



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree



LLM in Legal Theory

Goethe University Frankfurt • Frankfurt am Main

Overview

Degree	Master of Laws in Legal Theory (LLM Legal Theory)
In cooperation with	Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, University of Bologna (and EUI Florence), University of Glasgow, University of Lucerne, University of Stockholm and other partner universities European Academy of Legal Theory
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	English (only)
Mode of study	Hybrid
Programme duration	2 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	Concerning the online mode, it is required to spend at least some weeks of the winter semester (November/December) in Frankfurt additionally to be physically present and have contact with teachers and fellow students. Further details will be determined individually.
Application deadline	Mid-September We suggest applying early. First come, first served. The programme offers also a part online track. For the offline track on campus, overseas applicants have to take care of visa requirements, taking into account the possible long period of time it may take to get a visa in their respective countries, and accordingly, they should apply early.
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	3,600 EUR
Additional information on tuition fees	The tuition for the whole academic year is 7,200 EUR. Prospective students may apply for a partial waiver (see application form).
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	Yes
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

Description/content

This programme engages with the ongoing digitalisation and globalisation and the connected structural transformation of normativity in law. It introduces both the Anglo-American and the continental tradition of legal theory. Its focus is to safeguard European traditions as the basis of constitutionalism in a global perspective, developing legal scholarship and jurisprudence as a science, and developing jurisprudence as applied legal theory so as to enable students to solve system conflicts. Such conflicts occur regularly because national law is becoming supra-, inter- and transnational and because of the growing weight of transnational law-making on the part of non-state actors.

This is reflected in the unique European design of the programme. Moreover, it offers an excellent institutional setting on the new Westend campus of Goethe University Frankfurt.

1. The programme's exclusive concentration on legal theory makes it unique in the field of advanced legal studies in Europe, enabled by the university cluster of EALT.
2. It rests on synergies between three institutions located on the same campus: a large law faculty, the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory (<http://www.lhlt.mpg.de/en>), the "Normative Orders" Research Centre (<http://www.normativeorders.net/en>) targeting at the integration of all Frankfurt social sciences with the focus on normativity, and the House of Finance (Institute for Law and Finance, <http://www.ilf-frankfurt.de>).
3. It also connects the reputation of Goethe University (GU) with that of other renowned German and European universities.

Besides GU, the partners in the programme are the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, the universities of Bologna (and EUI Florence), Krakow, Glasgow, Lucerne, Stockholm, and associate partners.

Many more associated partners contribute in a specific way within the activities of the "Third Term Network", namely, in the supervision of students' Master's theses. They currently include renowned instructors from the universities of Glasgow and Oxford, Lucerne, Stockholm, and further universities as in Barcelona, Belgrade, Palermo, Torino, and others. In addition, close cooperation exists with the International Association for Legal and Social Philosophy (IVR). The programme also has ties to major legal theory scholars at German universities such as Freiburg, Göttingen, Hamburg, and Munich.

Course Details

Course organisation

The obligatory part of the curriculum consists of three compulsory modules (A-C) and of passing three elective modules out of seven (E1-7), and a Master's thesis (D). Studying traditionally, students may stay at GU during the entire academic year. Alternatively, they may attend modules at partner universities starting in February. Moreover, they are welcome to attend more or less the whole set of modules.

1. Compulsory modules:

A: Jurisprudence (History of Jurisprudence, Theories of Law, Moral & Political Philosophy of Law)

B: Theory of Comparative Law, Global Law; European Integration

C: Legal Methods, Inferencing in Law, Methodology in Legal Research (preparing D)

2. D-module: Master's thesis

3. Elective modules: E-modules deepen the basics of jurisprudence taught in A-, B- and C-courses.

E1: Law, History, and Culture / Cultural Studies (History of Law, Legal History, Legal Anthropology, Law and Religion)

E2: Law, Society & Culture (Legal Sociology, Law & Gender, Law & Literature)

E3: Law, Science and Technology

E4: Formation of Normative Orders (Legal Pluralism, Human Rights, International Law)

E5: Law and Economy (Governance & Compliance)

E6: Global Law (Global Digitality and Law)

E7: Law, Language and Reasoning

Following current developments in legal theory, other courses may be additionally integrated into the programme.

Obligatory classes will be taken by approx. 15-20 international students. Elective classes will partly have fewer participants (minimum number: seven) and may be open to other students (as guests

from partner universities and alumni). Classes will mostly be taught by renowned academic teaching personnel and partly by legal practitioners. The academic year will start with the winter semester (November to February) in Frankfurt.

In the 2023-24 class, we are able to return to face-to-face classes, including the introductory weeks (at the University of Brno on legal writing according to the Anglo-American as well as the continental model and in Frankfurt preparing module A). On individual admission, students may participate in lectures or conferences at GU convened by institutions such as the Max Planck Institute or the Institute of Law and Finance.

The so-called "third term" (mid-June to mid-September, no courses) facilitates an optional research stay at a partner university or another partner of the "Third Term Network" ("mobility phase D") in Europe or Germany.

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A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated study abroad unit(s)
Integrated study abroad unit(s)	<p>There are regular elective classes at the many partner universities, such as the University of Stockholm, the University of Bologna and EUI Florence.</p> <p>There is also a variety of non-obligatory winter and summer schools or short-term workshops at the universities of Belgrade, Glasgow, Krakow, Lucerne, Palermo, and Sofia.</p>
Integrated internships	The programme provides no internships. However, some seminars will provide close contact with legal practitioners.
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

Online learning

Pace of course	Instructor-led (Specific due dates for lectures/assignments/exams)
Phase(s) of attendance in Germany (applies to the entire programme)	Yes, compulsory
Types of online learning elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to databases with study material • Chats (with lecturers and other students) • Discussion forums and / or groups • Online sessions • Online study material provided by institution • Online tutorials • Podcasts

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	3,600 EUR
Additional information on tuition fees	The tuition for the whole academic year is 7,200 EUR. Prospective students may apply for a partial waiver (see application form).
Semester contribution	Approx. 370 EUR This includes free public transportation and many substantial discounts as for museums and the famous Frankfurt opera house.
Costs of living	850 EUR a month or higher
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<p>For the Master of Laws in Legal Theory (LLM), the following requirements must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduates must hold a basic degree in law or a basic degree in another field of study relevant to legal theory (e.g. arts, humanities or cultural, social, political, or economic studies) with a minimum duration of six semesters (180 ECTS).• In general, they should also prove a minimum of one year of professional and/or research experience outside the basic degree programme prior to the start of the Master's programme in Legal Theory.• Applicants must include evidence of English language proficiency (details below). <p>For further information, please see: https://www.legaltheory.eu/llm-in-legal-theory/application-admission-language/.</p>
Language requirements	<p>Applicants who do not have English as their first language must include evidence of English language proficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A test result in accordance with the International English Testing System (IELTS 7 points minimum), or• Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Internet-based test 100 points minimum, with the following minimum section requirements: reading: 20, listening: 20, speaking: 20, writing: 20, or• any equivalent recognised English language proficiency certificate <p>Students holding a prior first or second degree with English as a medium of instruction do not have to submit such a test report.</p>
Technical equipment and programmes	Laptop
Application deadline	Mid-September We suggest applying early. First come, first served. The programme offers also a part online track.

For the offline track on campus, overseas applicants have to take care of visa requirements, taking into account the possible long period of time it may take to get a visa in their respective countries, and accordingly, they should apply early.

Submit application to

Online at www.legaltheory.eu

Or via e-mail using the application form (see website) – send application materials to the following e-mail address:

L.Schulz@jur.uni-frankfurt.de

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment

In Frankfurt, almost 45,000 companies and organisations have approx. 450,000 employees on their payrolls. In addition, Frankfurt is the financial centre of Germany, with 350 banks, including the European Central Bank, 150 foreign banks, and the fourth-largest stock exchange in the world. Furthermore, Frankfurt is home to various cultural and research institutions. These are key players in a flourishing economy, offering students and graduates interesting jobs and internships. During your studies, there are plenty of job opportunities at Goethe University itself (e.g., as a tutor or research assistant), or you may look for jobs and internships elsewhere in the greater Frankfurt area. Some job opportunities are particularly interesting for students from abroad, e.g., at the airport and the trade fair. The "Studentenwerk" as well as the Career Services at Goethe University can help you to find a suitable offer.

Accommodation

The city offers a wide variety of accommodation, from university dorms to privately rented apartments. The biggest providers of dorms are the "Studentenwerk" (student services: <http://www.studentenwerkfrankfurt.de>) and churches. Further details will be given after the applicant's acceptance into the programme.

Career advisory service

The university international office offers a lot of services (www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/44341978/home?).

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event

Supervisor-student ratio

1:5

Goethe University Frankfurt



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Goethe University is frequently ranked among Germany's leading institutions of higher education. Although the current organisation was founded as a university in 1914 by prominent citizens of Frankfurt, its actual origins go back to 1763. With currently approx. 47,000 students, including approx. 7,300 international students, the university prides itself on a rich tradition of intellectual and cultural excellence. Numerous Nobel laureates in science and medicine, including Max Born, Paul Ehrlich, and Max von Laue, were among the students and teachers at the university. It is home to the world-renowned Frankfurt School, Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer's Institute for Social Research. Several Max Planck Institutes are situated on its campuses, too. Goethe University has enjoyed the teaching of philosophers and theologians, such as Paul Tillich, Martin Buber, and Jürgen Habermas. The university has 16 faculties, including Law, Economics and Business Administration, Social Sciences, Educational Sciences, Psychology and Sports Sciences, Philosophy and History, Theology, Linguistics, Cultural Studies and Arts Studies, Modern Languages, Geosciences and Geography, Computer Science and Mathematics, Physics, Biochemistry, Chemistry and Pharmacy, Biological Sciences, and Medical Science.



University location

Since the Middle Ages, Frankfurt am Main has been a major trade and finance centre at the crossroads of Europe's trade routes. Today, as the leading financial marketplace in continental Europe, Frankfurt is the seat of the European Central Bank and of international banks such as the Deutsche Bank. Thus, Frankfurt is at the centre of European monetary policy and the European Monetary Union. Major public banking institutions, including the Deutsche Bundesbank and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, one of the EU's leading public credit institutions, are based in Frankfurt, as is the world's fourth-largest stock exchange, the Deutsche Börse AG. The stock exchange also houses the world's largest and most modern all-electronic derivatives exchange: Eurex.

The region benefits from an outstanding telecommunication and transportation infrastructure. Frankfurt Airport is the leading airport in continental Europe and offers excellent connections within Europe and overseas. Frankfurt's dense transportation network ensures a seamless connection to all road and rail links.

Frankfurt is an international meeting point. It is home to the oldest trade fair in the world, the world-renowned Frankfurt Book Fair. It also offers many cultural attractions, among them two opera houses, concert halls, theatres, and a great variety of museums and art galleries. Situated on one of Europe's great rivers, the Main, Frankfurt is a vibrant city with many recreational facilities catering to the city's international population.

Cosmopolitan in nature, Frankfurt is home to a large community of expatriate workers and offers a wide choice of entertainment in the English language, from cinema to theatre, literature, and sports. About half of Frankfurt's citizens are foreign-born. There are a multitude of ethnic-based associations, and food from around the world is easily available. Frankfurt is a city in the heart of Europe: Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, and Zurich can all be reached by high-speed rail in less than four hours.

Contact

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.legaltheory.eu>

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/Master-Programme-in-Legal-Theory-FrankfurtM-109589584052452/>

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Disclaimer

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