

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Masterprogramme in International Business Law Faculty of Law

Academic year 2018-2019

A. Faculty section

B1. Programme specific section - general provisions

B2. Programme specific section – content of programme

Index

Section A: Faculty section	4
1. General provisions	4
Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations.....	4
Article 1.2 Definitions	4
2. Study programme structure.....	5
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components	5
3. Assessment and Examination	5
Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations	5
Article 3.2 Type of examination.....	5
Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations.....	5
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results	6
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities	6
Article 3.6 Marks.....	6
Article 3.7 Exemption.....	6
Article 3.8 Validity period for results	7
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion	7
4. Academic student counselling and study progress.....	7
Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling	7
Article 4.2 Adaptations for students with a disability.....	7
5. Hardship clause.....	8
Article 5.1 Hardship clause	8
Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions.....	8
6. General programme information and characteristics	8
Article 6.1 Study programme information.....	8
Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment.....	8
7. Further admission requirements	9
Article 7.1 Intake date(s).....	9
Article 7.2 Admission requirements	9
Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes	9
8. Examinations and results	10
Article 8.1 Validity period for results	10
Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme.....	10
9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications	10
Article 9.1 Workload	10
Article 9.2 Specializations	10

Article 9.3 Programme objective	10
Article 9.4 Exit qualifications.....	11
10. Curriculum structure.....	11
Article 10.1 Composition of the programme.....	11
Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components.....	12
Article 10.3 Educational components for profiles	12
Article 10.4 Extra-curricular components.....	12
Article 10.5 Access to subsequent programmes of professional study leading to qualification as a lawyer or a member of the judiciary	13
11. Evaluation and transitional provisions.....	13
Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education	13
Appendix I Name changes.....	14

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 2018.
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:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. EC (European Credit) | an EC credit with a workload of 28 hours of study; |
| b. examination: | the final examination of the Master's programme; |
| c. semester: | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year; |
| d. educational component: | a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW; |
| e. period: | a part of a semester; |
| f. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |
| g. thesis: | a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report; |
| h. SAP/SLcMVU: | the Student Information System; |
| i. study guide: | the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the provisions and other information specific to that programme. The study guide (or course catalogue) is available electronically at: https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/ ; |
| j. 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; |
| k. academic year: | the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year; |
| l. 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; |
| m. University: | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; |
| n. subject | see educational component |

o. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (<i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i>);
p. OLC	Programme committee;
q. FGV	Faculty joint assembly – assembly of the faculty student council and faculty staff council;
r. CvB	the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
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 resits. 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 or examiner determines otherwise in an exceptional case.

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 sentence, the marking deadline for these [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 the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third sentence 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 resit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.
3. The resit 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 student on request an extra opportunity to take an examination outside the regular occasions or at an date. Herewith the following requirements will be attached :
 - a. The student passed all but one of the examinations necessary to meet the degree requirements and
 - b. The student did take part on the occasions in relating year of study and
 - c. Taking part on the next regular examination opportunity is leading to disproportionately 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 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.

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: between 0.1 - 0.4 rounded down; between 0.5 - 0.9 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, as stipulated for the relevant unit of study in Section B.

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. For at least twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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/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 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.evaluation.
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.

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

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. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.
4. 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).
5. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme allowing admission to this programme.
6. The certificate of admission relates exclusively to the academic year following the academic year in which the application for the certificate was submitted, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

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

1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met if no longer than two years before the start of the programme, the applicant has successfully completed one of the following examinations with at least the scores indicated:
 - a. IELTS: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper based test: 580
 - c. TOEFL internet based test: 92
 - d. Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, within two years before the start of the programme:
 - a. met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
 - b. had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country as listed on the VU website, or
 - c. have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma or
 - d. have an English-language diploma of a Bachelor or Master degree programme which has been accredited by the NVAO in the Netherlands.

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:

1. Regulatory Profile
2. Transactions Profile

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.
9. The Master's graduate analyzes complex issues in relation to international business and recommends useful legal solutions. A Master's graduate formulates an independent and well-substantiated opinion on complex legal issues and evaluates the existing debates on various international business law topics.
10. The Master's graduate describes and demonstrates in a critical manner both orally and in writing the design, the research methods and methodologies, the theoretical foundations and conclusions of his/her research to lawyers and non-lawyers. The Master's graduate has an effective and clear verbal and written proficiency in English legal terminology.
11. The Master's graduate has a self-critical attitude that enables him/her to independently acquire new knowledge and to improve his/her analytical, research and communicative skills.

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 and/or academic internship.
2. Additionally the programme can offer:
 - a. Electives
3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

Educational component	Course code	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			

Article 10.3 Educational components for profiles

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)	Course code	EC	Level
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 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)	Course code	EC	Level
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

Article 10.4 Extra-curricular components

Educational component	Course code	EC	Level
Moot (Court) Competition	R_MootComp	6	600
Internship	-	6	-
Amsterdam Law Forum	R_ALF	6	600

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

Article 10.5 Access to subsequent programmes of professional study leading to qualification as a lawyer or a member of the judiciary

1. If the combination of a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Law entitles the graduate to enter the subsequent programmes of professional study leading to qualification as a lawyer or a member of the judiciary the Examinations Board will mention this on the Master's degree diploma supplement.

2. To enable the Examinations Board to assess a graduate's qualification for an annotation as mentioned in paragraph 1, students who didn't obtain their Bachelor's degree in Law at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, have to hand in a certified written statement of the Examinations Board of the Bachelor's degree programme stating the requirements which still need to be fulfilled to qualify for the annotation in principle. The requirements mentioned in the statement need to be met by taking components at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The Examinations Board defines which components (Bachelor's or Master's components of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam degree programmes) are required to qualify for the annotation. The certified written statement of the Examination Board of the Bachelor's degree programme needs to be handed in at the admission's application to the International Business Law Master's degree programme.

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 evaluation plan in particular article 5.2.

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 15 March 2018.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 14 June 2018.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Law on 14 June 2018.

Appendix I Name changes

New curriculum (2018-2019)	Old curriculum (2017-2018)
Blockchain and other disruptive business-tech challenges to the law	International Business and Internet Law: Privacy, Security and Contracting