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# Master of Law (MLaw) in judicial careers

## GENERAL OUTLINE

### Objectives

The Master of Law (MLaw) in Judicial Careers offers students who are interested in becoming a judge the opportunity to increase their chances of doing so, and also enables future lawyers to acquire the basics they need for judicial practice.

The aim of the course is to deepen and strengthen the legal knowledge acquired during a university degree, with an emphasis on understanding the whole of the judicial and procedural institution in the criminal, civil and administrative areas, and the process of reaching a judgment handed down by a court or other authority.

### Skills development

The aims of the Master of Law in Judicial Careers course are:

- the acquisition of cross-cutting, interdisciplinary skills specific to the Faculty's three Schools (the School of Law, the School of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Institute of Public Administration) linked to judicial practice, managing a court, communication, interpreting evidence and the rights of victims and injured parties;
- the development of legal practice through workshops led by judges and teachers

relating to family law, personal law, divorce, the work of Justices of the Peace, administrative practice and criminal practice.

### Career prospects

University studies develop a great many transverse skills such as: communication, critical, analytical and summarising faculties, abilities in research, and so on. This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of employment opportunities such as:

- Private sector: independent barrister, in-house lawyer with a bank, insurance company, sporting federation, corporate legal department, legal protection services, etc.
- Public sector: judge, prosecutor, registrar, independent barrister/in-house lawyer with a federal, cantonal or municipal administrative authority (for example, in the areas of justice, police, finance, territorial development, welfare insurance, etc.)
- International organisations/NGOs: lawyer, for example in the fields of humanitarian law, human rights, intellectual property law, telecommunications law, etc.
- Other: politics, teaching, journalism, etc.

The magistrate :  
a guardian  
of individual  
liberties  
and the rule  
of law?

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organisers

Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration:  
[www.unil.ch/esc](http://www.unil.ch/esc)  
[www.icdp.ch](http://www.icdp.ch)

### Degree awarded

Master of Law (MLaw) in Judicial Careers

### ECTS credits

120

### Duration

4 semesters

### Teaching language

French. Recommended level: C1.  
Some courses are taught in English, see reverse.

### Enrolment

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department before the deadline:  
[www.unil.ch/immat](http://www.unil.ch/immat)

### Contact

Secrétariat du Master en Droit en professions judiciaires  
Centre de droit pénal  
Quartier UNIL-Chamberonne  
Internef  
CH-1015 Lausanne  
Tel. +41 (0)21 692 27 80  
[MLawprofjudiciaires@unil.ch](mailto:MLawprofjudiciaires@unil.ch)

### More information

[www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Master/Professionsjudiciaires](http://www.unil.ch/ecolededroit/Master/Professionsjudiciaires)



## EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

### Description

The Master of Law in Judicial Careers requires 120 ECTS credits, broken down as follows:

- Module 1 – compulsory courses  
30 ECTS credits
- Module 2 – compulsory courses  
50 ECTS credits
- Module 3 – block courses  
6 ECTS credits
- Module 4 – optional courses  
15 ECTS credits
- Module 5 – one-month internship and report or Master's thesis and viva  
19 ECTS credits

## SYLLABUS

### Module 1: Compulsory courses: total 30 ECTS credits

- Introduction to Interpretation of Scientific Evidence (class)
- Introduction to Interpretation of Scientific Evidence (practical work)
- Organisation, Role, Operation and Key Actors in the Judicial System; Digital Justice
- Swiss Policy and Institutions
- Civil Procedure
- Administrative Procedure and Courts
- Criminal Procedure

### Module 2: Compulsory courses: total 50 ECTS credits

- Application of the ECHR
- Public Communications
- International Commercial Litigation (Part A)
- Professional Ethics for Judges
- Law of Sentence Enforcement
- Expert Assessments, Appointments and Reports
- Criminal Investigation in the IT Area
- Interpretation and Decision-making
- Management and Organisation
- Civil and Commercial Mediation
- Criminal Policy
- Judicial Practice and Hearing Management
- Advanced Family Law
- Legal Proceedings involving Aliens
- Representation of Justice and Judges

### Module 3 – Block courses: total 6 ECTS credits

- Workshop on the Justice of the Peace (bankruptcy and debt, successions, inheritance, child and adult protection, placement in care)
- Management tools and digitisation of justice
- MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) topic: Forensic science in court: a reliable witness? Other questions of interpretation

### Module 4 – Optional courses: total 15 ECTS credits

- Territorial Development and Public Law of Building
- Operational Criminal Analysis
- Accounts, Interpretation and Review
- International Litigation (part B)\*
- Financial and Organized Crime
- Advanced Administrative Law
- Consumer Law
- Arbitration Law
- Property Law
- Private Insurance Law
- Social Insurance Law
- Advanced Law of Obligations
- Law of Switzerland – EU Relations
- Labour Law
- Law and Ethics of the Barrister's Profession
- Criminal Financial Law
- Criminal IT Law
- Mutual International Assistance in Criminal Matters
- Miscarriages of Justice
- International Commercial Arbitration\*
- Introduction to Criminology
- The International Family
- Judicial Investigation
- Forensic Medicine
- Amicable Resolution Methods in Criminal Matters
- General Principles of Private Law
- Data Protection
- Forensic Psychiatry
- Child and Professional Psychology
- Psychopathology of Deviant Behaviours
- Treatment of Victims of Criminal Events in Court
- Other courses (in law or offered by the School of Criminal Justice (ESC) or Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP))

### Module 5 – Internship or thesis: total 19 ECTS credits

Internship (including report) or Master's thesis

\* Course taught in English

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Admission requirements

The candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor of Law from a Swiss university or, subject to a refresher course, of a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science. Another degree or university title may be judged to be equivalent and give admission to this Master's degree course, with or without further conditions. The School of Law is competent for the final decision on equivalence (administration.droit@unil.ch), subject to the candidate's formal admissibility to the Master's degree course.

### Enrolment and final date

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department ([www.unil.ch/immat](http://www.unil.ch/immat)) before 30 April.

Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland: 28 February

### Start of courses

Mid-September  
Academic calendar: [www.unil.ch/central/calendar](http://www.unil.ch/central/calendar)

### Part-time Master's degree

Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time.  
[www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel](http://www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel)

### Mobility

Mobility is encouraged and credits acquired in similar areas to those taught are recognised. However, you should make contact with the course administrators in respect of the limited number of optional credits.

### General information on studies, guidance

[www.unil.ch/soc](http://www.unil.ch/soc)

### Career prospects

[www.unil.ch/perspectives](http://www.unil.ch/perspectives)

### Accommodation and financial assistance

[www.unil.ch/sasme](http://www.unil.ch/sasme)

### International

[www.unil.ch/international](http://www.unil.ch/international)



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Faculté de droit,  
des sciences criminelles  
et d'administration publique