

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Masterprogramme in International Business Law Faculty of Law

Academic year 2019-2020

A. Faculty section

B1. Programme specific section - general provisions

B2. Programme specific section – content of programme

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled for the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled for the programme.
2. These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2019.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations is only permitted to concern an academic year already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations (*in alphabetical order*) :

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. academic year: | the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year; |
| b. CvB: | the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. |
| c. EC (European Credit): | an EC credit with a workload of 28 hours of study; |
| d. educational component: | a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW; |
| e. examination: | the final examination of the Master's programme; |
| f. interim examination: | an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An interim examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination; |
| g. joint degree: | a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible; |
| h. OLC: | programme committee; |
| i. period: | a part of a semester; |
| j. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |
| k. SAP/SLM: | the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>); |
| l. semester: | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year; |
| m. study guide: | the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the courses, provisions and other information specific to that programme. The Study Guide is available electronically at:
https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/ ; |
| n. subject | see 'educational component'; |
| o. thesis: | a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report; |
| p. university: | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; |
| q. WHW: | the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (<i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i>); |
| r. workload: | the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and |

- Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits.
- s. examiner: lecturer authorized by the Examination Board to assess an examination, constituent examination or practical;
- t. working day: Monday to Friday, except for public holidays or days designated as holidays by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- u. Canvas: electronic system intended for the sharing of educational information.

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.
3. An educational component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, Section B may stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof. The Faculty Board requests permission from the Executive Board.

3. Assessment and Examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the educational components of the programme, the examinations and re-sits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the Student Charter.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the student's request, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of interim examination than that stipulated in the course catalogue. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board.
2. In an educational component is no longer offered in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.

Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations

An oral assessment is public unless the Examinations Board on request determines otherwise.

Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written interim examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within ten working days. By way of departure from that stipulated in the first clause, the marking deadline for theses [and final assignments] is no longer than twenty working days. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third clause of the first paragraph applies.
3. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations per educational component will be offered.
b. The options for retaking practical components, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, teaching regulations or graduation regulations.
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a re-sit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.
3. The re-sit for a (partial) interim examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the (partial) examination being resat.
4. The Examination Board offers a student on request an extra opportunity to take an examination outside the regular occasions or at another date. Herewith the following requirements are attached:
 - a. the student passed all but one of the examinations necessary to meet the degree requirements; and
 - b. has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons; and
 - c. taking part on the next regular examination opportunity is leading to disproportionate study delay

The extra opportunity can only be offered for educational components that are examined with a scheduled written exam, paper or take-home examination. Educational components that are examined (partly) otherwise are not included. Due to the construction of these educational components it is not possible to re-sit these examinations on an alternative date. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 1 July. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one decimal point.
2. The final marks are given in whole or half points.
3. Final marks between 5 and 6 will be rounded off to whole marks: up to 5.5 rounded down; from 5.5 rounded up. To pass a course, a 6 or higher is required.
4. The Examination Board can allow to use symbols rather than numbers, for example; v(oldaan), g(oed), n(iet)v(ol)d(aan), etc.)

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if the student:
 - a. has passed a course component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in terms of content and level;
 - b. has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component.
2. If a student wishes to meet the requirements of a specific examination by studying at a different faculty or university, prior approval from the Examinations Board is required.

Article 3.8 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of interim examinations passed and exemption from interim examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of study concerned, unless otherwise stipulated in the Study Guide, Study manual or transitional provisions.

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination there will be an post-examination discussion. Place, date and specified time will be announced at least 10 working days before the post-examination discussion.
2. The post-examination discussion is collective, unless otherwise decided by the examiner. The examiner can decide that the individual post-examination discussion will be done by email. If a student is unable to attend the collective discussion due to compelling personal circumstances, the examiner will allow an individual post-examination discussion on request.

3. The student can inspect his/her assessed work as well as the standards applied for marking, if available. On request the examiner will explain the marking.
4. The student can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request after the post-examination discussion date, regardless whether the student was at the post examination discussion.
5. Regarding article 3.9 the examiner may add restrictions to the right of inspection. These restrictions have to be announced at least ten days before the post-examination discussion.

4. Academic student counselling and study progress

Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The faculty board is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results. After the assessment of an educational component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also has a list of the results achieved at his or her disposal in VUnet.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is in any case provided by
 - a. The Student General Counselling Service
 - b. Student psychologists
 - c. Faculty academic advisors

Article 4.2 Adaptations for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability can, at the moment of submission to VUnet, or at a later instance, submit a request to qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These adaptations will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of study or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the study programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a single (one time) request suffices.
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a recent statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO registered professional who is qualified to conduct psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examinations Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
6. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organization or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld.
7. If the disability justifies an extension of the interim examination time, the Examinations Board will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures.
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the special adaptations.

5. Hardship clause

Article 5.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness and unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examinations Board.

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme International Business Law CROHO number 60072 is offered on a full-time basis
2. The language of instruction is English.

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the study guide.
2. The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the study guide.

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A: Career Advisors

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date

The programme starts on September 1.

Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1. Students will be admitted to the programme if they have a certificate of admission, issued by, or on behalf of, the Faculty Board because they have demonstrated that they meet the knowledge, understanding and skills requirements reflecting the final level of attainment in an academic Bachelor's degree programme, or an equivalent degree, in law.
2. Applicants who do not meet the abovementioned requirement can also apply, provided that they have a sound academic background and considerable experience in the field of law.
3. Applicants who do not meet the abovementioned requirement, but do have an hbo-bachelor Rechten (CROHO-code 39205 of 30108) and finished the SchakelzoneRecht VU programme (in Dutch) in collaboration with the Open Universiteit or a package of courses with the same content and the same level as the Schakelzone Recht VU can also apply.
4. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.
5. Candidates will be selected in the following way:
This programme is selective, the Admissions Board will make a merit based selection of students. The main focus of selection will be on GPA or an overall grade average while taking in consideration the following criteria:
 - a. talent and motivation;
 - b. proficiency in methods and techniques;
 - c. relevant extra-curricular academic and/or working experience.
 - d. sufficient proficiency of the English language (see also Article 7.3).
6. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme allowing admission to this programme.
7. Admission is granted for a specific academic year, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes or English-language specializations

1. In deviation from the language proficiency requirements as stated in the Application and registration regulation (RAI) an applicant should demonstrate that he or she has sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards, no more than two (2) years before the start of the programme at the VU:

- a. (academic) IELTS: minimum totale score ≥ 7.0 , minimum score per test section: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper based test: 600
 - c. Revised TOEFL PBT: minimum total score 68, minimum score per test section: 22
 - d. TOEFL iBT (internet based test): minimum total score ≥ 100 , minimum score per test section: 22
 - e. Cambridge Advanced English: minimum score B
 - f. C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge English: Proficiency): minimum score C
2. Applicants who:
- a. completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia or
 - b. have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands, or
 - c. have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Union
- are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 1.

[Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme](#)

Students with a Bachelor's degree of a university of applied science (HBO) in Law (CROHO-code 39205 or 30108) can request admission to the SchakelzoneRecht VU programme (in Dutch) in collaboration with Open Universiteit. A request can be submitted to the Open Universiteit.

8. Examinations and results

[Article 8.1 Validity period for results](#)

If the exam shows that a student's knowledge is insufficient or outdated, or if the student's skills evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 4 years ago.

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications

Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 60 EC

Article 9.2 Specializations

The programme has the following specializations:

- Transaction and Trade
- Finance and Behavior
- Climate change and Sustainability

Article 9.3 Programme objective

The programme objectives are:

1. To promote the academic education of the student in the field of international business law by:
 - a. Stimulating independent academic thought;
 - b. Developing academic research and writing skills;
 - c. Encouraging more mature communication at the academic level;
 - d. Bolstering understanding of the wider context of international business law.
2. To prepare the Master student to practice in an international legal profession in the field of international business law. During the programme, the student gains knowledge, conducts research and reflects upon problems that also figure prominently in the practice of relevant professions.
3. The programme focuses on the student's personal development, promotes his or her awareness of social responsibility and develops skills of self-expression.

Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

1. The Master's graduate has thorough knowledge and understanding of the strategically chosen disciplines of international business law programme.
2. The Master's graduate explains the relationship between the disciplines of international business law and recognizes the legal issues under discussion.
3. The Master's graduate recognizes the actors of the international business law environment and how they interact with each other, while acknowledging legal and cultural differences. The Master's graduate analyzes the role of governments and the horizontal economic relationships between them, the vertical relationship between them and private business and, finally, the horizontal relationships between private companies. Consequently, the graduate discerns the legal position of various parties and understands how the conduct of these parties can influence legal positions.
4. The Master's graduate applies critically the acquired knowledge to concrete legal problems.
5. The Master's graduate evaluates practical problems and synthesizes them into legally manageable solutions.
6. The Master's graduate researches and evaluates scholarly literature, case law and legal and policy documents.
7. The Master's graduate applies, synthesizes and critically evaluates existing theories and case-law.
8. The Master's graduate independently applies research methodologies and researches and writes a jurisprudential study of some size. The Master's graduate evaluates the value of research findings, synthesizes and compares research results to theoretical debates within particular fields of law.

10. Curriculum structure

Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis.

2. Additionally the programme can offer:
 - Educational components per specialization
3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

Transactions and Trade: Regulatory profile

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Research Seminar	R_RSIBL	6	500
International Contract Law*	R_IntConL12	12	500
International Company Law	R_Int.comp.l	6	400
Master Thesis	R_MThIBL	12	600
Profile (24 EC), see article 10.3			

Transactions and Trade: Transactions profile

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Research Seminar	R_RSIBL	6	500
International Contract Law*	R_IntConL12	12	500
International Company Law	R_Int.comp.l	6	400
Master Thesis	R_MThIBL	12	600
Profile (24 EC), see article 10.3			

Finance and Behavior

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Anatomy of Corporate Law	R_AoCL	6	500
Contract Law and Psychology of Negotiations	R_CLDRP	6	500
Corporate Social Responsibility	R_LEEMP	6	500
Financial Law: Governance and Behavior	R_FMMRB	6	500
International Arbitration	R_Int.com.ar	6	400
Law and Behavioral Economics	R_LBE	6	500
Problems of Market Regulation	R_LBFM	6	500
Public and Private Enforcement	R_TLCLLE	6	500
Thesis	R_MThIBL	12	600

Climate Change and Sustainability

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Anatomy of Corporate Law	R_AoCL	6	500
Climate Change Liability	R_ClimCL	6	400
Contract Law and Psychology of Negotiations	R_CLDRP	6	500
Corporate Social Responsibility	R_LEEMP	6	500
Energy Governance	AM_1155	6	400
International Law on Climate Change and Sustainability	R_ILCCS	6	500
Problems of Market Regulation	R_LBFM	6	500
The Circular Economy LAB	R_TCirEL	6	400
Thesis	R_MThIBL	12	600

A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

Article 10.3 Educational components per specialization

Transactions and Trade: Regulatory profile

Educational component (choose 3 out of 4 courses)*	Course code	EC	Level
EU Internal Market Law	R_EUIML	6	400
International Trade and Investment Law	R_IntTII6e	6	500
Competition Law	R_Eur.comp.l	6	400
Blockchain and other disruptive business-tech challenges to the law	R_IBIT	6	500
Educational component (choose 1 out of 4 courses)*			
International Tax Law	R_Int.tax.l	6	400
Private International Law	R_PrivIntCom	6	400
International Arbitration	R_Int.com.ar	6	400
International Intellectual Property Law	R_Int.prop.l	6	400

Transactions and Trade: Transactions Profile

Educational component (choose 3 out of 4)*	Course code	EC	Level
International Tax Law	R_Int.tax.l	6	400
Private International Law	R_PrivIntCom	6	400
International Intellectual Property Law	R_Int.prop.l	6	400
International Arbitration	R_Int.com.ar	6	400
Educational component (choose 1 out of 4 courses)*			
EU Internal Market Law	R_EUIML	6	400
International Trade and Investment Law	R_IntTII6e	6	500
Blockchain and other disruptive business-tech challenges to the law	R_IBIT	6	500
Competition Law	R_Eur.comp.l	6	400

Research Talent Track (only after selection)

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Empirical Research Skills	R_EmpO	6	600
Research Portfolio	R_AcaO	6	600
Academic Skills Researchtalent	R_PropWr	6	600

A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

* Due to unforeseen circumstances International Contract Law is 6 EC in the academic year 2019-2020. The remaining 6 EC can be fulfilled in the academic year 2019-2020 by taking an extra Educational component from the Educational Components per specialization, see article 10.3.

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the faculty Kader kwaliteitszorg.

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 25 March 2019.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 27 June 2019.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 27 June 2019.

Appendix I Name changes

Academic year 2019-2020	Academic 2018-2019
Contract Law and Psychology of Negotiations	Contract Law, Dispute Resolution and Psychology
Corporate Social Responsibility	Legal Ethics in a Corporate Context
Financial Law: Governance and Behavior	Financial Law: Markets and Behavior

Appendix II Article 2.1 of the WHW Implementation Decree (1 juni 2018)

(Currently only in Dutch)

1. De persoonlijke omstandigheden bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, derde lid, en 7.9, derde lid, van de wet, zijn uitsluitend:

- a. ziekte van betrokkene,
- b. lichamelijke, zintuiglijke of andere functiestoornis van betrokkene,
- c. zwangerschap van betrokkene,
- d. bijzondere familie-omstandigheden,
- e. het lidmaatschap, daaronder begrepen het voorzitterschap, van:

1. bij universiteiten: de universiteitsraad, faculteitsraad, het orgaan dat is ingesteld op grond van de medezeggenschapsregeling, bedoeld in artikel 9.30, derde lid, onderscheidenlijk artikel 9.51, tweede lid, van de wet, het bestuur van een opleiding of de opleidingscommissie, alsmede het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een stichting die blijkens haar statuten tot doel heeft de exploitatie van voorzieningen, behorende tot de studentenvoorzieningen, dan wel van een daarmee naar het oordeel van het instellingsbestuur gelet op de taak gelijk te stellen orgaan,

2. bij hogescholen: de medezeggenschapsraad, deelraad, studentencommissie of opleidingscommissie.

- f. andere in de regelingen, bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, zesde lid, en 7.9, vijfde lid, van de wet door het instellingsbestuur aan te geven omstandigheden waarin betrokkene activiteiten ontplooit in het kader van de organisatie en het bestuur van de zaken van de instelling,

- g. het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een studentenorganisatie van enige omvang met volledige rechtsbevoegdheid, dan wel van een vergelijkbare organisatie van enige omvang, bij wie de behartiging van het algemeen maatschappelijk belang op de voorgrond staat en die daartoe daadwerkelijk activiteiten ontplooit.

2. Het instellingsbestuur kan voor de toepassing van het eerste lid, onderdeel g, nadere regels vaststellen omtrent het aantal bestuursleden dat ten hoogste per organisatie per studiejaar in aanmerking komt, zomede omtrent welke bestuursfuncties in aanmerking komen.