



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Law Programme

Juristprogrammet

Programme code: JALAW

ECTS Credits: 270

Education level: Second cycle

Degree type: Professional qualification

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Finalized by

Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science, 2025-12-11

Valid from

Autumn semester 2026

Entry requirements

General entry requirements plus either

History 1b or 1a1+1a2, Social Studies 1b or 1a1 + 1a2

or

History level 1b or level 1a1+1a2, Social Studies level 1b or level 1a1 + 1a2.

Introduction

The law programme allows students to develop their ability to apply legal methods and to identify and solve legal problems. The programme awards a Degree of Master of Laws (LLM), which is a mandatory requirement for appointments as a judge, prosecutor or lawyer, but also a general requirement for legal positions in the public and private sector. Graduates from the law programme are equipped to perform legal work in, for example, courts, government agencies, law firms, private companies and other organisations. The programme also gives eligibility for a doctoral programme in law.

Throughout the studies, students are offered the opportunity to acquire solid theoretical knowledge of both law and the legal system in general, as well as more in-depth expertise in a chosen specialisation. Each course has a number of lectures that help reinforce the learning process. Students are also provided the opportunity to develop their practical legal expertise through, for example, problem-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 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 outcomes, the local outcomes for a Degree of Master of Laws at Karlstad Business School include that the student 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 a company, government agency or other organisation and to obtain relevant judicial experience from a practical placement at a company, government agency or other organisation.

Programme structure

The law programme comprises 270 credits, which correspond to 4.5 years of full-time study. The first three years include mandatory courses at the undergraduate level, totalling 180 credits.

In the fourth year, students can choose to dedicate 1.5 semesters (45 credits) to further specialisation in areas such as business law and human law, as well as criminal law, procedural law and tax law.

Upon approval of the programme director, students also have the possibility of replacing the prescribed elective specialisation courses with courses at another university in Sweden or abroad.

The fourth year concludes with a mandatory course that includes an internship as well as legal theory and methods. The practical placement covers five weeks and can be undertaken with a company, public agency or other organisation. The placement should be related to one of the specialisation courses the student has completed.

During the last semester of the programme, students complete their independent project. The topic of the project should be connected to their chosen specialisation.

Programme curriculum

Note that the titles and the order of the programme courses may vary. In semesters 7 and 8, the offer of specialisation courses may vary from year to year. Entry requirements are specified in each course syllabus. Some specialisation courses may be prerequisites for subsequent specialisation courses and are designed to be taken in combination.

Semester 1

Jurisprudence I, public law, EU law, and international law (30 credits)

Semester 2

Civil law (30 credits)

Semester 3

Criminal law (15 credits)

Procedural law (15 credits)

Semester 4

Jurisprudence II, environmental law, administrative law and administrative process (30 credits)

Semester 5

Accounting law, insolvency law and corporate law (15 credits)

Tax law (15 credits)

Semester 6

Social law (10 credits)

Intellectual property law, market law, public procurement law and IT law (20 credits)

Semester 7

During the semester, students take prescribed elective specialisation courses totalling 30 credits, selected from the courses offered that semester.

Semester 8

During the first part of the semester, students take a further 15 credits of prescribed elective specialisation courses, selected from the courses offered that semester.

The semester concludes with a mandatory specialisation course:
Jurisprudence III with internship (15 credits)

Semester 9

Degree project in law (30 credits)

Title of qualification

Degree of Master of Laws

Credit transfer

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

Additional 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

8 February 2024, reg. no HS 2024/125, valid from the autumn semester of 2024