



## **Programme Description**

**Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Law of the Sea**

**90 Credits**

**The Programme Description was approved by the rector of the University of Tromsø on 19.12.2007 in case F 186-07, on authority from the board of the University of Tromsø. It was last amended by the board of the Faculty of Law in case F-JF 21-13 on 09.12.13, pursuant to Section 4 (2) of the *regulation for academic studies at the University of Tromsø*.**

The Master's Degree Programme in the Law of the Sea leads to a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in the Law of the Sea. The language of instruction and exams is English. The Academic Affairs Committee at the Faculty of Law is responsible for the Master's Degree Programme in Law of the Sea.

## **1. Objectives**

The candidates shall during the LL.M-programme acquire knowledge, skills and other qualifications enabling them to hold positions dealing with law of the sea issues. They shall be capable of identifying and analysing legal questions and relate themselves to the legal system in an independent and critical manner.

To achieve these objectives the candidates are to acquire and develop the following qualifications:

### *Knowledge:*

A LL.M. candidate in the law of the sea shall have:

- Advanced knowledge on the central subjects of the law of the sea;
- Specialised knowledge on other subjects of the law of the sea;
- Knowledge on scientific research methods.

### *Skills:*

A LL.M. candidate in the law of the sea shall be able to:

- identify and analyse questions of theoretical and practical character in a methodological and ethical proper manner;
- apply the relevant sources of law independently and critically ;
- identify the limitations of existing law and discuss need for changes;
- independently undertake a limited research work under supervision in accordance with norms of research ethics;
- organize and apply extensive and complex information, including identifying main and sub-research questions;
- communicate in English both orally and in writing legal reasoning in a clear and precise manner;
- stay up to date on legal developments within the law of the sea and to further develop his/her qualifications.

The candidate shall be able to apply the knowledge and skills individually and in cooperation with others, as well as finalise tasks within given time frames.

## **2. Structure**

The LL.M programme is 90 ECTS credits. The schedule will facilitate the completion of the programme during a calendar year. The programme is at master's level affecting its content and structure, reflected in the content and extent of the curriculum, in the active involvement of the students during classes and in mandatory hand-ins and exams. The study is organised to ensure consistency between the knowledge and skills to be acquired, the exercises during the classes and the final exams. The study promotes the oral and written ability of description.

### 3. Admission

The target group for the programme are students with an interest in the international law of the sea. Students are admitted to the programme once a year. To qualify they must at minimum hold 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.

All courses will be held in English. Therefore applicants must document adequate proficiency in English.

Applicants must enclose an essay of approximately two pages in English where they describe their background and motivation for taking this Master's degree.

The programme has limited capacity, and approximately 15 students are admitted each year.

### 4. Summarised plan of study

The programme extends over three semesters and shall be completed through a calendar-year.

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 and the courses passed, before admission to the last part (semester 3) of the program.

The programme consists of five obligatory courses:

Code	Course name	Credits	Semester
JUR-3050	General Law of the Sea	15	1
JUR-3054	Law of the Sea II	15	1
JUR-3052	Law of the Sea and Marine Biodiversity	15	2
JUR-3053	Law of the Sea and the Arctic	15	2
JUR-3910	Master's thesis in Law of the Sea	30	3

### 5. Learning and teaching

#### 5.1 General

The study is based on active interaction between the faculty staff and the students. The students are to acquire knowledge through their own activities and in interaction with fellow students and faculty staff. The students are expected to be active during classes and to undertake both voluntary as well as mandatory assignments.

The study is linked to the requirements and expectations of society to ethical and professional conduct of the legal profession. The teaching, assignments and exams shall reflect the different types of tasks the students will have to deal with in their future professional careers.

The objective is to be achieved through active participation of the students during the courses; through study, discussions and papers. Lectures will provide for the introduction to the themes while problem-based seminars will make most of the teaching where students and teachers identify and discuss legal questions. Students are also encouraged to hand in papers during the courses to develop their knowledge on subjects and analytical skills.

## **5.2 Student activity**

The students have an important responsibility for their own learning. It requires them individually and in groups with fellow students to:

- Work actively with collecting, acquiring and processing the learning content;
- Prepare for and to be active during classes and to undertake necessary supplementary work after classes;
- Keep oneself updated on new international legislation, case law etc.

## **5.3 Learning environment**

The faculty and the students cooperate on creating a social and academic environment of high quality. The study shall provide for close contact between the students and the Faculty staff. The students are to actively participate in the quality assurance as described in section 5.5 and be able to contact the Faculty staff.

The students have access to the facilities of the University Library and its resources, including the open study halls.

## **5.4 Teaching**

The purpose of the teaching is to facilitate for the achievements of the objectives of the programme as described above. The teaching is meant as a supplement and inspiration to the self-activities of the students. It shall strive to be research-based and provide for dialog between student and teacher. The teaching shall prepare the students for their futures roles. The teaching methods are varied to take account for the different ways of learning and the distinctive character of the subjects, available teachers and literature. Use of legal systems of information (databases etc.) is part of the teaching.

The main part of the teaching is undertaken as seminars while a smaller proportion is to be given as lectures. Lectures are to present the main elements of the subject and provide the students with an overview of and in-depth presentation of central themes. In addition to this guest lectures will be offered to help widen the students' perspectives. The seminars are problem-oriented. Lead by a teacher, the students are expected to individually or in groups to actively participate through oral presentations, discussions, projects or similar. The study includes some mandatory elements of teaching such as hand-ins.

The teaching language is English.

## **5.5 Quality Assurance**

The quality of the programme will be ensured through the use of *inter alia* feed-back from students and teachers and other quality indicators as described in the quality assurance system adopted by the Faculty of Law.

## **5.6 Course descriptions**

A separate description of each of the five mandatory courses is developed, where the subject and main themes are described.

## **6. Exams and assessment**

### **6.1 General**

The students are assessed during and at the end of the study. The forms of assessment include work requirements, a six hour written school exam, a home exam followed by an oral exam, and at the end of the study each student must write a master's thesis. The exams and thesis are graded A-F, with F as not passed. Students that fail or have other legitimate grounds for absence may repeat exams, cf. *Regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø* Sections 21 and 22.

The exam question papers are given in English, and the answer paper must be delivered in English. The master's thesis must be written in English.

### **6.2 Exam requirement**

Some courses may have work requirements which must be approved before the students are permitted to take the exam. Such work requirements will appear from the course description(s).

### **6.3 Dispensation**

The Academic Affairs Committee may grant dispensation from Section 4 in these regulations upon application.

### **6.4 Diploma**

The Faculty of Law issues the diploma.

## **7. Further study and employment opportunities**

The programme does not qualify for admission to the PhD programmes in Law and Political Science at the University of Tromsø.

The objective is to qualify the students for careers within a broad spectre of areas; both at national and international level. Candidates will be qualified for jobs within the United Nations and its specialised agencies, in national diplomatic service as well as public administration and industry and commerce.

