



Program Description for MA in Law

University of the Faroe Islands (Fróðskaparsetur Føroya)

Commencing autumn semester 2023

Foreword to students by the Study Board

Dear students

The program description contains the rules and regulations for your program. It is therefore of great importance that you read and understand the program description. Along with course descriptions and the overall rules of the University of the Faroe Islands, the program description is an important tool at your disposal. That way you will know your rights and your obligations.

According to the rules for the Study Board, the board receives the proposed program from the Program Leader for consideration and approval after the Program Leader has heard and received responses from relevant parties. When the proposal has been considered by the Study Board and the board is assured that relevant parties have been

heard, the Study Board approves the program description and passes it to the Dean for implementation.

The Study Board is responsible for ensuring that the different parts of the program are coherent. Furthermore, amendments of individual courses or subject areas should be limited so they still fit with the purpose of the program. The board must further ensure that teaching and examination requirements are appropriate for the purpose of the program.

This program description has been approved By the Study Board of the Department of History and Social Sciences (date inserted)

On behalf of the Study Board

Tróndur Møller Sandoy, Assistant professor, chairman

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1. Introduction

On the basis of a gradual development founded on individual courses being offered from around the year 2000 and onwards, a MA in Law was introduced at the Faculty of History and Social Science in the fall of 2013.

The MA in Law exists together with the Master of Legal Practice that since autumn 2022 has formed the classical Danish-style 5 year legal education at the University of the Faroe Islands.

This document contains the program description for the MA in Law. The program description has authority in Act of Faroese Parliament No. 58 from 9th of June 2008 on the University of the Faroe Islands, and Administrative Regulation No. 97 from 17th of June 2021 on educational programs at the University of the Faroe Islands.

The program description contains provisions on the content of the law program, rules and procedures for how the different courses are to be carried out, and provisions pertaining to the student's rights and duties. The program description does not contain full course descriptions for individual courses, nor general rules on the University. These are to be found on the University's website.

The program is under the general jurisdiction of the Study Board of the Faculty of History and Social Sciences which reports to the Dean.

2. Degree title

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be awarded the degree entitled Master í lögfrøði (abbreviated as *M.A. í lögfrøði*) that carries the English-language title MA in law.

3. Cycle/Level

"2nd Cycle" according to the QF-EHEA, and level 7 according to the EQF-LLL.

4. ECTS credits

The MA consists of 120 ECTS credits, of which 90 credits are awarded for successfully completed course work and 30 credits for completion of a Master's thesis.

1 ECTS amounts to 25-30 clock-hours of student work. One year of full time studies accounts for 60 ECTS credits, the equivalent of 1500-1800 hours of work. This includes all relevant academic activities.

5. Admission requirements

The MA-program is offered every second year, next time in 2023. Study places are limited to 10 students for each intake.

Admission to the program is conditioned upon applicants having a bachelor's degree with sufficient content of law. This requirement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, but the standard of *sufficient content* of law will normally be fulfilled if applicants have at least 20 credits of basic and/or methodological legal courses at the bachelor's level.

Applicants must in addition to bachelor's certificates and other relevant documents also submit a motivation letter of maximum two A4 pages explaining their reasons for applying for this program. Applicants must also attend a 6 hours entrance exam and can in addition expect to be called in for a personal interview. The purpose of these requirements and processes is to offer the limited number of study places to applicants that have the necessary competence to complete MA-studies on time.

6. Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide a MA in law program for applicant that not necessarily have a full bachelor's degree in law, but rather different bachelor's degrees with sufficient content of law.

The program strikes a balance between two approaches that often have been seen as opposites. This is the balance between on the one side seeing legal education as the teaching of legal doctrine and practical knowledge of the law, and on the other hand a more prudential vision of legal education as the education of academics and advisors to policymakers and statesmen, in short cultivation of the intellect with law at the center of attention. This program does not excessively favor any one side in this balance, as both approaches must be considered important for the development of competent jurists. It is fair, however, to say that the cultivation of the intellect has gotten a higher priority than usually in law programs in this part of the world. In addition to philosophical conviction, this follows from a reflection upon what kind of lawyer is best suited for a small polity, in a transitional phase and coping with a scarcity of human resources. Thus, theoretical and contextualizing courses are given a relatively high priority for the purpose of developing an independent and creative jurist for the different professional roles related to governance, administration and legal counselling in the Faroese social and political context.

From a pedagogical perspective the above-mentioned objective is sought by a higher emphasis than usual on the learning of skills rather than one-sided focus on knowledge and competences.

The same is the case with the dominant emphasis on student centered learning and multiple items approach to examinations and assessments.

The program thus aims at high-quality legal education within a curriculum adapted to the Faroese context, with most teaching in Faroese, special attention to matters of law and governance in a small polity and supported by the development of Faroese teaching materials and the development of Faroese as a legal language.

Given the fact that this program does not require a traditional bachelor in law as entrance requirement, students will, in comparison to the Master of Legal Practice, have more basic obligatory courses for the purpose of cultivating basic jurisprudential (interpretation, legal sources etc.) and administrative law competences, as well as courses in contextualization, like comparative law and legal history.

In addition, the degree programs on law (BL, MA, and MLP) open some basic law teaching to the interested general public, for the continuing education and professional enhancement of those working in legal services or public administration who are not enrolled in any of the degree programs, and service courses for other programs within the university (such as history, political science, and public health).

7. Program competences and outcomes

Figure 1. Description of generic and subject specific competences

Generic Competences	
Analytical thinking	Ability for abstract and analytical thinking, and synthesis of ideas.
Reflective skills	Ability to evaluate law and the legal system reflectively.
Constructive and analytical skills	Ability to construct, analyze, and criticize legal arguments.
Insight into own learning	Capacity to identify and structure one's own learning processes.
Oral and written communication in native and foreign languages	Ability to present and formulate legal arguments well reasoned in a clear and correct language in Faroese, English and Danish.
Communication in context	Ability to take context into account when communicating legal information and problems to an audience of non-jurists.
Subject Specific Competences	

Law and juridical method	Ability to understand legal method, legal thinking, and the social responsibility of jurists.
Concrete application of legal knowledge	Ability to apply the relevant and correct legal method to a concrete case.
Counselling	Ability to offer legal advice.
Drafting laws and other legal documents	Ability to draft statutes and regulatory instruments.
Solve legal disputes	Ability to solve concrete legal disputes, including capacity to identify relevant legal facts from a wide source of legal and factual materials.
Working and co-operation skills	Capacity to work independently and in co-operation with others to organize and prepare legal assignments and to come up with concrete solutions to a case.
Law in small societies	Ability to comprehend the context-specific institutional framework and the boundaries of law in small societies.

8. Complete list of program learning outcomes

Upon completion of this program the student is able to:

- Describe the Faroese legal system and its institutions.
- Describe the legal sources and the basis and principles for legal interpretation.
- Explain and assess law in general, and identify the specific challenges for legal interpretation in a small polity in interaction with a larger state-institutional arrangement.
- Explain and discuss the importance of legal theory for legal interpretation, and how different theories can justify different interpretive strategies.
- Describe and assess the challenges a jurist faces in situations with a scarcity of law and un-coordinated law, as is often seen in small jurisdictions.
- Analyze the social context and historical origins of Faroese law and its connection to other legal systems, both historical and contemporary.
- Explain and analyze law in complex dogmatic fields.
- Analyze and comprehend the importance of administrative law both in general and adapted to a small polity context.
- Analyze a legal problem in a Master's thesis.

9. General provisions concerning the program

9.1 Structure

The program has a 2-year duration and consists of 120 ECTS credits. Each academic year is divided into two semesters, 30 ECTS credits. Altogether there are four semesters. Most courses give 10 ECTS credits, but in certain cases courses may count for greater or smaller number of credits. However, the total number of degree credits for each semester will in all cases add up to 30.

The courses on the program are divided into four main categories:

- 1) dogmatic public law courses;
- 2) dogmatic private law courses;
- 3) methodological courses;
- 4) contextualizing courses.

The division among them is as follows: Dogmatic courses (50 ECTS), methodological courses 20 ECTS, and contextualizing courses 20 ECTS. The MA-thesis which is 30 ECTS can be written on subjects within anyone of the categories.

The four semesters are organized as follows:

1st semester: Obligatory courses are: Comparative law. Then students must choose two dogmatic electives from a specified list (bound option).

2nd semester: Obligatory courses are Legal Understanding and Administrative Law. Students are again required to choose a dogmatic elective course from a specified list (bound option).

3rd semester: Obligatory course are Legisprudence and Faroese Legal History. Students are again required to choose a dogmatic elective course from a specified list (bound option).

4th semester: Students work on the obligatory master's thesis (MA-thesis). The thesis is on a freely chosen topic and counts for 30 ECTS. The students must with their thesis submission demonstrate a high level of knowledge and comprehension of law and jurisprudence, and of relevant academic skills. Details are to be found in section 9.3 below, and in the course description accessible on the University web site.

If an applicant for the MA in substance has had the same or very similar course on their prior bachelor program as one or more obligatory courses on the MA-program, the Program Leader will make an agreement with the applicant to choose alternative courses that will accomplish a similar learning outcome even if different in substance.

Figure 2 Order of progression

Semesters			
1.	Comparative law 10 ECTS (Obligatory)	10 ECTS (Bound optional)	10 ECTS (Bound optional)
2.	Administrative Law 10 ECTS (Obligatory)	Legal Understanding. 10 ECTS (Obligatory)	10 ECTS (Bound optional)
3.	Legal history 10 ECTS (Obligatory)	Legisprudence 10 ECTS (Obligatory)	10 ECTS (Bound optional)
4.	MA-thesis 30 ECTS (Obligatory)		
Total ECTS	120		

9.2 Content and progression.

The content of the courses in the program are described in detail in the course descriptions, syllabi, and reading lists that are available under the program on the University's website.

The course descriptions and the Course Catalog specify further details

Information about the reading list, or suggested readings, are included in the syllabus for each course. Information will also be given on textbooks and other materials (required and optional) for students.

The requirements for the progress of studies in MA-program is not crucial but a certain sequence of courses, as described below, will follow from the fact that the MA-program is a full-time study with an intake every other year. Thus, the chronology is determined by the sequence the first time the program is offered, i.e. 2023, in the adapted form as described in this program description.

As is described in figure 2 above, each semester, besides the fourth semester, has a division between obligatory and optional courses.

Availability every semester of elective courses is limited due to i.a. the limited number of students. However, as a rule the number of electives will always exceed by at least one course (10 ECTS) the number of courses the student needs to choose at any time. No elective will be repeated any oftener than every fourth semester in order to keep the electives available to as many students as possible. The electives will consist of courses from, but not necessarily limited to, this evolving list:

- Public Employment Law.
- Child Law.
- Consumer Law.
- Building and Planning Law.
- Finance Law.
- Fishery Law.
- Health Law.
- Divorce Law.
- Church Law.
- Faroese Collective Labor Law.
- Faroese Municipal Law.
- Banking Law.
- Social Security Law.
- Law of the Sea.
- Human Rights Law.
- Faroese Constitutional Law I.
- Faroese Constitutional Law II.
- Civil Procedure.
- International Law.
- EU-Law.
- Private International Law.

9.2.1 Content of obligatory courses individual semesters.

9.2.1.1. First semester.

On the first semester Comparative Law is obligatory.

Comparative law aims at stimulating the students' ability to see their own legal system and legal culture from a distance as a contingent reality. This is sought by developing the students' ability to think as comparativists, to be self-conscious about different roles that comparativists occupy, and to develop an awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the comparative approach. That aim is sought accomplished i.a. by focusing on the comparison of real-world constitutions and constitutional systems and the theory and practice of legal-institutional borrowing and legal transplants. In addition, the course focuses on differences and similarities of statutory interpretation in different legal cultures.

9.2.1.2. Second semester.

The second semester has Legal Understanding and Administrative Law as obligatory courses.

Legal Understanding is a methodological course in jurisprudence or practical legal philosophy. It provides insight into evolving understandings and ideas in legal theory and practice, including such perspectives as natural law, legal positivism, formalism, realism and pragmatism. Emphasis will also be on the theory of legal norms, especially the difference between rules, standards and principles, the theory and practice of legal interpretation, the difference between interpretation and construction, the difference between – and the preconditions for the development of – customary law and enacted law, legal argumentation, and the importance of an analytic approach to hard cases.

Faroese administrative law aims at giving students an insight into the administrative law in a Faroese context, especially the many sources of law in this field of law marked by various law-creating institutions such as the Faroese Parliament and administration, the institutions of the Realm, the regular courts, special tribunals and administrative boards of appeal, and not least the Parliamentary Ombudsmen.

9.2.1.3. Third semester.

In the third semester the courses Legal History and Legisprudence are obligatory.

Legisprudence is a methodological course. The course makes legislation the centre of scientific attention by going through the theory of legislation but also by focusing on the techniques and standards for good legislation. The background of the course is the realization that both generally, but especially in a small polity, situated in a context with a relative scarcity of resources, it is important to cultivate a methodical thinking on legislation.

Legal history aims at giving insight into the Faroese legal history (laws and court system), emphasizing finding and understanding older Faroese legal sources, and how the legal order in the Faroe Islands has evolved from the old Althing to the present-day order. Emphasis is on themes such as the customary courts and ancient legislation in Norse tradition as well as the Faroese traditional village as a jurisdiction per se. Examples will be used from the Thing Books and other official records.

9.2.1.4. Fourth semester.

The fourth semester is dedicated to the MA-thesis. See further details below under 9.6.

9.3 Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods are dependent upon, and to some extent integrated into, the assessment methods mentioned below under 9.5.

Learning at the MA is less dominated by traditional teaching methods, such as monologues and lectures by the teacher(s). Rather the emphasis is to a relatively high degree on student-centered learning with critical dialogue between teacher and students in groups, often based upon classroom assignments and smaller home assignments. The same goes with the overall continuous assessment and formative assessment approach. This teaching approach focuses on cultivating the students' skills to a higher degree than traditional emphasis on abstract knowledge and comprehension. Learning skills can be understood to be aimed at "learning how" rather than simply at "learning about".

9.4 Internships

The MLP program does not have internships.

9.5 MA-thesis

The MA-thesis (30 ECTS point) must be an individual project in essay form of a maximum of 60 pages (144.000 characters, spaces and footnotes included) on a topic approved by the Program Leader. The thesis must be written under the direction of a supervisor chosen by the Program Leader. A maximum of 10 hours of supervision is offered to each student. Normally, the MA-thesis will be written in Faroese, accompanied by an abstract in English.

The MA-thesis must be chosen prior to the end of the student's third semester of study. The thesis must be submitted no later than at 12.00 o'clock the 15th of May of the fourth and last semester. If this date comes down on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline will be postponed to the same time the next Monday.

If the student for some reason does not enter his fourth semester on time, the student and the Program Leader may make an agreement on a different deadline.

Students that fail to submit their thesis on time will automatically be registered for a new deadline. The new deadline will be three months after the original deadline. The student will at the same time be ordered to submit a modified problem statement to the Program Leader for approval. If this second attempt also fails, the student will get a third attempt according to the same procedure. If the student again fails to submit or to pass the third attempt, s/he will normally be deregistered from the program and will not receive the degree.

To support the students during their thesis preparation, thesis seminars are offered during the third semester. The aim is to provide students with general knowledge and guidance in the formulation of problem statements, research, methodology, writing techniques etc.

Further details on the MA-thesis will be found in the relevant course description.

9.6 Assessment methods (formative and summative assessment)

The assessment model for the MA-program moves away from the traditional 100% final exam in favor of a number of smaller exams and/or projects in various formats: essays, multiple-choice exams, oral exams, take-home exams, active participation in discussions etc.

The purpose of this multiple-item assessment approach is (a) to help the students in planning their work and study time for better use of every teaching week, (b) to allow for forms of assessment appropriate to the course materials and the objectives and learning outcomes of the course (e.g. the development of particular skills), c) to improve the integration of assessment with the teaching, and d) to allow each student to monitor her/his own progress in the courses, rather than receiving a surprise at the end of the semester.

Grades are awarded according to the 7-point scale or in rare cases on a pass/fail basis.

9.7 Examinations

9.7.1 General rules on examinations

As mentioned in Section 9.5, above, the law courses on this MA uses multiple-item assessment. This means that students complete, in each course, a number of assessed items of various kinds, and variously weighted, spread out over the period of the course. Perhaps the most important point of this form of assessment, in line with the student centered learning approach, is to allow the student to follow along with the progress of his/her own studies and to know in what areas s/he is strong and in what areas weak. The term “examination” is used in these rules, recalling the day when all assessment was by a 100% final examination. As it will be construed here, being “registered for an examination” means being registered for completing all the various assessment items for a given course. For each course, students are provided with advance information about the kind and weight of each assessed item, and of examination dates and times or submission deadlines for things like essays, home-examinations of the like. Generally this information is provided in the course description and, depending on context, the syllabus for the course. In short, an attempt is made to give the student all of the advance information that s/he needs to prepare for each assessed item.

MA degree students will be automatically registered for examinations (assessment items) connected to obligatory courses. When a student chooses to register for an elective, s/he will automatically be “registered for the relevant examination” attached to the course.

Students that have been on leave are responsible for registering to the relevant courses at the student office, and they will then be automatically registered for the assessment items connected with those courses.

Assessment—usually of multiple items, as stated above— will be conducted for each individual course, and include items of one or more of the forms on the list below (although further variation is possible):

- a) Oral exams.
- b) Written exams.
- c) Written assignments (fx home assignments, essays, synopses etc.) that constitute a partial element in a larger examination.
- d) Oral exams on basis of written assignment.
- e) The Examination of the thesis.

The evaluation of the assessed items for each course will be based upon the learning outcomes explained in the relevant course description.

To repeat: the type and weight of each assessed item will be announced well in advance and information provided that will guide the student in preparing for each item.

9.7.2 Exams and progression of studies

As the program is designed for full-time study, students are expected to graduate on time. In order to progress from the first year of study to the next (i.e. from second to third semester), students can only be lacking in having passed one 10 ECTS course from either the first or second semester. The information below is provisional and is subject to revision in each case. Students should expect, in general, multiple-item assessment.

Figure 3. Succession of exams

Semester	Course	Medium of assessment	Medium for re-take of assessed item	Censoring	Grading Scale	ECTS credits
1.	Comparative law	Written	Written	Internal	7-point	10
	Optional course 1.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	7-point	10
	Optional course 2.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	7-point	10

2.	Legal Understanding	Written	Written	External	7-point	10
	Administrative Law	Written	Written	External	7-point	10
	Optional course 3.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	Depends on course.	7-point	10
3.	Legal history	Combined written and oral	Combined written and oral	External	7-point	10
	Legisprudence	Written	Same.	Internal	7-point	10
	Optional course 4.	Depends on course.	Same.	Depends on course.	7-point	10
4.	MA-thesis	Written	Written	External	7-point	30

9.7.3 Internal vs. external examination

A minimum of 1/3 (calculated in ECTS credits) of all course grades, must be approved by external examiners who will review the grading of all assessed items for each course.

9.7.4 Grading scale

All course grades for MA degree courses will be awarded on the the 7-point marking scale with a score of at least 02 required to pass. The “pass/fail” basis is only applied for transfer of credits and for the Summer Academy on The Continental Shelf (SACS).

9.7.5 Re-exam

Re-take of any assessed item has as a pre-condition that the student has submitted the original item and made an attempt to complete it successfully.

Re-take for health reasons is conditioned on the student delivering a doctor's notice to the student's office within one week after the time of examination.

Students who have failed an obligatory course, or a given elective course, three times, will not be able to continue the studies. If there are exceptional circumstances counting in favor of doing so, the Dean can dispensate from this rule on basis of a written application from the student. The Dean will, in any such case, consult with the Program Leader before making a decision.

A re-take for health reasons does not count as a re-take to make up for a failure.

Re-takes are to be held no later than 3 months after the date for completion of the original item.

9.7.5.1 Deregistering from exams

In order to be counted as active, students must complete the various assessed items for any given course at the times specified. The general rule must be stated differently for courses where multiple-item assessment is employed. If a student believes that s/he will not be able to complete the assessed work successfully for a given course, s/he may deregister from the course no later than 14 days after the beginning of the course. Deregistration from courses is done in e-mail to the office at the department. Students that do not deregister from courses but who also fail to complete the assessed items, are recorded as not attending and will thereby lose one of the three allowable attempts. We note that deregistration from courses that are taught only every second year will have especially serious consequences and are liable to greatly delay a student's completion of the degree studies. Thus, deregistration should be avoided except in the most extreme cases. Students in difficulties should turn to the Program Leader or to the Student Counselor in trying to find rational, practical solutions.

9.7.6 Special needs

If the student has limited capacities, physically or mentally, this will be taken into account as potential grounds for special treatment within the frame of Act of Faroese parliament no 58 from 9th of June 2008 on the Faroese University. More information on this will be available at the student guidance at the department of History and Social Science.

9.8 Teaching language and materials

Language of teaching and instruction is predominantly Faroese. Teaching in Danish is also possible, depending upon staffing. English and Danish may also be used in certain parts of certain courses. Teaching materials will, depending upon the topic, be in Faroese, the Scandinavian languages and English.

9.9 Transfer of credits

Students may be granted permission by the Study Board to apply credits from another institution to his/her Faroese MA-degree on the condition that the relevant courses do not form part of a degree program already completed or intended to be completed. Certain courses in the MA degree program may not be replaced except by a course that is essentially the same in substance and in weight in the judgment of the Program Leader, although taken elsewhere.

Applications for credit transfers into the MA degree program will be evaluated on a case-to-case basis. The prospects for approval will depend upon the resemblance between the courses taken abroad and those at the University of the Faroe Islands for which they are substituted. Courses replacing methodological and other courses central to the identity of the program at the University of the Faroe Islands – meaning especially the obligatory courses in the MA-program – are less likely to be accepted than (other) dogmatic courses.

All transfer applications must be submitted to the student office that will submit applications to the Program leader. The Program leader, and, depending on circumstances, other relevant academic staff will submit the application to the Study Board. Further details are to be found in the guideline on transferral of credits on the university's webpage.

9.10 Leave of absence

Students may petition for a leave of absence of up to two semesters total, contiguous or noncontiguous. In such a case, the student must apply at the student's office at the Faculty of History and Social Science, and must also come to an agreement with the Program Leader on a schedule for continuing and completing the degree program.

Failure to complete the degree within three years from the time of entering the program will result in removal from the program.

9.11 Special needs (illness, disabilities and others)

The university can provide support for students with disabilities, illness or similar. If students feel they need such support for completing the program they are to contact the student counselor.

9.12 Study abroad

Students can only spend the first semester of the program abroad. This is however conditioned upon them finding an appropriate course in Comparative Law, approved by the Program Leader. This entails that a maximum of 30 ECTS can be earned abroad. It is important that students attend any obligatory activities, of an informational character, for first year students at the university before going abroad, so as to get a proper introduction to their degree program and the conditions of a MA in law student at the University of the Faroe Islands. Before going abroad to study, students need to apply to the Study Board for preapproval of the courses they will take during their stay abroad. The Student Counselor and the International Office can provide advice and guidance for students wishing to study abroad.

9.13 Class participation

It is considered vital to the teaching of legal and forensic skills that students be able to interact robustly with the teachers, and with one another, in class. A law school class is a dialogic community. Therefore, MA degree students will be required to attend classes in real time.

In order to pass the exams, it is expected that students attend at least 75% of every class. The student must keep in mind that the obligatory courses in the MA degree program are offered only in every second year.

Remote attendance by electronic means may sometimes be accepted, provided that the technology enables "face-to-face" interaction with all participants (students and teachers) in real time. It will be the responsibility of the University to provide adequate media for distance participation, if and when this option is offered to students.

9.14 Student activity

It is expected that students attend classes on a regular basis. In addition it is expected that students are prepared for classes, partake in discussions and presentations and take responsibility of their own learning.

9.15 Evaluation of the program and courses

Courses are evaluated in a quantitative manner and individually according to standard procedures applicable to all programs at the university. A common oral review with participation of students and Program Leaders representing all programs is conducted annually by the Student Council.

It is important that students participate in these different forms of evaluations so that the results can give information back to the continuous evaluation and re-evaluation of the overall program. Thus, it is a responsibility on the side of every student to be aware and reflective about how he/she experiences being a student on the program.

9.16 Complaints regarding examination results

Courses are evaluated by the students in a quantitative manner, and individually, according to standard procedures applicable within all programs at the University. A common oral review, with participation of students and Program Directors representing all programs, is conducted annually by the Student Council.

It is important that students participate in these different forms of evaluations so that the results can provide information for the on-going evaluation and re-evaluation of the study programs. Thus, it is a responsibility on the part of every student to be aware and reflective about how s/he experiences being a student in the University's programs of study.

9.17 Academic integrity

The students must respect commonly held standards on academic integrity such as honesty, reliability and accountability.

In the context of studies these standards means, among other things, that the University expects students to take very seriously the ban against plagiarism and the ban against

submitting assignments that (in part or whole) have been written, without acknowledgment, by other people or by text-generation systems, chatbots or the like.

Breaches of these standards will be met with reactions proportionate the seriousness of misconduct.

9.18 Graduation requirements

Students can only be awarded a MA degree on the condition that all courses have been passed passed with the grade of 02 or higher.

Students that have not graduated at the latest in the spring semester in the third year after their entrance to the program, will be deregistered from the program.

Departure from these rules may, on a case-to-case basis, be granted students with disabilities and in other special circumstances.

9.19 Amendments

Amendments to the program may be proposed by the Program Director and the Study Board and approved by the Study Board.

When amendments are initiated to this program description, the students must be informed about to what extent their studies are regulated by the amended program description rather than the old program description. Included in this the students must be informed about the deadlines for finishing studies according to the old program description. If the students do not succeed finishing studies within the deadline, they must apply for permission to have the part of the program following the old program description transferred before s/he can follow the new program description. In that case the general procedures on transferal of credits will be followed (see 9.8).

9.20 Transitional provisions

Students that have entered their MA-studies prior to the August 2023, will not be bound by the division between obligatory and optional courses as stated earlier in this program description.

Such MA students will follow the arrangement from 2013 and hitherto with a minimum of 10 ECTS courses in legal methodology (meaning at least the course Legal Understanding), at least 50 ECTS of legal dogmatics, and 30 ECTS for MA-thesis, the topic of which is chosen freely (with the reservation that the topic must be approved by Program Director). The remaining 30 ECTS are optional with the exception that only 10 ECTS can be a non-legal topic with relevance for overall learning outcomes of the program.