



 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Law Programme

Programme Code	JALAW
Programme Title	Law Programme Juristprogrammet
Credits	270
Approval	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Arts and Social Sciences on 4 March 2020, and is effective from the autumn semester of 2020.
Language of Instruction	Swedish, but some courses or course components may be offered in English.
Degree Level	Master's
Degree Type	Professional
Prerequisites	General entry requirements plus either – field-specific eligibility 1A (History 1b or 1a1 + 1a2, Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2), or – field-specific eligibility 1 (History A, Civics A).

General Introduction

During the law programme, students develop the ability to apply legal methods and solve legal problems. The programme leads to a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree, which is a mandatory requirement for appointment as judge, prosecutor or lawyer, but also a general requirement for legal positions in the public and private sector. Graduates of the law programme are well equipped to do legal work, for example at court and in government agencies, law firms, business or non-profit organisations. The programme also gives eligibility for a doctoral programme in law.

During the course of the programme, students acquire sound theoretical knowledge of the law and the legal system more broadly, as well as in a chosen speciality. Instruction takes the form of lectures, and students further develop their practical legal knowledge through, for example, problem-based learning, active seminar participation, role-play and essay writing. The different courses further

develop students' written and oral presentation skills. The programme also schools students in developing an ethical approach in legal practice and application of the law.

Learning Outcomes

The Higher Education Ordinance specifies that for a Degree of Master of Laws, students shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work in professions for which a Degree of Master of Laws is a required qualification as well as in other professional capacities in the field of law that require such knowledge and skills.

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Laws students shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field as well as insight into current research and development work,
- demonstrate specialised knowledge and understanding of central fields of law as well as knowledge of other subjects that are of particular importance for the practice of law,
- demonstrate awareness of the national and international role of the legal system,
- demonstrate knowledge of the social and family circumstances that affect the existential conditions of women and men, and
- demonstrate knowledge of men's violence against women and domestic violence.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Laws students shall

- demonstrate specialised skills in applying their knowledge and making qualified judgements,
- demonstrate specialised skills in the use of various methods or interpreting and applying the law,
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and analyse issues critically and independently and also to plan and undertake advanced tasks within predetermined timeframes,
- demonstrate the ability to work both independently and in collaboration with others, and
- demonstrate the ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions in speech and writing in dialogue with different audiences in both national and international contexts.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master of Laws students shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field that are informed by the relevant disciplinary and social considerations such as human rights and ethical factors,
- demonstrate the ability to adopt an independent and critical approach to the legal system,
- demonstrate the capacity to adopt a professional approach, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and undertake ongoing development of their skills.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master of Laws is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits.

Local objectives

In addition to the above national objectives, the local objectives for the Master of Laws degree at Karlstad Business School are that students shall

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the chosen specialisation,
- demonstrate good ability to find legal source materials,

- demonstrate the ability to use their legal expertise in doing duty at businesses or government agencies and to obtain relevant judicial experience from a practical placement at a company or government agency.

Programme Structure

The law programme comprises 270 ECTS credits, which correspond to 4½ years' full-time study. Mandatory courses on Bachelor's level totalling 180 ECTS credits are taken during the first three years. During the last part of Semester 6, students select one of two specialisations: Commercial Law or Human and Social Law. Students are guaranteed a place in one of the two specialisations, although not necessarily in their preferred specialisation (the number of available places in each specialisation is limited to half the number of students).

During the fourth year students may either choose to dedicate 1½ semester (45 ECTS cr.) to further specialisation in Commercial Law or Human and Social Law, or they may choose one of the two complementary specialisations: Tax Law or Procedural and Criminal Law. Students are guaranteed a place in one of the available specialisations, although not necessarily in their preferred specialisation (the number of available places in each specialisation is limited to a quarter of the number of students).

Upon approval of the programme coordinator, students also have the possibility of taking courses at other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad instead of these specialisation courses, provided that at least 15 ECTS credits are taken in jurisprudence at master's level.

The fourth year concludes with a mandatory practical placement at a business or government agency, ideally connected to the student's selected specialisation, as well as a mandatory course in legal theory and method. During the last semester of the programme students write their degree projects, the topics of which should be connected to their chosen specialisations.

One of the grades U (Fail), B (Pass), Ba (Pass with some distinction) or AB (Pass with distinction) is awarded in the examination of law programme courses.

Programme Content¹

Semester 1 (autumn)

- *Introduction to Law, and Jurisprudence I (15 ECTS cr.)* The course introduces the foundations of the Swedish legal system, as well as basic civil, administrative, family and procedural law. The course further treats the sources of law and basic legal method, as well as the history of Swedish law. The course also includes gender theory and anti-discrimination law.
- *Public Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course treats the foundations of the Swedish government and public administration. The course also includes an introduction to the autonomy of local authorities and local government law.

Semester 2 (spring)

- *EU Law and International Law (7.5 ECTS cr.)* The course treats basic international law, treaty law, human rights and the legislation governing international conflicts. The course further includes constitutional EU law and its relation to national legislation. The composition and function of the European Court are treated.

¹ The subject areas are indicated here. Course included in the programme may have different titles.

- *Contract Law and Tort Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course offers a thorough study of general and specific contract law, purchase of real and moveable estate, as well as contracting, liability and subcontracting law. An overview is given of tort and insurance law.
- *Corporate Law (7.5 ECTS cr.)* The course provides a foundation in the regulation of limited companies and limited partnerships, non-profit organisations and foundations.

Semester 3 (autumn)

- *Criminal Law (10 ECTS cr.)* The course focuses on the general principles of criminal law and on the different types of crime in the criminal code and special criminal law.
- *Procedural Law (20 ECTS cr.)* The course treats the general principles of procedural law as well as civil and criminal procedures. An overview of special procedures is included.

Semester 4 (spring)

- *Administrative Law and Administrative Process (12 ECTS cr.)* The course includes specialisation in the areas of general administrative law, local government law, special administrative law and European law, as well as in public procurement. Environmental and social law are introduced.
- *Family Law (8 ECTS cr.)* The course introduces basic economic family law, including legislation on marriage and cohabitation and covers testament law in depth. The child's best interest, children's and parents' rights, adoption and custody are treated as part of social family law.
- *Jurisprudence II (10 ECTS cr.)* The course includes the foundations of the history of ideas, classical and modern legal theory, alternative legal perspectives, gender studies, sociology of law and globalisation theory. Time is also devoted to the ethical approaches in the legal profession. The course concludes with an individual essay (and opposition) on applied legal theory.

Semester 5 (autumn)

- *Tax Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course treats the foundations of Swedish income taxation. All three types of income, namely employment, capital and enterprise, are treated and the focus is on legal problems in relation to the taxation of businesses and owners. Value-added tax and tax procedures are also considered.
- *Credit and Insolvency Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course includes general realty law, the law of obligations and insolvency law. Bankruptcy and company reconstruction and as well as economic crimes are treated.

Semester 6 (spring)

- *Labour Law (7.5 ECTS cr.)* The course treats the foundations of labour regulation, for example, employment protection, collective bargaining agreements and codetermination.

During Semester 6, students choose one of the following areas of specialisation: Commercial Law or Human and Social Law.

Commercial Law specialisation:

- *Market Law with Competition Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course treats government regulation of contract terms and marketing in relation to consumers. The course also includes the regulation of unfair competition between enterprises, market abuse, public procurement, etc.

- *Intellectual Property Law (7.5 ECTS)* Intellectual property rights include trademarks, design rights, copyright and patent rights. The course treats trademarks, patents, licenses and similar rights.

Human and Social Law specialisation:

- *Social Law (15 ECTS cr.)* The course covers the political, social and economic dimensions of the law related to social welfare regulations. The course includes the relations between the family, individual, and the state, conceptualisations of the welfare state, changes in public and private organisations, employment and provision. The course further treats central parts of Swedish social law, such as the social services, the social security system and the legislation covering health and medical treatment. EU social legislation is also treated.
- *Children's Law (7.5 ECTS cr.)* The course covers children's legal relations to their families and to society and focuses on central concepts, such as the best interest of the child, the child's standing, child protection and society's treatment of children found guilty of criminal actions. The sources of children's rights and the reliance on cross-disciplinary research are considered.

Semester 7 (autumn)

During this semester students choose one of the following specialisations: Commercial Law, Human and Social Law, Procedural and Criminal Law, or Tax Law.

Students have to choose Commercial Law or Human and Social Law during semester 6 to be admitted for further study in either of these specialisations during semester 7. The Procedural and Criminal Law and Tax Law specialisations may be chosen irrespective of semester 6 specialisation.

Commercial Law:

- *Business Law I (15 ECTS cr.)*
- *Business Law II (15 ECTS cr.)*

Human and Social Law:

- *Legal social work (15 ECTS cr.)*
- *Environmental Law and Social Sustainability (15 ECTS cr.)*

Procedural and Criminal Law:

- *Alternative Dispute Resolution (30 ECTS cr.)*

Tax Law:

- *Company Taxation (15 ECTS cr.)*
- *International taxation (7,5 ECTS cr.)*
- *Tax Administration and Tax (7,5 ECTS cr.)*

Semester 8 (spring)

During the first part of the semester, students continue studies related to their specialisations.

Commercial Law:

- *Business Law III (15 ECTS cr.)*

Human and Social Law:

- *Migration Law (15 ECTS cr.)*

Procedural and Criminal Law:

- *Advanced Criminal Law (15 ECTS cr.)*

Tax Law:

- *Course in Tax Law Methods (15 ECTS cr.)*

The semester concludes with the following mandatory courses:

- *Practical Placement (7.5 ECTS cr.)* The course involves a five-week practical placement at a business, government agency, organisation or society. The practical placement should be connected to students' chosen speciality. The course concludes with a written report on the practical placement.
- *Jurisprudence III (7.5 ECTS cr.)* In preparation for the final degree project, dogmatic and alternative legal methods are problematised in the light of various theoretical approaches. The course raises methodological awareness, therefore enabling students to take multi- or cross-disciplinary approaches in their degree projects.

Semester 9 (autumn)

- *Master Thesis (30 ECTS cr.)* The course involves writing a second-cycle degree project independently and includes mandatory participation in seminars and lectures. An introductory lecture is followed by a series of lectures on writing the master thesis. The course concludes with mandatory final seminars, during which each student is expected to defend his/her own thesis and to review and discuss another student's thesis.

Degree Certificate

Students writing their master theses in one of the four specialisations chosen during semesters 7 and 8 may request a certificate of specialisation, for example "Master of Laws with specialisation in Commercial Law", "Master of Laws with specialisation in Tax Law", "Master of Laws with specialisation in Human and Social Law" or "Master of Laws with specialisation in Legal Process". The certificate is issued by the programme coordinator or another qualified staff member.

Entry Requirements in the Programme

30 ECTS credits from Semester 1 and 15 ECTS credits from Semester 2 are required for admission to third and fourth semester courses.

60 ECTS credits from Semesters 1–2 and 30 ECTS credits from Semesters 3–4 are required for admission to fifth and sixth semester courses.

60 ECTS credits from Semesters 1–2 and 90 ECTS credits from Semesters 3–6 are required for admission to seventh and eighth semester courses. Individual courses have specific entry requirements.

210 ECTS credits in the programme are required for admission to the master thesis.

Degree Title

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Juristexamen

Transfer of Credits

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Additional Information

Local regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Previous versions of the programme study plan:

2017-02-09, Reg.no HS 2017/03, effective from autumn 2017

2017-11-24, Reg.no HS 2017/03, effective from autumn 2018

2019-01-18, Reg.no HS 2019/89, effective from autumn 2020