

### **Thesis regulations Master International and European Law (IEL) - 2025-2026**

- (1) The master's thesis supervision programme as referred to in art. 28a OER (English version: art. 7a) is offered two times a year for the International and European Law master's programme.
- (2) All master IEL students are registered for the Brightspace module *Master's thesis European and Int. Law* at the start of their master's studies.
- (3) Registration for a starting moment opens a few weeks before the start of the starting moment and closes on the date of the relevant starting moment.
- (4) The Brightspace environment lists the two starting times of the thesis supervision process of the International and European Law master's thesis, each with a detailed timetable. Students wishing to start the thesis programme, register in Brightspace for the Kick off Master's thesis meeting. During this compulsory meeting the students will be informed about the academic and practical issues of the master's thesis programme.
- (5) Via the Brightspace environment, the student registers in time for one of the research themes/areas linked to their starting moment. When registering, the student will indicate which topic within the research theme/area the student wishes to focus the thesis research on. The student already formulates a (preliminary) preferred research question and two reserve, research questions.
- (6) The student will be informed after the registration within a period of two weeks on whether it has been received in good order and who the thesis supervisor is.
- (7) The master thesis supervision programme lasts in principle six months from the starting moment.
- (8) During the first two months, the student will focus on preparing the thesis outline, including a research proposal. This will involve independent preliminary research into the topic, drafting of the outline, and a number of mandatory contact moments, some of which take place in groups. Not participating in one or more of the compulsory contact moments scheduled by the thesis supervisor in this phase may lead to premature termination of the master thesis supervision programme, at the discretion of the thesis supervisor.
- (9) An interim assessment (Go-NoGo moment) follows at the end of the second month of the master thesis supervision programme. The thesis supervisor assesses whether the student has made enough progress at this point and consider whether the student can complete the projected research plans within the remaining time. If the supervisor does not believe this is the case, in consultation with a second assessor, a negative assessment will be given. In the event of a negative assessment, the thesis supervision programme ends and the student must register for a subsequent start date. There are no restrictions for the student in terms of theme and/or supervisor, but the thesis will have to be on a different research topic.

- (10) In case of a positive assessment at the interim assessment moment, the student will make arrangements with the supervisor for the last four months of the thesis supervision process about the necessary feedback moments and the moments at which the student will deliver an interim product to the supervisor.
- (11) In principle, no later than six months after commencement of the master's thesis supervision programme, the student shall deliver the thesis to the supervisor for approval. The approval itself and the defence may take place outside the aforementioned six-month period. The approval should take place by the thesis supervisor and a second assessor in accordance with article 33c OER (English version art. 12c). The thesis supervisor and second assessor must approve or reject the thesis within two weeks of its submission.
- (12) If the thesis is approved, the defence meeting will be scheduled. If the assessors decide not to approve the thesis, the student must submit a revised version six weeks after the date of non-approval. If the student has not submitted the thesis (on time), the student must submit a revised version six weeks after the date on which the first version was due. The revised version will be reassessed by the thesis supervisor and the second assessor referred to in the previous paragraph. The student can be awarded a maximum grade of 6.5 for the revised version, unless special circumstances have arisen during the process that justify a deviation from this, at the discretion of the thesis supervisor in consultation with the study advisor. If the revised version is approved, the defence meeting will be scheduled. If the revised version is also not approved, the student will have to repeat the master's thesis supervision process, subject to the provisions of (15). There are no restrictions on the topic and/or supervisor, but the new thesis research must be based on a different research question. Submitting a revised version of the master's thesis as referred to in this article does not count as a resit within the meaning of Article 43a(5) (English version art 19a(5)) of the OER. If no revised version is submitted or if a submitted revised version is not approved, new participation in the master's thesis supervision process counts as a resit within the meaning of Article 43a(5) (English version art 19a(5)) of the OER.
- (13) Part of the defence meeting is a short presentation, lasting approximately 5-10 minutes, in which the student explains the core of the thesis. The defence meeting is in principle public, provided that appropriate practical arrangements (such as room booking) can reasonably be made.
- (14). The thesis supervisor can, in consultation with the thesis coordinator, allow the student to shorten the process.
- (15) If the thesis is still not approved after making use of the resit opportunity referred to in (12), the Examination Board may, if this is the result of special circumstances, grant the student permission to extend the programme.