

# Regulations for the Master of Laws in Law of the Sea program

**The Regulations for the Master of Laws in Law of the Sea was approved by the board of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tromsø in case JF 13-13 on 1.3.13. Last amended by Studieutvalget 06.06.2018 in the case SU 32/18.**

## **CHAPTER 1: GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1: Admission**

1. Students must hold, at minimum 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.
2. All courses will be held in English. Therefore, applicants must document adequate proficiency in English.
3. Applicants must enclose an essay of approximately two pages in English where they describe their background and motivation for taking this Master's degree.

### **Section 2: Leave of absence**

Section 18 of the Regulations for university academic studies applies.

### **Section 3: Appeals**

The appeal regulations for university examinations apply, cf. *Section 42-44 of the Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø.*

### **Section 4: Diploma**

The title and grade of the Master's thesis will be shown on the diploma, alongside the grades for the four mandatory courses

### **Section 5 Authority**

The Academic Affairs Committee makes decisions on behalf of the Faculty, unless otherwise determined.

## **CHAPTER 2: MANDATORY COURSES**

### **Section 6: Prerequisites/Work requirements**

1. A successful examination pass in 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 rule applies for JUR-3910, where Semester 1 and 2 must successfully be completed before admission to the last part (semester 3) of the program, cf. Section 4 in the Program description for Master of Laws in Law of the Sea.
2. Some courses may have work requirements which must be approved before the student may take the exam. Such work requirements will appear in the course description.

### **Section 7: Examination**

1. The form of examination is determined by the course description for each course.
2. Examinations are held at the end of the semester. The Faculty may determine further rules for the implementation of these examinations.
3. All courses are taught in English, and must consequently have exams in English. The English terminology is part of the learning outcomes in these subjects.
4. The Program director is also Head of examinations for the LL.M-program. The Head of examinations approves the examination topics for all examinations, including postponed and re-sit examinations together with one of the academic staff that has relations to the LL.M-program.

### **Section 7A: Home exam**

1. Home exams have a duration of four working days. The exam is handed out at 9:00 on the first day of the exam, and the paper has to be handed in before 15:00 on the last day of the exam.
2. The paper cannot exceed a total of 15 pages, including spaces, footnotes and endnotes.
3. The limits set above do not include the preface, table of contents, index, literature list and any appendices. However, footnotes and conclusion notes are included.
4. The home exam must be handed in electronically through beforehand announced web-portal, using the font "Times New Roman" with font size 12 pt, line spacing of 1,5 and with a 2,5 margin.

5. If the home exam does not meet the requirements mentioned in this section it will not be delivered to censoring. The student will then be considered as having withdrawn himself/herself from examinations or not delivered the exam cf. Regulations for examinations at UiT, Section 16.

### **Section 8: Assessment methods**

1. Assessment is handled by two examiners, one of which must be external.
2. A course where the assessment method consists of a written and an oral exam, candidates with a passed grade on the written exam will be required to take the oral exam.
3. If the censors do not reach an agreement on the awarding of a grade, the Faculty will appoint a third external examiner. The grade is determined through joint agreement or by two of the examiners' viewpoints being decisive.

### **Section 9: Re-sit and postponed examinations**

1. In case a candidate is awarded a grade F (fail) during the examination in a course on the LL.M-programme, he/she has the right to a re-sit examination, cf. Section 22 of the Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø.
2. It is not possible for a student to re-sit an exam that he/she has already passed.
3. Candidates who fulfil the criteria in *Regulations for examinations at UiT* Section 21 are eligible for a postponed examination.

### **Section 10: Permitted auxiliary materials during examinations**

1. During examination the following books are allowed as auxiliary material:  
"The Legal Order of the Oceans" edited by A.V. Lowe and S.A.G. Talmon and "Global and Regional Treaties" edited by Ole Kristian Fauchald and Bård Sverre Tuseth.
2. Students may also be granted permission to use dictionaries during the examination. Only basic dictionaries from mother tongue to English may be used, such as Spanish-English, Russian-English, Polish-English, Chinese-English, Norwegian-English etc. Wide-ranging dictionaries (e.g. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) or legal dictionaries will not be allowed.
3. The auxiliary materials must be handed in and approved by the Faculty before the Exam.

## **CHAPTER 3: MASTER'S THESIS**

### **Section 11: Introduction**

1. During the program, the students must submit an independent written work (Master's thesis).
2. The Master's thesis yields 30 credits.

### **Section 12: Objective of the Master's thesis**

The objective of the Master's thesis is for students to gain training in preparation and production

of a larger juridical or partially juridical paper, through an independent analysis of the topic and source material. The Master's thesis shall also contribute to provide the students with specialization in a specific topic.

### **Section 13: Thesis topic**

1. The theme of the thesis must be of a legal or semi-legal character, and may include perspectives such as legal theory and legal history. The thesis must consist of independent analyses of the topic and the legal sources available. The thesis shall provide the student with an in-depth study of a particular topic. The discussion within thesis must be transparent and as complete as possible. The references to the sources must be precise and verifiable.
2. The topic must be approved by the Faculty. The students must hand in a topic proposal by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Section 14: Length of thesis**

1. The Master's thesis must be of minimum 37 pages and maximum 55 pages. Dispensation from the minimum page requirement may be granted in special circumstances. Dispensation from the maximum page requirement will not be granted.
2. The limits set above do not include the preface, table of contents, index, literature list and any appendices. However, footnotes and conclusion notes are included.
3. If the thesis does not meet the requirements mentioned in this section and in Section 16 it will not be delivered to censoring. The student will then be considered as having withdrawn himself/herself from examinations or not delivered the exam cf. Regulations for examinations at UiT, Section 16.

### **Section 15: Academic supervision**

1. The students will be provided with individual supervision of 15 hours.
2. Students may seek advice and help from others than their academic supervisor. However, such advice must not violate the requirement of the thesis being an individual piece of work based on independent research.
3. The academic supervision includes time for reading, preparation of notes and individual sessions.

### **Section 16: Submission**

1. Only theses approved by the Faculty, and which satisfy the requirements set in Section 15, may be submitted for assessment.

2. The thesis must be handed in electronically through beforehand announced web-portal and uploaded to the university's database MUNIN, using the font "Times New Roman" with font size 12 pt, line spacing of 1,5 and with a 2,5 margin.
3. The thesis must be submitted for assessment no later than 1<sup>st</sup> September (or the first working day after, in case the 1<sup>st</sup> September is on a weekend). A thesis submitted for assessment may not be withdrawn.
4. A thesis which has been submitted for assessment at another educational institution may not be submitted for assessment at the Faculty of Law at the University of Tromsø.

### **Section 17: Extension of the hand-in date**

The general regulations for postponed and extended time (*with reference to section 17 and 21-23 of the Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø*) apply. Under special circumstances a reasonable amount of extra exam days may be granted, if the student documents unforeseen problems of a medical nature, death in the immediate family or other unfortunate incidents, which have occurred during the examination period. An application must be documented by a medical certificate.

### **Section 18: Assessment**

1. A submitted Master's thesis shall be assessed by two examiners to which at least one is external. The candidate's academic supervisor cannot be one of the examiners.
2. The Master's thesis will be evaluated with a grade (A-F), with reference to Section 35 of the Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø, as well as supplementary descriptions adopted by the Faculty Board on 11.06.03 (JF 41/03).
3. When assessing the Master's thesis, emphasis must be placed on the extent if the thesis fulfils the requirements specified. The student's ability to formulate precise problems or hypothesis, the student's general descriptive skills and the topic's degree of difficulty are also relevant. The same applies with respect to the thesis' length in relation to the chosen topic.
4. The assessment must be completed within six weeks after submission of the thesis, cf Section 16, no. 3. The examiners may confer with the student's academic supervisor before the examiners' meeting. The examiners may also, if required, request a written explanation of the supervision process from the student's academic supervisor. If the examiners do not reach an agreement on the awarding of a grade, the Faculty will appoint a third external examiner. The grade is determined through joint agreement or by two of the examiners' viewpoints being decisive.
5. The censors will prepare a brief written feedback/comment of the grade awarded. The feedback/comment will then be sent to the student. Students who have written their thesis

without having received academic supervision shall have a meeting with one of the censors. The meeting can take place via telephone. At this meeting, the student will be given feedback and the examiner will verify that the student has written the thesis.

6. The examiners shall pay particular attention to references and whether these are complete or if any appear to be incomplete or missing. Any suspicions of cheating shall be reported to the Faculty.

### **Section 19: Revised grade**

1. A Master's thesis which has been awarded a grade may not be resubmitted for a new assessment in a reworked form, unless the thesis is awarded a grade of F (fail).

2. When resubmitting a thesis, the university's regulation regarding attempting the same examination a maximum of three times applies, cf *Regulation for examinations at UiT* Section 25.

## **CHAPTER 4: DISPENSATION**

### **Section 20: Dispensation**

In the case of illness or severe unforeseen circumstances dispensation from the provisions in these regulations may be granted upon application.