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

Master of Law (MLaw) in judicial careers

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Master of Law in Judicial Careers is aimed at students who wish to work in the judicial professions, for example as a judge, prosecutor, barrister, registrar, mediator, arbitrator or lawyer working in the legal department of a business, legal protection insurance company or administrative authority. It takes a combined theoretical and practical approach and enables students to develop in-depth skills in trials and disputes in criminal, civil and administrative cases, based on a unique multidisciplinary approach.

Skills development

The Master of Law in Judicial Careers develops the following skills:

- 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 an understanding of judicial practice through classes and workshops in relation to civil law (particularly family law, adult and child protection, inheritance and enforcement), administrative law (particularly the law on foreign nationals) and criminal law (such as the

law on the execution of sentences and forensic expertise in criminal matters)

- the acquisition of practical experience through a one-month internship in a court, judicial office, prosecutor's office, law firm or any other legal department, including a write-up of their experience (instead of a Master's dissertation)

Career prospects

The Master of Law in Judicial Careers is an advantage for securing an internship as a lawyer or as a registrar in a judicial office or prosecutor's office. From a longer-term perspective, it offers high-quality training for those who wish to work in the following professions:

- judge, prosecutor, arbitrator or registrar in a court, judicial office or prosecutor's office
- independent barrister or partner in a law firm
- mediator
- lawyer in the legal department of a business, legal protection insurance company or administrative authority

unil.ch/perspectives/unil-et-apres

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisers

Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration:
www.unil.ch/esc
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

Contact

Secretariat of the Master of Law in Judicial Careers
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More information

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)
- Digital Law
- Swiss Policy and Institutions
- Civil Procedure
- Administrative Procedure and Courts
- Criminal Procedure

Module 2: Compulsory courses: total 50 ECTS credits

- ECHR: Trials and the Judicial Professions
- Public Communications
- International Commercial Litigation (Part A)
- Professional Ethics for Judges
- Law of Sentence Enforcement
- Law and Ethics of the Barrister's Profession
- Expert Assessments, Appointments and Reports
- Criminal Investigation in the IT Area
- Interpretation and Decision-making
- Management and Organisation
- Civil and Commercial Mediation
- Criminal Policy
- Organisation and Operation of the Judicial System
- 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)*
- Advanced Administrative Law
- Consumer Law
- Property Law
- Private Insurance Law
- Social Insurance Law
- Advanced Law of Obligations
- Law of Switzerland – EU Relations
- Labour Law
- 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) 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

Part-time Master's degree

Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time.
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

Accommodation and financial assistance

www.unil.ch/sasme

International

www.unil.ch/international

Version: March 2023
Subject to changes
Only the official texts should be considered binding.

www.unil.ch/masters

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