

JUR-3920 Master's thesis in Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) – 30 ECTS

The course is administrated by

Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Place of study

Tromsø

Type of Course

Master level. The course is part of the Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL).

Admission requirement

The course is mandatory for students on the NOMPEL programme. Only students admitted to the NOMPEL programme may register for this course.

In order to register for this master's thesis course, students on the NOMPEL programme must have completed at least 75 ECTS of the total 120 ECTS on the NOMPEL programme.

Course contents

The course builds on and is intended to develop the knowledge and skills acquired by the student during the previous courses of the programme, including the written assignments and methodological skills. The purpose of the master's thesis is to provide the students with practice in processing and presenting larger legal research questions, based on an independent analysis of theme and sources. The students shall write the thesis single-handed.

The master's thesis shall give an in-depth study within a specific thesis topic demanding individual research and analysis, covering, *inter alia*, the Nordic perspectives. The thesis shall address one of the specialization fields taught in the second phase of the programme: *(i)* the law on effective management of natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity or *(ii)* climate change and energy law.

In taking advantage of the offer of supervision of their thesis, students will practice in keeping with timetable with several deadlines before final submission of the thesis.

Objective of the course

Knowledge:

A student who successfully completes this course shall have acquired:

- Advanced knowledge on processing and presenting larger legal research questions.
- Advanced knowledge in legal methodology in order to undertake independent analysis of theme and sources, including advanced knowledge on the use of references to legal sources.
- Advanced knowledge within a particular theme within biodiversity law and/ or climate and energy law.
- Knowledge on ethical dilemmas in legal research.

Skills:

A student who successfully completes this course shall be able to:

- Identify, formulate and discuss legal research questions on the basis of a larger set of sources, including the ability to split research questions into several sub-questions.
- Apply legal sources in a critical and independent way.
- Argue in a transparent, complete and balanced manner with precise and verifiable use of references. The argumentation shall be focused and relevant in relation to the legal research questions raised.
- Produce a larger legal study on minimum 50 pages and maximum 70 pages.
- Distinguish between legal doctrine analyses and normative discussions in legal presentations, including critical review of applicable law and discussions of need for revisions.
- Identify and understand the societal relevance of the legal research questions to be investigated.

General competence:

A student who successfully completes this course shall be able to:

- Apply knowledge and skills acquired in the process of researching and writing the master's thesis, individually and in collaboration with others.
- Communicate legal arguments in a clear and precise language in writing within the discipline, and to the general public.
- Apply knowledge and skills acquired in the process of researching and writing the master's thesis in relevant work assignments and projects.
- Identify and reflect upon issues concerning academic ethics in written presentations.
- Apply the above knowledge and skills to carry out large written assignments within prevailing time frames.

Language of instruction

English

Teaching methods

This course uses interactive and dynamic teaching methods. The course consist of both lectures and seminars comprising a total of 10 hours.

Students are required to submit a master's thesis topic proposal to the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway for approval within a fixed dead-line.

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.

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.

The students are entitled to 19 hours of individual supervision during the writing of the master's thesis, cf. Regulations for the Joint Nordic Master's Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) at

UiT, Section 14. The supervisors are primarily appointed amongst the staff from Uppsala University, University of Eastern Finland and UiT The Arctic University of Norway, but in special circumstances or due to their field of expertise, supervisors may also be appointed from outside these organizations.

Assessment

The master's thesis shall comply with the Regulations for the Joint Nordic Master Programme in Environmental Law (NOMPEL) at UiT Chapter 3 Master's thesis, available in Canvas and on the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway web pages.

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.

In order to submit their thesis for examination, students are required to have attended the mandatory introductory lecture(s) and the mid-term seminar. Exemption from the mandatory lecture and mid-term seminar may only be granted in special circumstances, based on a written application to the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

The master's thesis is assessed by two examiners to which at least one is external. The academic supervisor cannot be one of the examiners.

The grading scale of A to F is applied, where F constitutes fail. Students who fail their examination are entitled to re-submit the master's thesis, cf. regulations for examinations at the UiT, Section 22.