

# **Regulations for the Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) at UiT**

## **Introduction**

The Regulations for the Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) at UiT applies to the part of the NOMPEL programme that are organised by the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, which constitute the third and fourth semester of the NOMPEL programme, cf. NOMPEL Cooperation Agreement VII Section 5.

## **CHAPTER 1: GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1: Leave of absence**

Section 18 of the Regulations for academic studies at UiT The Arctic University of Norway applies.

### **Section 2: Appeals**

The appeal regulations for university examinations apply, cf. Sections 42-44 of the Regulations for examinations at the UiT.

### **Section 3: Authority**

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

## **CHAPTER 2: SPECIALISATION IN TWO ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL AREAS**

### **Section 4: Introduction**

During the third semester of the program, the students are to specialise in two environmental legal areas by successfully completing two master level courses on 15 ECTS each, that is:

- JUR-3619 Energy and Climate Change Law, and
- JUR-3623 Protection of the Marine Environment with focus on Marine Living Resources Law

### **Section 5: 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. Both courses are taught in English, and have exams in English.
4. The program director is also Head of examinations for the NOMPEL-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 NOMPEL-program.

### **Section 6: Assessment methods**

1. Assessment is handled by two examiners, one of which must be external.

2. If the examiners do not reach agreement on the awarding of a grade, the Faculty will appoint a third external examiner. The grade is determined through joint agreement or by majority vote of two of the examiners.

### **Section 7: Re-sit and postponed examinations**

1. In case a candidate is awarded the grade F (fail) during the examination of a course on the NOMPEL-programme, he/she has the right to a re-sit examination, cf. Section 22 of the Regulations for examinations at UiT.

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 8: Permitted auxiliary materials during examinations**

1. The following books are allowed as auxiliary material on the exams:

- Global and Regional Treaties, O.K. Fauchald and B.S. Tuseth (eds), Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo.
- When necessary and provided by the Faculty, an exam compendium with relevant legislation etc.

2. Students may also be granted permission to use dictionaries as auxiliary material on the exams. Only basic dictionaries, which do not contain definitions or explanations, can be permitted. Wide-ranging dictionaries (e.g. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) or legal dictionaries is not allowed.

3. The auxiliary materials must be handed in and be approved by the Faculty before the particular exam. The auxiliary materials may only contain underlining etc. in accordance with the Faculty's regulations on that matter.

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

### **Section 9: Introduction**

1. During the fourth semester of the program, the students must submit an independent written work, the JUR-3920 Master's thesis in Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL), in either of the two environmental legal specialisation areas. The students shall write the thesis single-handed.

2. The Master's thesis yields 30 ECTS.

3. In order to register for the fourth semester of the program, the students must have completed 75 ECTS of the total 120 ECTS on the NOMPEL programme, cf. Education plan for Joint Nordic Master Programme in Environmental Law section Teaching and Examination.

4. The Master's thesis is subject to the course administration and formal examination of UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

### **Section 10: 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 specialisation in either of the two environmental legal areas.

### **Section 11: Thesis topic**

1. The thesis topic must be approved by the Faculty of Law at UiT The Arctic University of Norway.
2. The thesis topic must pursue an independent research project in either of the two environmental legal areas from the second phase of the NOMPEL programme. The chosen topic shall include a Nordic perspective.
3. The thesis shall provide the students with an in-depth study of a particular topic. The thesis must consist of independent analyses of the thesis topic and the legal sources available. The discussions within the thesis must be transparent and as complete as possible. The references to the sources must be precise and verifiable.

### **Section 12: Length of thesis**

1. The Master's thesis must be of minimum 50 pages and maximum 70 pages. Dispensation from the minimum page requirement may be granted by the Faculty in special circumstances. Dispensation from the maximum page requirement will not be granted.
2. The page 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 15, it will not be delivered for examination. The particular student will then be considered as having withdrawn himself/herself from examination or not delivered the exam cf. Regulations for examinations at UiT, Section 16.

### **Section 13: Teaching methods**

1. The students are required to attend a mandatory lecture(s) providing an introduction to writing a major paper and scientific thinking. The lecture(s) advice the students in legal methodology, structuring and writing skills.
2. The students are required to attend a mandatory mid-term seminar, where students are to present and discuss their draft paper, as well as to prepare comments to the draft paper prepared by a fellow student. Online participation can be accommodated.

### **Section 14: Academic supervision**

1. The students are entitled to 19 hours of individual supervision.
2. The academic supervision includes time for reading, preparation of notes and individual sessions.
3. 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.

## **Section 15: Submission**

1. Only theses approved by the Faculty of Law at the UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and which satisfy the requirements set in Section 12, may be submitted for assessment.
2. The thesis must be handed in electronically through the 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 also contain an abstract, which satisfy the requirement of a maturity test.
3. The thesis must be submitted for assessment no later than xx.xx (or the first working day after, in case the xx.xx 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, UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

## **Section 16: Extension of the hand-in date**

The general regulations for postponed and extended time apply, cf. Section 17 and 21-23 of the Regulations for examinations at the UiT. 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 17: 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 shall be assessed with a grade (A-F), where F constitutes fail, cf. Section 36 of the Regulations for examinations at the UiT. Students who fail their examination are entitled to re-submit the master's thesis, cf. Section 22 of the Regulations for examinations at the UiT. The supplementary descriptions adopted by the Faculty Board on 11.06.03 (JF 41/03) apply.
3. When assessing the Master's thesis, emphasis must be placed on the extent to which 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. The examiners may confer with the student's academic supervisor before the examiners' meeting. The examiners may also 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 majority vote of two of the examiners.

5. The examiners will prepare a brief written feedback/comment of the grade awarded, which will be provided to the particular student. Students who have written their thesis without having received academic supervision shall have a meeting with one of the examiners. The meeting can take place via telephone. At this meeting, the particular 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 of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

### **Section 18: 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 the grade of F (fail).

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