school of law
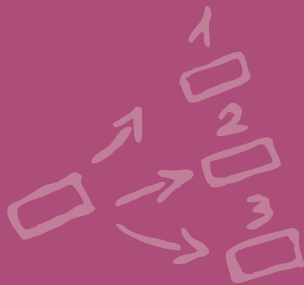
UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Faculty of Law,
Criminal Justice and Public
Administration

Within the framework of the Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration, the School of Law offers a complete university education in law, allowing students to study the various areas of the law and acquire the critical and analytical skills essential for the practice of a legal profession. The School of Law also carries out an intense research programme covering fundamental areas of judicial practice such as the sources of law, the creation of legal concepts, the systematisation of legal solutions, as well as a general reflection on rights and justice.

BACHELOR OF LAW (BLAW)

THE COURSES PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LAW

will enable students to:

- **acquire** a solid knowledge of the principal areas of Swiss law: private law, public law, criminal law, social law and procedural law;

- **understand** the ever-increasing interactions between Swiss law and International and European law, and explore foreign legal systems using a comparative approach (comparative law);

- **develop** their critical and analytical skills by putting legal science into perspective: history of law, philosophy, sociology of law, etc.
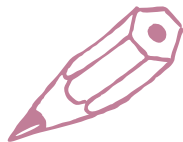
Teaching takes the form of classes supplemented by seminars and tutorials involving practical exercises. During the first year, for example, practical work on legal methodology, organised in small groups, allows students to master this new subject under a more personalised supervision.

The majority of the School of Law's teaching staff have practised, or indeed still practice, the professions of lawyer, solicitor, magistrate or legal expert within a public administration or a private company. This enables them to underpin their teaching with their own practical experience.

LEGAL CULTURE AND THEORY

Classes and practical work involved in the **Introduction to Law and Legal Methodology** familiarise students with the sources of our laws, their concepts and general principles and train them in carrying out legal research and applying the law.

The **History of Law** course uses a comparative perspective to examine the sources of law and the public institutions involved in lawmaking, from the end of antiquity until the era of modern codifications.

The course **Philosophy of Law** aims at giving students a better understanding of how today's legal systems work in practice, notably by looking at the most influential Western doctrines on the essence of justice, from antiquity to the present day.

The course on the **Roman Foundations of Private Law** looks at the law of ancient Rome. The teaching of Roman law is a tradition in Western law faculties. It provides an overview of the entire legal system, with a particular focus on private law, and explains the interactions between the different areas of law. The study of Roman law fosters legal reasoning and promotes a pragmatic approach to the law as a whole.

The **German Legal Language** course aims to familiarise students with the German legal vocabulary in order to make the sources of Swiss law more accessible. Understanding these texts is indispensable for anyone wishing to study or practice Swiss law.

PRIVATE LAW

Civil Law deals with the non-commercial aspects of private law, ie. those concerning private persons and legal entities. This course focuses on the institution of marriage, the establishment and effects of filiation, divorce, matrimonial property regimes, succession law and property law.

The course on **General Contract Law** concentrates on legal obligations, their creation and causes, their modalities and the effects of their termination. Classes on **Special Contract Law** examine the most important typical contracts in the Swiss Code of Obligations and beyond.

The **Commercial Law** course covers private partnerships, joint-stock companies, other types of profit-seeking corporations, financial securities law and the legal mechanisms for company mergers, corporate governance as well as commercial payment systems and instruments.

SOCIAL LAW

Social law covers the legal framework for the state's social protection of private individuals. The **Social Law** course focuses on Switzerland's federal laws on social insurance and labour. It also covers the relationship between social security and civil liability.

PUBLIC LAW

The course on **Constitutional Law** explains the organisation and structure of the State, the legislative process, fundamental rights and constitutional justice. The legal system has developed a series of general principles which are considered to be the backbone of all public activity, namely the principles of legality, public interest and proportionality. The course also explores the State's means of action (decisions, contracts, etc.) and the structure of administration. These rules are further explained in **Swiss Administrative Law**.

The School of Law also offers courses in certain specialist areas of Administrative Law, notably in Tax Law.

INTERNATIONAL, EUROPEAN AND COMPARATIVE LAW

The course on **Public International Law** presents the laws governing relations between States and the laws regulating international organisations. It analyses the relevant legal framework and delves deeper into the most significant areas of cooperation between such entities, in particular with regards to the role of the United Nations.

The course on **Private International Law** studies the issues relating to jurisdiction and applicable law where private legal relationships involve more than one country (international contracts, torts, family law, etc.). This internationally-oriented discipline is complemented with a course on **Comparative Law**, which aims at raising students' awareness of the great diversity of legal systems, with a particular emphasis on common law and European jurisdictions.

The course on **European Law** deals with the institutional and substantive laws of the European Union and examines the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU.

ECONOMY AND THE MARKETS

The course on **Law and Accounting Practices** examines the basic contemporary accounting model as well as the principles, standard rules and legal regulations which form its framework.

An **Introduction to Political Economics** offers students a systematic analysis of the principles of micro- and macro-economics in market economies.

PROCEDURAL LAW

The course on **Judicial Organisation and Procedure** gives a general presentation of the different courts and their competences and covers elements of civil, criminal and administrative procedure. These elements are covered again, in more detail, in the course on **Insolvency Law**.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The **Criminal Law I** course presents criminal law and its scope of application. It examines its general provisions (conditions for punishment, the elements of offences and culpability, sentencing, statutes of limitations and non-criminal offences).

The **Criminal Law II** course deals with sanctions, juvenile criminal law and the principal offences included in the special part of the Swiss Criminal Code (offences against life and physical integrity, honour, liberty, sexual integrity or property). Furthermore, the School also offers courses in **Forensic Science** and **Legal Psychiatry**.

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Bachelor

MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW

The Master's Degree in Law aims to deepen, develop and complete the knowledge which students acquired during their Bachelor stage. Its programme is designed to enable students to choose courses according to their interests and professional objectives. It is possible to opt for a general master's degree, but as programmes can be freely composed by choosing from all subjects taught at master's level, students can create a bespoke degree with one or two "majors" by putting an emphasis on one of the following fields:

- commercial law;
- litigation;
- international and comparative law;
- private law and taxation of assets;
- public law;
- labour and social security law;
- legal theory.

Within the framework of the Master's Degree in Law, students must present a dissertation based on in depth personal research on a theme chosen in accordance with a master's course lecturer. The great variety of subjects which a dissertation might cover are a reflection of the wealth of study opportunities in the master's degree. See the following examples:

- The physician's legal duty to inform.
- Price reductions for faulty goods.
- The responsibilities of the State for the prevention of natural disasters.
- The aggravating circumstance of one's profession in crime and money laundering.
- The protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict.

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Master/Droit

MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW
(AWARDED JOINTLY BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF ZURICH AND LAUSANNE)

This jointly-organised bilingual course offers students the chance to study for their Master's Degree in Law both at the University of Zurich and the University of Lausanne. This enables them to deepen their legal knowledge and their German and French legal language skills. The curriculum is based on the general objectives and contents of the master's programmes run by the faculties, but with the addition of its Swiss bilingual characteristics. The Master's Degree in Law can be taken without a major, or with a major in:

- commercial law; or
- public law.

The Master's Degree in Law from the universities of Zurich and Lausanne is worth 90 ECTS credits and takes a maximum of five semesters. At least one semester must be completed in the partnering University.
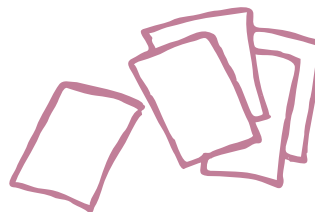
Credits are split as follows: 36 ECTS credits for courses in Zurich, 36 ECTS credits for courses in Lausanne and 18 ECTS credits for a dissertation.

The curriculum grants access to a wide range of professional activities. Notably, it qualifies the students to start internships in legal practice and prepares them for the diverse range of legal professions available in public administration, in the courts, in private companies or in international organisations. Other positions, for example in the fields of arts and culture, politics or business management, also become more accessible via this master's degree.

Organisation:
University of Lausanne and University of Zurich

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Master/LausanneZurich

MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW IN JUDICIAL CAREERS

The Master's Degree in Law in Judicial Careers deepens and completes the legal knowledge that students acquired in their Bachelor courses. The course allows an overall understanding of the judicial system, its procedures in the areas of criminal, civil and administrative law, and the decision-making process of the courts.

As Switzerland has no specific schools for the judiciary, this Master's Degree increases the chances for students of entering its various professions. The degree also allows future lawyers to acquire the necessary basis for judicial practice.

Given its strong interdisciplinary character, this two-year course enables students to acquire transversal skills via the Faculty's three schools (the School of Law, the School of Criminal Justice and the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration). These skills englobe the areas of judicial practice, the management of a court, communication, the interpretation of evidence, and the rights of victims and injured parties. Workshops/classes cover family law, fundamental rights, divorce, non-contentious justice, administrative and criminal law practices. They are led by magistrates and lecturers.

Organisation:
School of Law. Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Master/Magistrature

MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW AND ECONOMICS

Organised jointly by the Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration and the Faculty of Business and Economics (HEC Lausanne), this course aims at completing initial degrees in law or economics by using an interdisciplinary approach. This allows students from either of these disciplines to acquire a very good understanding of the other. Indeed, there is a manifest need for professionals who can combine strong legal knowledge and a proficiency with the relevant economic parameters. At a time when transversal skills are becoming more and more significant, this master's degree offers students of law or economics the chance to acquire knowledge pertinent to a great diversity of economic sectors in the business world.

The key subjects of the Master's Degree in Law and Economics are commercial and financial law, company management and taxation. Beyond these fields, it offers students significant flexibility in the choice of the optional courses. The final part of the degree is a dissertation which, according to each student's particular interests, could cover subjects such as:

- Sponsoring and VAT.
- The taxation of family foundations established under Swiss law.
- Life insurance as a means of estate planning.

- The evolution of branch banking: is self-service banking the solution?
- The effectiveness of personal data protection and the internet

Organisation:

Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration and Faculty of Business and Economics (HEC Lausanne).

www.unil.ch/hec/mde

MASTER'S DEGREE IN Legal Issues, Crime and Security of Information Technologies

90 ECTS CREDITS

The Master's Degree in Legal Issues, Crime and Security of Information Technologies is the result of a collaboration between the University of Lausanne's Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration and its Faculty of Business and Economics (HEC Lausanne). This flexible, multidisciplinary degree follows the Bachelor's degree in law, economics and criminal forensic science. Its objective is to allow students to acquire the skills necessary to grasp the problems posed by information technologies as a whole, whether in terms of informatics, criminalistics or the law. The programme can be studied generally or with one of the following majors:

- legal science (for holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Law);
- forensic science and intelligence (for holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Science);
- economic intelligence (for holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Economics).

This post-graduate course also involves a dissertation, which should be a critical, multidisciplinary study of a problematic issue such as:

- Managing computer security in very small firms.
- Selected issues in the production and distribution of music using new technologies.
- Digital footprints in criminal law and investigation of internet domain names.

Organisation:

Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration and Faculty of Business and Economics (HEC Lausanne).
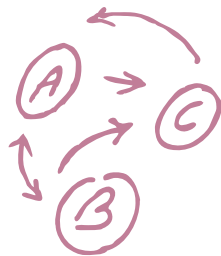
www.unil.ch/dcs

Mobility

UNIL actively encourages the development of inter-university mobility, one of the principal objectives of the Bologna Declaration. The School of Law offers students the opportunity to participate in a year-long study exchange programme (worth 60 ECTS credits) in the third year of their Bachelor's degree or a semester-long programme (worth 30 ECTS credits) during their Master's degree, either in German-speaking Switzerland or abroad.

Within a Master's degree curriculum, the School also offers students the opportunity to follow courses in another faculty, university or university institute, for up to 12 ECTS credits.

www.unil.ch/echanges

Research

Research is mainly carried out within the School diverse research centres: the Centre for Private Law, the Centre for Public Law, the Centre for Comparative, European and International Law and the Centre of Criminal Law.

The research carried out by the School distinguishes itself due to its scientific rigour, its originality and its openness:

- to the world - by paying particular attention to foreign legislation and comparative, European and international law;
- to the future - by investing in emerging themes, such as environmental law, information and communication law, etc.;
- to related fields - by reflecting on complex transversal questions within the framework of interdisciplinary research projects.

The School's dynamism in the field of research is exemplified by the number and quality of the doctoral theses presented each year, as well as the participation of its young researchers in various conferences and meetings and their collaboration in significant publications. The School strives to put its research at the service of legal practice and society as a whole. It also contributes to advanced training by organising numerous meetings and conferences as well as study days and meetings for specialists.

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Recherche

www.unil.ch/ecolededroit