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Legal Theory

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LAW



Legal Theory

POSTGRADUATE MASTER PROGRAM

(LL.M. – MASTER OF LAWS; MLS – MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES)

Short Facts

Award	LL.M. – Master of Laws in Legal Theory MLS – Master of Legal Studies in Legal Theory
Duration	2 semesters (LL.M.) 3 semesters (MLS)
Total	60 ECTS (LL.M.) 90 ECTS (MLS)
Language	English
Fees	€ 7.980,- (LL.M.) 11.970,- (MLS) € 6.190,- (Academy Track)
Start	October 2012 (LL.M.) March 2013 (MLS)
Application Deadlines	LL.M. (start in October) 15 th April 2012 (general) 15 th June 2012 (extended) MLS (start in March) 15 th October 2012 (general) 15 th December 2012 (extended)

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Thomas Olechowski

COORDINATOR

Mag. Jürgen Busch LL.M., D.E.A.

CONTACT/APPLICATIONS

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The University of Vienna is the oldest university in the German-speaking world and one of the largest in Central Europe. Thus, with more than 180 courses and about 91,000 students as well as staff of 9,400 employees, it is also the largest educational and scientific institution in Austria.

The university's Postgraduate Center offers a wide range of Advanced Postgraduate Programs. Students may choose from more than 20 master programs in the fields of »Education and Social Care«, »Health & Natural Sciences«, »International Affairs and Business«, »Communication and Media« and »Law«. In addition, the university offers tailor-made corporate programs targeted at the goals and specific needs of organisations.

All professional education programs of the University of Vienna are adjusted to the specific demands of professional life and aim at providing an interdisciplinary approach. Students will learn to understand how related scientific disciplines are interconnected with their specific fields of expertise. The Postgraduate Center is also active in the Austrian and international discourse on lifelong learning.

POSTGRADUATE CENTER – UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

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In cooperation with the European Academy
of Legal Theory and City University of Hong Kong

Legal Theory

POSTGRADUATE MASTER PROGRAM
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Program Content and Objectives

Participants will become acquainted with the fundamental mechanisms and structures inherent to law as well as its cultural, socio-economic, ethical, political and historical contexts. They will familiarise themselves with the pluralistic network of legal systems on state, supranational and international levels, above all in integrated Europe, and be well placed to recognise and solve the corresponding and current legal problems at these interfaces. Courses in legal theory, social and political philosophy of law, internationalisation of legal systems, legal history, legal sociology, and legal research and information management will form the main pillars of the program. Electives provide for further insights into the relationship between law and globalisation, environment, or technology. Completion of the thesis may take place during the summer months (at home, at one of the EALT consortium universities or at one of the other centres of excellence in the EALT network, depending on the study track).

Target Group

The program is aimed at graduates who are qualified in corresponding academic disciplines, and who wish to prepare for doctoral studies or a post doctoral research qualification in law or related subjects. The program is also directed at those persons from the public and private sectors and/or international organisations with an interest in the fundamentals of law and its practical relevance in their field of activity. Finally, it is also generally available for those legal practitioners, who wish to further familiarise themselves in this specialised area of research.

Admission Criteria

Admission to the LL.M. requires a basic law degree or a minimum of 5 years equivalent, relevant professional experience. For the MLS, applicants need preliminary studies with 240 ECTS and a basic university degree in fields related to the Legal Theory program, or 5 years of equivalent, professional experience. Applicants who do not have English as their first language must include evidence of English language proficiency.



AO. UNIV.-PROF.
MAG. DR. THOMAS
OLECHOWSKI

“At a time of rapid changes to the legal order, a precise theoretical knowledge of the foundations of law is more important than ever to confront head-on the challenges presented in every day legal practice.”

Study Tracks

There are three separate tracks of study, one local track wholly completed in Vienna and two international tracks each with one semester spent in Vienna and one semester spent at an international partner university.

- Single Degree Track: 2 semesters LL.M. (€ 7.980,-) or 3 semesters MLS (€ 11.970,-) from the University of Vienna
- Dual Degree Track City University Hong Kong (students spend the fall term in Hong Kong, the spring term in Vienna): 2 semesters dual LL.M. (€ 7.980,-) or 3 semesters dual MLS/LL.M. (€ 11.970,-)
- Dual Degree Track European Academy of Legal Theory (students spend the fall term in Vienna, the spring term in Cracow): 2 semesters dual LL.M. (€ 6.190,-) or 3 semesters dual MLS/LL.M. (€ 10.180,-). Students in this track have the possibility to follow the research module at Stockholm University in February and to write their master's thesis at one of the international centres of excellence within the Academy network during summer months.

Course List

COMPULSORY GENERAL COURSES	SEMESTER	ECTS
Jurisprudence I: Legal Theory	1	3
Jurisprudence II: Legal, Social, and Political Philosophy	2	3
Theory of European Integration and Comparative Law I	1	3
Theory of European Integration and Comparative Law II	2	3
OPTIONAL GENERAL COURSES (1 OUT OF 2/SEMESTER)		6
History of Jurisprudence I	1	3
History of Jurisprudence II	2	3
The Vienna School of Legal Theory and its Critics	1	3
Legal Methodology	2	3
OPTIONAL SPECIALISED COURSES (4/SEMESTER)		
Bioethics and Law 1; Foundations of Law and Economics; Law and Democracy; International Constitutional Law; Theory of the State	1	3 each
Law, Information and Communication Technology; Applied Theory of Legal Argumentation; Theory of Justice; Bioethics and Law 2; Formal Logic and Law	2	3 each
RESEARCH MODULE: GLOBAL LEGAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	1	9
MASTER THESIS & DEFENCE	2	9
TOTAL		60

ADDITIONAL PREPARATORY SEMESTER FOR MLS STUDENTS	SPRING	ECTS
Introduction to Law; Foundations of European Legal Culture; Foundations of International Constitutional and Administrative Law; Introduction to Public International and EU Law; Introduction to Private International and International Criminal Law		30
TOTAL		90



Qualification Profile

The LL.M. or MLS Studies in Legal Theory at the University of Vienna are offered in various tracks which enables differing qualification profiles. Graduates of the program will acquire the skills of critical thinking and interdisciplinary reflection of essential legal questions and paradigms, skills which are becoming increasingly necessary to those engaged in practical legal work as well as those involved in practical legal research. Graduates of this program will therefore be attractive to a wide range of employers including: engaged in research at universities or non-university associated research institutions, in public administration, in legal departments of international companies, international organisations, in NGOs as well as in the traditional legal professions.