

**Universität Regensburg**

**Faculty of Law**



**Information about the Magister degree study course  
at Universität Regensburg**

**(LL.M)**

# Information about the Magister degree study course at Universität Regensburg

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No responsibility can be taken for the correctness of this information.

This information brochure for the Magister degree study course at the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg has been drawn up to the best of our knowledge, errors and omissions excepted. All information available at the time of publication has been included.

Subject to change.

On behalf of the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg  
Published by the professors of the Faculty of Law.

Editor: Vanessa Jäger, Law Assessor

## **Dear Magister Students,**

Welcome to the Faculty of Law at Universität Regensburg!

This information brochure will provide you with information and fundamental assistance for the whole duration of your Magister degree study course at our faculty.

If you are not yet enrolled in the Magister degree study course, this brochure will ease the first steps on your way to our university. All students that are already enrolled in the LL.M. study course will find general information in the brochure and, primarily, the binding requirements regarding the organization of your studies and the admittance to the final Magister exam.

If you have any further questions regarding matriculation or the course structure or if you have any difficulty during your studies, please turn to the dean's office or directly to your lecturers. We are happy to answer your questions.

The Faculty of Law wishes you good luck in your studies!

## **Overview**

The Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg offers international students with a law degree the possibility to earn the Magistra / Magister legum degree (LL.M.) during a one-year Master study course.

At the end of a study course of usually one year students will need to take the Magister examination. The examination shall test the mastery of the basics of German law, its exemplary in-depth study as well as the capability to conduct self-directed academic work. The final assessment components involve a thesis and an oral examination.

After the Magister examination has been passed at Faculty of Law, Universität Regensburg awards the Magister/ Magistra legum degree (LL.M.) to foreign nationals. Students can both start in the summer and in the winter semester.

## **Prerequisites**

Foreign jurists prove the qualification for the postgraduate studies by general university entry qualification and of a law degree from a foreign university that is equivalent with and corresponds to the German Law study course.

## All that Regensburg has to offer

The CHE research rankings 2002 and 2003 indicate that the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg belongs to the top group in Germany. See DUZ - special edition [CHE – Forschungsranking \(= Research Ranking\), p. 16](#) and [CHE - Forschungsranking 2003, p. 90 ff.](#) The faculty also offers good career prospects, as it is recommended by HR managers, according to a survey of the magazine *Wirtschaftswoche*.

The Law Libraries are well equipped and are furnished with modern furniture. They are not overcrowded as it is often the case in larger faculties. There is always more than one copy of core literature, so that much-needed books are also available during times when students are extremely busy writing their term papers. The major part of the tuition fees that were introduced with the start of the summer semester 2007 is allocated to the library.

You will find more than enough [computerized workstations](#) and a [WLAN](#) connection for your private notebook in different locations all over the campus. Information and support are provided at the information stand of the Computer Centre. Additionally, students have access to [electronic databases](#) for each subject and to the Electronic Journals Library, a cooperation of the [University Library Regensburg](#) with the Library of the Technical University Munich.

The Centre for Language and Communication offers foreign language courses especially for law students, as for example English, French, Italian, Spanish and Czech, as well as various other languages.

The university's administration is located in the centre of the campus. Student Services has much on offer like the refectory that is also open in the evenings and several cafeterias, a choice of [residential accommodation](#) at reasonable prices and advice regarding child care.

All faculties and university facilities are located on a [green campus](#) above the city. You will also meet students from other faculties and the next lecture hall or library is only a short walk away.

You can register online to enjoy the university's [wide choice of sports activities](#) and many sports facilities available for all students, like badminton courts, tennis courts, a weight room, swimming pool and sauna.

It takes 10 minutes by bus to go from the university to the city centre. The student card that all students receive also serves as a bus ticket for free rides on all RVV buses. Buses depart directly from campus at 10 - 20 minute intervals. For those who live outside Regensburg the university offers a multi-story car park and parking lots outside.

Regensburg is noted for having most pubs per square mile in Germany. The cosy character of the town is characterized by the old town with its maze of tiny streets, the cathedral, the Danube, the Old Bridge and the numerous beer gardens, an offer that is quite unique when compared with other towns. In spite of all its attractions Regensburg is still a town where life is affordable.

According to a new study of the renowned [PROGNOS-Institut](#) Regensburg ranks 10 among 439 cities as centre of technology in Germany. It is one of the three most dynamic regions in Germany, its purchase power is above average, the GDP-growth rate is high while its unemployment figure is low.

In 2006, the "Old town Regensburg with Stadtamhof" was inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites. The old town is renowned for being an outstanding example of an intact medieval metropolis. The patrician houses and towers, the cathedral and the 12th-century Old Bridge are architectural masterpieces. The "Old town Regensburg with Stadtamhof" corresponds to Regensburg's size after the last medieval city expansion in 1320. It is home to 984 protected historic buildings.

## Course sequence: Magister degree study course

The legal basis for the Magister Legum (LL.M.) degree study is the Magister Regulations of the Faculty of Law / Universität Regensburg in the currently valid version.

As a rule, the Magister degree study course consists of two semesters. For a successful completion of the Magister degree study course a maximum of 24 credit hours is required.

In each of the two semesters students need to attend courses worth at least 12 credits. All Magister students must attend **the introductory lectures** in civil law, criminal law and constitutional law of the first / second semester. The introductory lectures in civil law comprise the courses in the general part of the civil code and in the general law of obligations. The fundamentals of criminal law are taught in the general part I of the criminal law course. The introductory lectures in constitutional law comprise the courses in fundamental rights and in polity programme. The student has to earn an assessment in one of the courses mentioned. If a course does not involve any written work, this assessment will be earned by passing an oral examination at the end of term time. Additionally, it is also obligatory to attend one seminar of one's choice. In the seminar, the assessment is earned by writing a seminar paper and by presenting the paper during the course.

At the end of the Magister degree study courses the candidate undergoes an examination that consists of two parts. During the examination, he or she must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals and exemplary consolidation of German law as well as their ability to do scientific work independently. The assessment consists of a written thesis and an oral examination. The candidate chooses the topic for the thesis in consultation with a professor of the faculty, who has declared their willingness to supervise the thesis. Upon request of the candidate, the dean assigns a professor. The time allowed for writing the thesis is three months. This thesis has to be written in German or in a language that both examiners can read.

The oral examination involves fundamentals of German civil law, of German criminal law and of German public law. In one of these areas, the candidate may substitute a special

subject for the fundamentals that is the topic of one course of at least two credit hours that has been attended by the student.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Duration of Studies

The Magister examination consists of the written Magister's thesis (§ 7 Magister Regulations) and the subsequent oral examination (§ 9 Magister Regulations). According to § 3 of Magister Regulations, students need to study at least 2 semesters at the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg before they can take the exam. We do not award credit for a Magister Legum (LL.M.) Degree Course at another university. However, comparable degree components within the meaning of § 5 paragraph 2 that have been earned at a German university-status institution during a comparable course of study may be recognised for credit (§ 14 paragraph 2). Likewise, comparable assessments that have been earned during another course of study and before the admission to the Magister degree study course at the Faculty of Law may also be recognised for credit (§ 14 paragraph 1). This applies especially for the assessments (§ 5 paragraph 2 Magister Regulations) that have been earned in the course of an exchange programme at the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg. Please note that the obligatory two-semester duration of studies is a *minimum* requirement. If you start your Magister degree course in the winter semester, it may be necessary to allow for more than two semesters in order to complete the course successfully with the oral examinations due to the long holiday break in summer. However, you may also choose to come to Regensburg again solely for the pending oral examinations.

### 2. Obligatory Courses (§ 5 Magister Regulations)

According to § 5 of Magister Regulations students must attend courses worth at least 12 credit hours. A standard model combination of these courses can be found in the appendix at the end of this information. According to § 5 paragraph 1 sentence 2 of Magister Regulations, it is obligatory to **attend** the introductory lectures in civil law, criminal law and constitutional law. As the oral Magister exam (§ 9 of Magister Regulations) involves all law branches, the faculty board of the Faculty of Law has decided to recommend Magister students attending the introductory lectures of all branches. It is only by attending lectures from all three branches that a student will learn the fundamentals of German law (§ 4 Magister Regulations), the knowledge and understanding of which a Magister student needs to prove. It is also obligatory to attend a seminar which will be chosen by the student. – There is the option to attend introductions to German private law and German public law for exchange students in lieu of the introductory lectures. These courses give a wider view of subjects which makes it easier for students to understand lectures that deal with more specialized topics. However, that way it will take more time and effort to prepare the oral Magister exam.

### 3. Work Required (§ 5 Magister Regulations)

When the students register their Magister's thesis (§ 7 paragraph 2 Magister Regulations), they need to furnish proof of their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of German law by providing proof of the work done. An **assessment** of an obligatory course chosen and attended by the student within the meaning of § 5 paragraph 1 of the Magister Regulations has to be verified. A further proof that one has successfully attended the chosen seminar needs to be added as well.

As a rule, lectures do not offer any form of assessments. Therefore, the Magister student must undergo an oral examination with the professor who has given the lecture at the end of the semester (winter semester = January, summer semester = July). It takes approximately 20 – 30 minutes and is restricted to the subject matter taught during the lecture. The Magister student must contact the lecturer in good time to agree on a date for the oral examination. The oral examination takes place in the rooms of the professor in question. Although it is obligatory to attend all lectures (civil law, criminal law und constitutional law) in the meaning of § 5 paragraph 1 of Magister Regulations, this does not mean that oral assessments are needed for all lectures at the same time. It is therefore sufficient that the student undergoes **one** oral examination in the course of one of the lectures mentioned.

Additionally, the Magister student must earn an assessment in a seminar of their choice. During the seminar the student must present a seminar paper on a predetermined subject, work out a longer version in detail and must then be prepared to answer questions regarding their paper. The seminars on offer can be found in the respective calendar and the pamphlets. The student must register with the respective chair in good time in order to be given a topic for their seminar paper.

#### 4. Magister's thesis

Not until all assessments or rather all work required (§ 5 Magister Regulations) have been earned and the topic of the Magister's thesis has been agreed upon in consultation with the supervisor, can and must the Magister's thesis be registered at the dean's office of the Faculty of Law immediately. The student must register the Magister's thesis in writing. The registration should contain a declaration according to § 6 paragraph 2 number 2 of Magister Regulations (if necessary, the wording of the declaration can be copied) as well as a valid address in the Federal Republic of Germany according to § 6 paragraph 2 number 3. Additionally, when registering for the examination, a certificate from abroad demonstrating that law studies have been completed successfully and the certificate of matriculation of Universität Regensburg must be enclosed with the assessments.

Before registration, the student must agree upon a topic in consultation with a professor of his or her choice, who is also willing to supervise the thesis. According to § 7 paragraph 3 the thesis can be written in a language other than German. However, both examiners must be able to read this language. It is absolutely advisable to clarify with the supervising professors in advance if a thesis can be written in another language.

The Faculty of Law endeavours to assist students in completing their studies in a timely manner. In order to guarantee the minimum completion time of two semesters, the following is recommended:

The time allowed for writing and submitting the Magister's thesis is **3 months**. It starts with the registration and its associated admittance to the final Magister examination. As the admittance can only be applied for after all work required according to § 5 of Magister Regulations has been provided it is advisable to achieve the required work during the first semester or towards the end of the first semester and to agree upon the topic of the Magister's thesis in consultation with a professor. Thus, the student can already start working on the Magister's thesis or might even finish it during the vacation between the first und second semester. Please note that the registration for the Magister's thesis and its associated admittance to the examination must be made immediately after having agreed upon the topic of the Magister's thesis in the dean's office at the Faculty of Law by producing the necessary proofs according to § 6 paragraph 2 of Magister Regulations. Therefore, it only makes sense to agree on a topic after the assessments have been earned. However, if the Magister student needs to study longer, it is of course up to him or her to postpone agreeing upon a topic and to apply for the admittance to the Magister examination at a later date. Even if the deadline to submit the thesis has not yet passed, the student may submit it ahead of schedule. By doing so, the period in which the thesis is examined will be shortened and final oral examination will be scheduled earlier (§ 9 Magister Regulations). The thesis has to be submitted at the dean's office by the date due. It will then be examined by the supervisor and another examiner consecutively. As a rule, please allow three or four months for the examination of the thesis.

## 5. Oral Examination

The oral examination involves the fundamentals of all three law branches. The candidate has the option to choose a special area in lieu of one of these branches, if so, he or she must notify the dean's office in writing after their Magister's thesis has been examined but no later than that (§ 9 paragraph 2 sentence 2 Magister Regulations). The special area replaces only the field of law for which it can be assigned regarding its subject. If no special area is chosen, the examination will involve the fundamentals of the three branches, as they have been taught in the lectures (§ 5 paragraph 1 Magister Regulations).

The exact date of the oral examination can only be set after the thesis has been assessed by two examiners that will examine the thesis, one after the other. The date for the oral examination should only be set during term time. It is important to note that the thesis must first be examined and a date for the oral examination must be set. It is difficult to set oral examinations for the months of March, August, September and October. Students that leave after two semesters and that only have to undergo the final oral examination, must therefore provide a valid address in Germany or an address of a person authorized to accept service for the delivery of the invitation to the oral examination according to § 6 paragraph 2 number 3 of Magister Regulations. In as much as a non-appearance is due to the non-delivery of the invitation for want of a valid address, the student is responsible for the non-appearance at the oral examination according to § 11 paragraph 2 of Magister Regulations.



## Appendix

### Exemplary Magister study course of two semesters for students starting in the winter semester:

#### **1st Semester** (Winter Semester):

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit hours</b>
Introduction to Civil Law	1
Civil Code: General Part (Theory of Legal Acts)	4
Civil Code: General Law of Obligations/Sales Law	4
Public Law: State Law (State Organization Law)	4
Conversation Exercise in Civil Law	2
Conversation Exercise in Public Law	2
Seminar	2

#### Work required:

- Oral examination, either in civil law or in state law at the end of term time
- Seminar certificate

#### **During Vacation (March/April)**

- Application for admittance to the Magister examination including registration of Magister's thesis
- Start of composition of Magister's thesis

#### **2nd Semester** (Summer Semester):

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit hours</b>
Criminal Law I: General Part I	3
Conversation Exercise in Criminal Law	2
Public Law: State Law (Fundamental Rights)	4
Conversation Exercise in State Law	2

#### Work required:

- None

**Approximately beginning of June:**

- Submission of Magister's thesis

**After the Magister's thesis has been examined (as a rule, after approximately three months):**

- Oral Magister examination (no further need to matriculate)

**Exemplary Magister study course of two semesters for students starting in the summer semester**

**1st Semester** (Summer Semester):

Course	Credit hours
Criminal Law: General Part	3
Conversation Exercise in Criminal Law	2
Public Law: State Law (Fundamental Rights)	4
Conversation Exercise in State Law	2
Seminar	2

Work required:

- Oral examination either in criminal law: general part I or in state law (fundamental rights)
- Seminar certificate

**During Vacation (August/ September)**

- Application for admittance to the Magister examination including registration of Magister's thesis
- Start of composition of Magister's thesis

**2nd Semester** (Winter Semester):

Introduction to Civil Law	1
Civil Code: General Part (Legal Transactions)	4
Civil Code: General Law of Obligations/Sales Law	4
Public Law: State Law (State Organization Law)	4
Conversation Exercise in Civil Law	2
Conversation Exercise in State Law	2

Work required:

- None

**End of October/Beginning of November:**

- Submission of Magister's thesis

**After the Magister's thesis has been examined (as a rule, after approximately three months):**

- Oral Magister examination

## Types of Teaching

### 1 Lectures

**Lectures** are the **backbone** of the complete course. They involve a **presentation** given by a **lecturer** (normally a professor) delivered to an **unlimited number of students**. If the subject matter allows it, the lecturer will try to liven up the lecture by leading students into a dialogue. Very often, the lecture format is chosen due to the necessity to **impart intensive knowledge** to as many students as possible. The smaller the audience, the more likely the opportunities to have dialogues and discussions and it is highly desirable that students participate in the discussions.

### 2. Conversation exercises (Konversationsübungen) for Beginners

**Conversation exercises** are also called supplementary lectures (or colloquies); there is no difference as regards the contents in spite of the different terms. Conversation exercises are meant for beginners. They involve **case studies** and are held by **assistants** in **small groups with a limited number of participants**. They are the companions to the introductory lectures in civil, criminal and public law and are designed to supplement them as well as to practise the case studies. All students who attend conversation exercises regularly will receive a seminar certificate at the end for each course.

All courses that integrate and apply theoretical knowledge to case studies are of great importance: Nearly all examinations that students have to undergo in the course of their studies involve case studies. Here, special rules and techniques exist that students have to learn and practise again and again later on.

### 3. Exercise Courses

There are both **exercise courses for beginners** and **exercise courses for advanced students**; as a rule, they are delivered by **professors** to an **unlimited number of students**. Students also learn the **case studies method** that is typical for law during the exercise courses. Exercise courses for beginners involve *seminar papers and invigilated written examinations (as a rule, with integrated interim examination)*, for advanced students *invigilated written examinations only* that test the knowledge acquired. Only students that have successfully passed the exercise courses for beginners in their respective special field are allowed to attend the exercise courses for advanced students. In order to get into those classes one has to establish proof that one has attended the conversation exercises.

#### 4. Seminars

Seminars **go further** into subjects of the law degree course and teach students how to do **independent scientific research under guidance**. It is obligatory to attend two seminars **in the area of specialization**. In seminars, students will write a **seminar paper on an academic topic** independently which they will then **present** in class. In Regensburg, attending seminars is also a prerequisite for a doctorate, that is for being awarded a PhD; in addition, during seminars students often come across academic issues that can later be used for the benefit of the dissertation (=doctoral thesis).

### Contact and Application

The general regulations for graduate degree courses apply as regards to the application for the Magister degree study course at the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg. These can be found on the homepage of the International Office by clicking on the respective link.

These are the standard documents required for an application:

- 1) School leaving certificate
- 2) Proof of a degree from a foreign university that is equivalent with and corresponds to the German Law study course.
- 3) Proof of your knowledge of German (level C1)
- 4) Financial declaration

You will also find forms and more information on the homepage of the International Office. Please note the beginning and closing dates of the application periods for the Magister study course:

- 1 October - 15 January for all students wishing to start in the following summer semester
- 1 April - 15 July for all students wishing to start in the following winter semester

Please send the documents for your application within the stipulated periods:

Universität Regensburg  
**Studentenkanzlei**  
93040 Regensburg  
Germany

#### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8 am until 11.30 am, as well as on Thursday afternoons: 1.00 pm until 3.00 pm, Administration Building ("Verwaltungsgebäude") Room Number 0.09, 0.10 and 0.11

**Contact by Phone:**

Monday to Thursday 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm; Friday until noon, also – to a limited extent during office hours

Phone number: 0941 / 943 -2377

Mail: klara.kreuzer@verwaltung.uni-regensburg.de

**Assistance offered by the Faculty of Law**

All applicants who have already been accepted may contact Dr. Sylvie Brahy in advance. For more information regarding assistance, please visit the NAJUR website.

**Magister Regulations**

You can get the latest version of the Examination Regulations for the Master Study Course at the Faculty of Law of Universität Regensburg at the dean's office or by clicking on the respective link on the Examinations Regulations [Homepage](#).