly strong within the Faculty and among Nordic universities (KoF11, p. 246). Today, the group entails six researchers with a PhD exam (including three professors) and four PhD students. The competence is very broad including basically all fields of environmental law, inter alia, biodiversity law, forest management and water management law, access to justice, energy law and different legal aspects on pollution issues. This broad competence is useful when students are introduced to environmental law in the first phase of the programme. The students will profit from the specific competence in forest management, water management and biodiversity law during the specialisation in phase two. The environmental group in Uppsala is engaged in international cooperation with scholars and organisations in Europe, US (Law Faculty at Pace Univ., NYC, and Minnesota Law School) and China (e.g. Law Department at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou).

At UiT the Arctic University of Norway, the academic resources of the K.G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea (JCLOS) at the Faculty of Law will be utilized. It is one of the leading research centres on the international law of the sea. Its studies on sustainable and equitable utilization of the marine resources will profit the students. JCLOS includes seven researchers with PhD exam, in addition to

four adjunct professors. It has nine PhD students and three postdoctoral fellows. The Fridtjof Nansen Institute is a partner in JCLOS, specialising on legal and political science regarding the polar areas. The competence of JCLOS includes a broad spectre of law of the sea issues, including different aspects of marine environmental/biodiversity law and energy law. Tromsø is a centre for knowledge and governance on the Arctic marine environment, and provides venue for interdisciplinary approaches. Several research institutes are co-located at the Fram Centre (High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment). The NOMPEL students will be given lectures from natural scientists of this Centre on particular challenges in the North Atlantic and the Arctic. Further, the Arctic Council secretariat is located at the Fram Centre in Tromsø. The course includes visit with lecture at the Arctic Council.

UEF Law School is the leading Finnish research institution in the area of natural resources, climate change, energy and environmental law. The Law School offers the widest selection of environmental law courses in all relevant fields of environmental law in Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral level. UEF Law School's international staff on environmental law consists of five full time Professors, three Senior Lecturers, four Senior Researchers (all holding a PhD), two university teachers and all together 40 PhD candidates. UEF Law School also operates the Master's Degree Programme in Environmental Policy and Law. The programme consists of advanced study of law and policy in relation to the environment, climate change and natural resources. The programme is part of the Centre for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law (CCEEL) that brings together a range of activities from UEF Law School and provides a common platform for discussion, research and education. Students at the UEF Law School also benefit from the research and education network of the Institute for Natural Resources, Environment and Society (LYY) operating at the UEF, representing several disciplines including geography, forest economics and policy, environmental law, history, aesthetics and policy, sociology, education, and tourism studies. The UEF Law School's environmental law team is well connected with other academics and professionals within the academia, authorities and beyond – both nationally and internationally. For example, the Law School cooperates with the UN Environment to organise a two-week high profile course on environmental law and diplomacy (the course has run since 2004).

#### A program with three phases

NOMPEL includes three main phases in accordance with a progression in learning outcomes. The first phase entails a broad introductory course, basically a discussion on the role of law in environmental policies (Uppsala). The student will learn the functions and potentials of different environmental legal instruments and principles, but also how legislation and legal principles can counteract implementation of environmental objectives and green growth. The student will also learn how international and EU environmental law interact with national law and the basic structures and challenges in environmental law in all Nordic states. In addition, the students will be early introduced to the coming NOMPEL courses during phase two and to the challenges connected with the authoring of a master thesis during phase three.

Building upon the general understanding of environmental law, of the influence from the international and EU law and of basic legal similarities and differences between the Nordic states, the second phase (end of first and the entire second and third semester) provides the student with a specialisation into basically two environmental legal areas, both of fundamental importance from international, EU and Nordic perspective. One is the law on effective management of natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity. A first course on management of natural resources and biodiversity will especially focus on water management and forestry, and highlight possible conflicts with biodiversity protection (Uppsala). In Joensuu, the students continue with the natural resources theme and take courses on international law and forests, international water law as well as on environmental impact assessment and WTO law in the context of natural resources. The course held in Tromsø, on international law and sustainable use of living marine natural resources, includes studies on protection of biodiversity in marine harvest in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction and offers case studies on national implementation. The second specialisation area is climate change and energy law, including, inter alia, an advanced course on climate change law and policy in Joensuu. In Tromsø, the students will acquire advanced knowledge of the interdependence between climate and energy, including on the implications of climate change law for the energy sector, renewable energy, emissions trading and carbon capture and storage. The course will offer case studies from the Arctic.

During the second phase, NOMPEL has made use of the specific competences of respective law institution. Still, in order to include the Nordic perspective, material and lecturers from other Nordic states are involved in the courses in order for the students to understand how environmental objectives, established in international and EU law, are implemented in different Nordic states. We have already contacted Danish and Icelandic environmental law professors and they are willing to give input to the courses.

With the specific competences in biodiversity law and climate and energy law, the student shall, during the third phase, produce a thesis in either of the two legal fields, but with a specific thesis topic demanding own empirical research and analyses, covering, inter alia, the Nordic perspective. The student is continuously supported by a supervisor from any of the three universities. Seminars during the course advises the student in legal methodology, structuring and writing skills (as a follow-up to the introductory course). Students receive feed-back on draft papers, presented in seminars in the middle of the semester. The final thesis is subject to opposition during seminars in the end of the course and evaluated and graded by a professor other than the supervisor. The final seminars include also a summing up of the entire master programme.

The program in short

Application and acceptance of students to the programme is carried out in spring 2019. After that, NOMPEL is in short structured as follows:

(i) Fall 2019: Introduction - The role of law in environmental policies (15 ECTS) and Law on management of natural resources and protection of biodiversity (15 ECTS), Faculty of Law, Uppsala University.

Students stay in Uppsala during the entire semester.

(ii) Spring 2020: Climate Change Law (10 ECTS) and Natural Resources Law (20 ECTS). Students stay in Joensuu during the entire semester.

(iii) Fall 2020: Energy and Climate Change Law (15 ECTS) and Protection of the Marine Environment with focus on Marine Living Resources Law (15 ECTS). Students stay in Tromsø during the entire semester.

(iv) Spring 2021: Master thesis in Environmental Law (30 ECTS). Seminars in the start, middle and end of the semester. Supervisors are engaged from Tromsø, Joensuu and Uppsala. No obligation for students to stay in Uppsala, Tromsø or Joensuu. Participation in the seminars is mandatory, but most of them may be attended on video links.

### 3. Student mobility

All three universities have established organisations to assist foreign students in finding accommodation and other practical matters related to the studies.

The mandatory mobility element, which implies living in three Nordic countries, is instrumental to NOMPEL objectives in at least two ways. Firstly, it allows students to study environmental topics in diverse academic environments that have developed different areas of expertise. This is in particular relevant for forestry, water management and biodiversity law (Uppsala) climate change law and natural resources governance (Joensuu) and energy and climate change law and living marine resources law (Tromsø). Secondly, it provides the students with knowledge about diverse strategies and systems in the countries of stay and in other countries and regions that are the object of deep investigations at each participating university. NOMPEL is concentrated around the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, and Tromsø has profound knowledge of the legal situation in the Arctic. This mobility contributes to the students' flexibility, resourcefulness and overall ability of working with different cultures and languages; qualities that reinforce their employability.

### 4. Pedagogics

Problem solving and active student participation are the essential components in NOMPEL education. Seminars include, inter alia, analyses of court cases and constructed hypothetical cases, discussions related to student presentations of legal solutions in Nordic states and made-up court cases with students acting in role playing.

In each taught semester, the teaching staff across the consortium encourages critical thinking and independent study. Students are offered a wide range of teaching and learning activities as appropriate to the aims of the individual courses. These include (a) lectures followed by plenary discussion - sessions supported by written texts and PowerPoint presentations; (b) seminars organised as participative lectures or with student presentations; and (c) workshops and smaller seminar groups exploring the themes of the preceding presentations or addressing pre-given tasks, texts and questions. The writing of individual assignments represents an integrated part of the learning approach. Students are encouraged to use study groups as a resource for learning and debate. The use of learning approaches vary within individual modules and university traditions, but all participants are encouraged to develop a common course identity through the creation of reading/interest groups to consolidate shared interests and to pursue a more in-depth study of an issue.

Continuity and progression are assured by means of the design of the curriculum. The first phase lays the fundamentals and provides the basis for understanding approaches, perspectives and tools in national and transnational environmental and energy regulation. The second phase allows for specialisation in the context of (i) natural resources management and biodiversity law and (ii) climate change and energy law. The third phase allows students to unify and extend their understanding of the subject as developed in the taught part of the programme, by pursuing an independent research project on one of the two legal areas under phase two.

The NOMPEL partners will use their established contacts with industry, businesses, decision makers, authorities, interest groups, NGOs, etc., in order to integrate them into the programme, especially during phase two. The plan is to involve practitioners as teachers and arrange study visits at business entities, public institutions etc. Where possible, practitioners will be involved as advisers during the master thesis (phase three).

## 5. Integration in the Degree catalogue of each University

At Uppsala University, information on the University's courses and programmes are published in a web based catalogue and continuously updated. The catalogue includes all necessary information in order to apply to the programmes and courses. Students self-register on programmes at the national web site [studera.nu](http://studera.nu) and on courses at Uppsala Student Portal ([studentportalen.uu.se](http://studentportalen.uu.se)), which also is used for online course management. There is also a separate e-learning system at the University. In addition, the University holds a Student Service to provide general information on courses and programmes. More specific questions related to a certain course or programme are answered by the course manager, the Faculty Director of Study and connected administrative staff at the Faculty Student Service. Both the University and the Faculty markets courses and programmes in fairs etc.

At the University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu) information on the courses within the NOMPEL programme is available online via WebOodi (<https://weboodi.uef.fi/weboodi/etusivu.html?Kieli=6>). WebOodi contains all relevant information on the courses (content, objectives, required study materials and timing). Students register for the courses also in Weboodi, and WebOodi is also continuously updated. Actual course material, extra material and additional readings for each course will be downloaded to Moodle, which is an online learning platform used on all courses. Moodle is also used, i.e., in electronical exams, as a platform for discussion and group work as well as to collect course feedback.

At the University of Tromsø, all courses which are part of a study programme can be found in the web based course catalogue (link: <https://en.uit.no/education>). The course catalogue contains all course descriptions. These are continuously updated. For the autumn semester the updated course descriptions are released in early March, while the updated course descriptions for the spring semester are released in beginning of September. Students register for their courses via the self-service facility (<http://studweb.uit.no/>). Each course is set up in Fronter, which is the Learning Management System at the University. It is used for online course management and e-learning.

## 5.3. Joint management Joint management

### 5.3. Joint management

#### 1. Management bodies

The NOMPEL consortium is made up of three degree-awarding institutions: Uppsala University (UU), University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu (UEF) and UiT the Arctic University of Norway (UiT) working under a Consortium Agreement which sets out the responsibilities of each partner institution in matters on, inter alia, promotion and marketing, admission, services available to students, financial management, confidentiality, and data protection etc. (a first draft of the agreement is attached to this application, the text is very preliminary). The partners will be in dialogue and in meetings to finalize to mutual satisfaction the final draft of the Consortium Agreement that will be signed in concert with the timescales of the first student intake in 2019 (a first draft of the agreement is attached to this application). Overall management of the Consortium is the responsibility of the coordinator (UU), the programme manager and a Steering Committee. The programme manager, who is appointed by the coordinator, acts as chair of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is the responsible executive body of the Consortium and is made up of three members appointed by the three consortium partners: Professor Gabriel Michanek (UU), Professor Tore Henriksen (UiT) and Senior Lecturer Seita Romppanen (UEF).

The Steering Committee meets on a regularly basis, at least twice a year in order to clarify administrative and organizational matters; inter alia, to address financial aspects and agree upon marketing and promotion; to manage the admission and selection of applicants; to evaluate the standards of the curriculum and examinations; to discuss student progress and assess the need for adapting the teaching content to recent developments in the field; to discuss arrangements related to student mobility; to make plans for the forthcoming semester. The future planning of the programme will further develop how programme students and technical and administrative staff shall be represented at the Steering Committee meetings.

In order to ensure the necessary organizational support, the coordinating institution (UU) will establish a Consortium Office, consisting of the programme manager (Professor Michanek) and technical and administrative support staff. The Consortium will establish a web-based virtual community, which will act as the daily medium for information and dialogue between the members of the Steering Committee, between the Steering Committee and the designated academic and administrative staff – and between the staff members involved in implementation of the programme.

#### 2. Internal monitoring and quality assurance

The programme monitoring and internal evaluation mechanisms are the responsibility of the Steering Committee in close collaboration with the local Study Boards at each participating university. This includes student participation and publications of results of course and programme evaluations as an integrated part of consortium practices. All courses in the programme are evaluated annually using a common questionnaire developed by the consortium in close cooperation with student representatives participating in the Steering Committee meetings. Upon submission of their thesis all students are asked to make an overall evaluation which reflects on their learning experience and provide recommendations to the programme in general and the completed mobility-track. Moreover, the Steering Committee will establish a reference group with the task to review the programme yearly. This group will consist of practitioners from relevant work sectors. The reference group shall take part of other internally reviewed material and make additional interviews and investigations where appropriate. To ensure transparency, the results of the internal evaluation are made available for the public.

Along with this integrated evaluation and ongoing monitoring strategy undertaken by the Steering Committee, each institution operates its own internal quality assurance and evaluation process. The internal quality assurance mechanisms are in all three universities in alignment with the requirements laid down in the European standards and guidelines for the quality assurance of higher education (ESG).

The results of all internal evaluations shall be discussed by the Steering Committee with the intention to continuously improve the programme. The evaluation shall also be taken into account when the three universities assist individual programme students in educational, career and social matters.

#### 4. External quality assurance

UU and other Swedish universities have full degree awarding powers for all study programmes, except for professional ones. In consequence, approval by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (Universitetskanslersämbetet, UKÄ) is not required for NOMPEL. UU does however have internal procedures for programme accreditation. New education programmes are instituted by the Rector in accordance with certain adopted criteria related to, inter alia, connections to research, lecturers' competence, future job opportunities, internationalization and quality assurance methods. The University institutions are to review their study programmes themselves while the UKÄ audits the institutions to make sure that their quality assurance procedures are effective. That includes reviewing whether these procedures are in line with the requirements laid down in the Higher Education Act and the qualification descriptors in the ordinances associated with it, as well as with ESG. UU has an internal system for systematic reviews of study programmes every sixth year consisting of an external review by colleagues of other institutions of higher education.

The UiT may establish new study programmes without prior approval by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT). UiT is responsible for ensuring the quality on the study programme offered. It is required to have an internal system for quality assurance. Every sixth year NOKUT conducts an evaluation of UiT's system for quality assurance. Further, NOKUT may initiate inspection of all existing programmes, including those established by the universities themselves.

The UEF may establish new study programmes without prior approval by the Ministry of Education and Culture that has confirmed the fields of education on which each Finnish university can offer education. For UEF, law is included in the field where UEF can provide education. UEF holds a quality assurance label (audited in 2016) and it is responsible for upholding and ensuring the quality on the study programme offered. In addition, an internal system for quality assurance is required. Quality audits are conducted every sixth year. In addition, UEF may initiate an inspection of all existing programmes at any time, including those established by the universities themselves.

#### **Tuition fees**

The issue of tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students have been initially discussed by the Contortium, including administrative staff from each university. The only Consortium measure so far is to clarify the situation (in Norway and in Sweden/Finland) when marketing the programme.

### **5.4. Students Students**

#### **5.4. Students**

##### 1. Type of students

The programme is open for 25 students of any nationality, provided the following threshold criteria are met:

- A first degree in law (LL.M. or bachelor of Law including at least 180 ECTS of which the majority of ECTS concern law topics). The NOMPEL Consortium may after an individual assessment accept students with equivalent university degree, corresponding to at least three years of full-time study with a qualification relevant to NOMPEL.
- High level of spoken and written English: IELTS 7.0/TOEFL 650.

The selection of students is made according to the following criteria: Academic excellence (priority), relevant education, work and other experiences and evidence of motivation.

An annex to this application includes further preliminary information on, inter alia, application requirements, selection of applicants, examination and diplomas.

##### 2. Promotion measures

The programme promotion measures taken by the consortium to increase the visibility and attractiveness of NOMPEL are as follows:

(i) Websites and online communications.

- [www.NOMPEL.org](http://www.NOMPEL.org) (not yet established) will serve as the main web portal providing precise and regularly updated information on the programme and courses, including application procedures, study guide book, course outlines and full contact details.
- Programme information and course descriptions will regularly be spotlighted at the websites of the partner institutions.
- Programme information will be listed in popular search engines and student-friendly websites, such as the three universities online course catalogues and Google AdWords. A NOMPEL group on Facebook will maintain online communication with potential students.

(ii) Participation in education fairs.

(iii) Presentation of NOMPEL to national students at open doors events in partner institutions.

(iv) A web banner and adverts will be placed in popular newspapers in specially targeted countries, and in selected academic journals, such as European Energy and Environmental Law Review, International Energy Law Review, Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law, RELP (Renewable Energy Law and Policy Review) CCLR (Carbon and Climate Law Review), Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law (RECIEL) and Nordic Environmental Law Journal.

(v) Information will be disseminated in existing networks and conferences, through the three Law institutions own alumni associations and in existing environmental law courses and programmes (e.g. Master in Environmental and Energy Law at AU).

(vi) Distribution of course brochure:

- The NOMPEL programme brochure will be distributed at educational conferences and seminars organised or participated by the partner universities.
- The NOMPEL programme brochure is included in the standard visitor information pack at the partner universities.
- The NOMPEL programme brochure will be sent annually to contacts at the three universities and to ministries in all relevant countries.

### 3. Student assistance (see also Joint Curriculum Design, part 5)

(i) At Uppsala, administrative staff in the Student Affairs and Academic Registry Division answer questions related to applications, tuition fees etc. The University International Office supports the applicants with information as regards, inter alia, housing, visa and social activities. Much information is also provided through [www.uu.se/master](http://www.uu.se/master). Students paying tuition fees are offered housing through the University's Housing office.

The International Office arranges, in connection with Uppsala Student Union, many welcome events for new students. There is e.g. a Welcome desk at Arlanda airport and a shuffle service to Uppsala. There are guided tours around Uppsala and a big welcome ceremony in the University Hall. Moreover, Uppsala is an old student town with an extraordinary cultural supply all year round. Worth mentioning is e.g. the 13 so called "student nations" (located in big houses) offering, inter alia, different cultural events, sports activities, dinners and cafés. They also provide student scholarships and housing. The Law students' Association in Uppsala, related to the Law Faculty, also offers different social arrangements.

The University Student Affairs and Academic Registry Division coordinate assistance for students with different kinds of physical or mental disabilities. Advice and support are free of charge, e.g. note support, sign language interpretation and mentors. The Law Faculty offers adjusted examination and other practical support.

(ii) At Tromsø, administrative assistance for the NOMPEL students is provided by administrative officers of the International Office at the University Studies Administration, with further assistance from the Faculty of Law. An administrative resource person at the Faculty will be specifically assigned to the NOMPEL study administration.

The administrative assistance provided includes support with residence permit and visa application procedures. The International Office offers a housing service which guarantees NOMPEL students from outside the EEA/EU area at least one offer for housing. All NOMPEL students will be assisted seeking alternative accommodation. The International Offices facilitates social integration of the students through a variety of activities including: an induction programme, mentor programmes which pair NOMPEL students with local students helping with arrival, study and social matters.

At Tromsø, the Student Counselling Centre offers individual counselling for NOMPEL students experiencing study-related difficulties caused by dyslexia, physical, mental or behavioural disabilities. This centre offers free counselling and full professional secrecy.

(iii) At Joensuu, the administrative services to Master's degree students are offered by Student and Learning Services (<http://www.uef.fi/en/web/opintopalvelut/>) that helps students with questions relating, for example, to registration, study rights, certifications of student status, transcripts of academic records, study guides and student register matters. All international students are also encouraged to participate the International Orientation programme that familiarises the students with essential information on studying and university life at UEF, provides the students with tips on different practical matters, gives information on Finland and on the Finnish culture as well as enables the students to meet other students & network.

A comprehensive Practical Guide for International Students is also published by UEF.

The Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland (ISYY) is an active student union that offers various services and activities to international students. In addition, the International Mobility Services will try to provide each incoming student with a student tutor.

The UEF Law School's staff helps students with questions relating to the academic content of the programme. Also, students can turn to the Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS) for issues related to health. FSHS provides general, mental and oral health care services.

All partners offer NOMPEL students support with residence permit and visa application procedures. The International Offices at Uppsala and Tromsø will assist students in relation to housing services and student housing. The same service is provided in Joensuu, by the City. The International Offices at all partner institutions encourage social integration with a variety of initiatives including: an induction programme, mentor programmes which pair NOMPEL students with local students helping with arrival, study and social matters.

## **5.5. Sustainability Sustainability**

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The intention of the three universities is to develop a long term master program in environmental law. All Nordic Countries as well as the majority of EU countries are committed to sustainable development, creating an increasing need for qualified professionals able to bring under close and critical scrutiny legal environmental issues at municipal, county, national and international levels.

Therefore, the NOMPEL consortium plans to broaden its institutional scope, and engage in close cooperation with universities from the two other Nordic countries. Such an enlargement of NOMPEL is facilitated by the established, well-functioning cooperation between the Nordic researchers in environmental law.

There are also other options. There is an increasing need in Asia for enhanced sustainability in response to their present industrial development, causing both global and regional environmental degradation. Both a political and an economic analysis demonstrate ample need in the future for environmental law graduates. It is in this context relevant that the Law Faculty in Uppsala has close cooperation with several prominent environmental law professors in China, at universities in Beijing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Kunming, in the fields of research (conferences etc.) and education. UEF Law School cooperates with the Fudan University, as well as with the Nordic Centre in Shanghai in the field of environmental law. For example, in 2015 the UEF Law School organised a two-week seminar on international environmental

law and diplomacy at the Fudan University in cooperation with Fudan Law School and the Nordic Centre. UiT/JCLOS is developing cooperation with universities in Asia on law of the sea. In 2015, JCLOS organised an international conference on shipping in the Arctic in collaboration with Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. The conference involved researchers from Japan, Korea, China, USA and Canada.

The NOMPEL application (Relevance) indicates three institutions (Uppsala, Tromsø and Joensuu) with strong capacity in research and education within different fields of environmental law. This high level of competence is expected to last, and develop stronger in the near future. NOMPEL would clearly contribute to strengthen the level of competence in all three institutions.

At institutional level all participating universities have systems of financing that is centrally based on student output. Hence, successful marketing of the programme is vital to attract sufficient number of good students. This will guarantee the continuity of the programme, as well as financing of the planned curriculum.

Since all students will be registered at Nordic universities, they will all be eligible for grants from NordPlus and from EU programmes such as ERASMUS. Possibly, other loan schemes or scholarship programmes are available in Sweden, Finland or Norway, but this needs to be further investigated. If NOMPEL in the future will provide education of environmental law for developing states, foreign aid funds may be available, e.g. in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

## 6. Attachments - Attachments

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#### Attachements

- \* [Draft Agreement.pdf](#)
- \* [Students Annex.pdf](#)
- \* [Letter of intent UiT.pdf](#)
- \* [Letter of intent UEF.pdf](#)
- \* [Letter of intent UU.pdf](#)