



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2024/125

The Law Programme

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| Programme Code: | JALAW |
| Programme Title: | The Law Programme |
| Credits: | 270 |
| Programme Approval: | The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 8 February 2024, and applies from the autumn semester of 2024. |
| Language of Instruction: | Swedish and English |
| Education Cycle: | Second (Master's) |
| Degree Type: | Professional |
| Entry requirements | General admission requirements, plus either upper secondary school level Social Studies 1b or 1a1 + 1a2 and History 1b or 1a1 + 1a2. |

Introduction

The law programme develops the students' ability to apply legal methods and solve legal problems. The programme results in a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree, which is a mandatory requirement for appointments as judge, prosecutor or lawyer, but also a general requirement for legal positions in the public and private sector. Graduates from the law programme are well equipped to perform legal work in, for example, courts, government agencies, law firms, businesses and non-profit organisations. The programme also gives eligibility for a doctoral programme in law.

Throughout the studies, students acquire solid theoretical knowledge of both law and the legal system in general, as well as more in-depth expertise in a chosen speciality. Each course has a number of lectures that assist the students in their studies. Students also further develop their

practical legal expertise through, for example, case-based learning, active seminar participation, role-play and essay writing. These different forms of learning encourage the students to take an active role in the learning process. The different courses further develop the students' written and oral presentation skills. The programme integrates sustainability and gender equality issues related to legal areas where such matters are particularly relevant. The programme also helps students to develop an ethical approach to legal practice and law application.

Programme outcomes

For a Degree of Master of Laws, the student shall according to the Higher Education Ordinance demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work in a profession 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.

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Laws the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and 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 towards women and violence in close relationships.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Laws the student 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 the student 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 his or her skills.

Independent project (degree project)

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

Local outcomes

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, and
- 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 4.5 years of full-time studies. The first three years comprises mandatory courses at bachelor's level, totalling 180 credits. During the last part of the sixth semester, students select one of two specialisations: Commercial Law and Human Law. Students are guaranteed a spot in one of the specialisations, but not necessarily in their preferred specialisation. There is a limited amount of spots in each specialisation, corresponding to roughly 50 percent of the total amount of students, meaning all students are guaranteed a spot in one of the specialisations, but not necessarily their first choice.

During the fourth year students may either choose to dedicate 1.5 semesters (45 credits) to further specialisation in Commercial Law or Human Law, or they may choose one of the two supplementary specialisations: Tax Law and Procedural and Criminal Law. Students are guaranteed a spot in one of the specialisations, but once again not necessarily in their preferred specialisation. There is a limited amount of spots in each specialisation, corresponding to roughly 25 percent of the total amount of students, meaning all students are guaranteed a spot in one of the specialisations, but not necessarily their first choice.

Upon the programme director's approval, students also have the possibility of taking courses at other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad.

The fourth year concludes with a mandatory practical placement period (internship) at a private company, a public authority, an organisation or a non-profit organisation, ideally connected to the student's selected specialisation, as well as a mandatory course in legal theory and method. The practical placement lasts for five weeks. The practical placement should be connected to students' chosen specialisation in semester 7 and 8.

During the last semester of the programme students complete their independent projects. The topics of these projects should be connected to the students' chosen specialisations.

Programme curriculum

Note that titles and order of programme courses may be different compared to the list below.

Semester 1 (autumn)

- *Introduction to law and jurisprudence I (15 credits.)*
- *Public law (15 credits)*

Semester 2 (spring)

- *EU Law and International Law (7.5 credits)*
- *Contract law with damage law*
- *Corporate law (7.5 credits)*

Semester 3 (autumn)

- *Criminal law (15 credits)*
- *Procedural law (15 credits)*

Semester 4 (spring)

- *Administrative law and administrative process (12 credits)*
- *Family law, (8 credits)*
- *Jurisprudence II (10 credits)*

Semester 5 (autumn)

- Tax Law (15 credits)
- Credit and Insolvency Law (15 credits)

Semester 6 (spring)

- Labour law (7.5 credits)

The rest of the semester, students take courses in one of the following specialisations:

- Commercial Law Specialisation:
 - Market law with competition law (15 credits)
 - Intellectual property law (7.5 credits)
- Human Law Specialisation:
 - Social law (15 credits)
 - Children's law (7.5 credits)

Semester 7 (autumn)

During this semester students choose one of the following four specialisations:

- Commercial Law Specialisation (30 credits)
- Human Law Specialisation (30 credits)
- Procedural and Criminal Law Specialisation (30 credits)
- Tax Law Specialisation (30 credits)

Students will take the courses offered within their profile during the semester in question.

For the Commercial Law and Human Law specialisations, students must have studied these specialisation in the sixth semester in order to be admitted for further study in either of these specialisations. The Procedural and Criminal Law and Tax Law specialisations can be chosen regardless of previous specialisation.

Semester 8 (spring)

During the first part of the semester, students continue their studies in their respective specialisations:

- Commercial Law specialisation (15 credits)
- Human Law specialisation (15 credits)
- Procedural and Criminal Law specialisation (15 credits)
- Tax Law specialisation (15 credits)

Students will take the courses offered within their specialisation. The semester concludes with the following mandatory course: *Jurisprudence III with practical placement (15 credits)*.

Semester 9 (autumn)

- Master thesis in Law (30 credits)

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: "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 Procedural and Criminal Law". Certificates are issued by the programme director or some other qualified staff member.

Title of qualification

Degree of Master of Laws

Credit transfer

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.

Further information

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.

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Previous versions of the programme syllabus have been approved:

- 9 February 2017, reg. no HS 2017/03, effective from the autumn semester 2017
- 18 November 2017, Reg.no HS 2017/03, valid from the autumn semester of 2018
- 18 January 2019, Reg.no HS 2019/89, valid from the autumn semester of 2019
- 4 March 2020, Reg.no HS 2020/210, valid from the autumn semester of 2020
- 3 March 2022, Reg.no HS 2022/31, valid from the autumn semester of 2022