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I. Introduction

In the Netherlands it is necessary to obtain a degree in Dutch law to qualify for the so-called “toga professions” – lawyer, public prosecutor and judge. These law degrees have, what is called, “civiel effect” and consists of a recognized bachelor and master in law. Most law degrees on offer at Dutch universities do not specifically cater to students with multiple interests, who wish to explore different talents and sample the diversity of the academic world.

University College Utrecht and the Utrecht University School of Law offer a solution in the form of a double degree program - the DDLL (Law and Liberal Arts & Sciences Double Degree). Students, who according to UCU regulations have met all requirements for a UCU BA and all requirements set by the UU school of Law for the LLB, are awarded two fully accredited Bachelor’s degrees, a Bachelor’s Degree of Arts or Sciences, and a Bachelor diploma in Rechtsgeleerdheid (LLB). It allows these students to enter a master program to obtain the required “civiel effect”. By doing both simultaneously students optimize time as well as avoid paying the high institutional tuition fee for a second bachelor’s degree program. First catered to the Class of 2013 (students of which then became members of the Class of 2014), the DDLL is a fairly unique opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in legal practice in the Netherlands and thus obtaining both degrees in four years.

The **four-year program** encompasses 240 ECTS in course credits, of which at least 140 in law. Students spend the first two years taking required and elective courses at UCU, in which they focus on law. This prepares them for an entrance exam they take before the start of the third year to assess their legal knowledge. After passing the entrance exam, with at least 6.5 points out of 10, students are admitted to the Double Degree program. During the third and fourth year students take courses at UCU and the UU School of Law. They conclude their program with a 15 ECTS Extended Bachelor Thesis. Upon completion they are qualified to apply to all master’s programs in law (LLM) at Utrecht University, as well as many other universities, in the Netherlands and abroad.¹ To get access to the legal professions in the Netherlands you need an LLM in Dutch law, which combined with the LLB allows for the *civiel effect*.

II. The Civiel Effect

The requirements for “civiel effect” are the following:

1. The completed bachelor’s and master’s courses together, counting for 200 ECTS legal courses, of which at least 60 ECTS courses taken at the master-level;

2. A master exam to which the degree Master of Laws (LLM) is attached is passed, and a bachelor’s exam in Rechtsgeleerdheid (LLB) of Utrecht University including the so-called Toga-traject;
3. The curriculum includes the courses bestuursprocesrecht, burgerlijk procesrecht and strafprocesrecht.

UCU students with several tracks in law (including certain courses and amounting to at least 45 ECTS) but without a LLB can still be admitted to at least the following UU Master programs, although they do not allow for civiel effect:
1. European Law;
2. Law and Economics;
3. Legal Research;
4. Public International Law;

NOTE: Students embarking on the DDLL program should not underestimate the course load at the UU School of Law. Students are required to work independently on the materials covered. The number of opportunities for students to ask questions and familiarize themselves with the materials in class is less expansive when compared to UCU. Besides, students have repeatedly noticed that studying in Dutch, rather than in English, at first takes considerably more time. Especially those with less practice in reading legislation, case law and academic texts in Dutch, have experienced that it generally takes several courses’ worth of study materials before they are used to common terminology and phrasing.

III. Pre-Registration Requirements
The qualifications to be met for students to be admissible to the entrance exam which, upon successful completion gives access to the program (pre-registration requirements) are the following:
1. Students must be second year UCU students. 1st year students are kindly requested to postpone their registration until their 2nd year of study.
2. Students must declare their Major in either Social Sciences or otherwise being Interdepartmental in which law is one of the two tracks.
3. Students must be proficient in Dutch. There are several possibilities for students to prove their skills in Dutch:
   a. a Dutch high school VWO Diploma
   b. proof of NT2 level for Dutch and passing the Dutch language test required for entering the Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid. Take into account that the NT2 is a minimum level and in practice NT2 level alone is not sufficient.
   c. International Baccalaureate with A-level Dutch, which has to be verified by the Admissions Office in advance of enrolment in the Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid.
4. Students must complete a 1 and 2 level UCU law course at the time of registration for the first entrance exam.

5. Students must complete their 3 level UCU law track finisher or being in the process to complete it at the time of registration for the entrance exam. Please be aware that planning and taking enough law courses from the start of a students’ enrollment at UCU is crucial here.

6. Students must at the time of registration for the entrance exams have a minimum GPA of 3.3.2

Exceptions to these requirements may be provided on a case-by-case basis by the UCU Examination Board, to be requested by filling in and submitting a General Request Form, which may be found on intranet.3

Only if either all requirements are met, or students have been granted an exception from the Examination Board, may students register for the entrance examination. In accordance with the UCU regulations, students must register in their 2nd year of study at UCU (3rd or 4th semester), before the last Friday before Spring/Fall Break, 24:00, through the following link:

(A general e-mail with the link will be sent to all UCU students in due time)

IV. Entrance Exams

The entrance exam consists of two parts: - private law and public law. The content of the entrance exams covers four law courses that LL.B students take during their first year: Inleiding Privaatrecht I: Verbintenissenrecht and Inleiding Privaatrecht II: Goederenrecht, Inleiding Staats- en Bestuursrecht and Inleiding Strafrecht. The exams are held towards the end of the semester (private law towards the end of the fall semester and public law towards the end of the spring semester).

Passing the entrance examination gives students an exemption of taking the four aforementioned courses at the Department of law. Thus, passing both parts of the entrance examination would allow students to earn a 30 ECTS exemption.

Students must obtain a score of at least 65/100 points to pass it. Students who do not show up at the Exams will be regarded as not having passed it.4

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2 NOTE: The official enrollment in the law degree takes place after the student has passed the two entrance exams.
3 The UCU Examination Board will take into consideration the views of the Examencommissie Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid when deciding on the request.
4 There are circumstances in which students are allowed to re-take only one of the two entrance exams. The cumulative criteria to allow such a retake are a) minimum understanding of the materials in the exam, meaning to have at least scored 40 points; b) extenuating personal circumstances or serious health problems; and c) whether the student has passed the other entrance exam.
NOTE: Students must sit the two entrance exams by the end of their fifth semester. Only under extenuating circumstances, students may be allowed to an exemption to this rule.\(^5\)

The materials to be covered during the Exams - textbooks, jurisprudence readers, practice questions, statute books etc. - are enlisted or distributed within two weeks after the registration date has expired (see the Timeline section below). Students are encouraged to study together and cooperate in solving any questions they encounter in the preparation process.

V. Course completion
Students must complete certain UCU law courses, ideally before their sixth, semester. These courses are the following:

1. UCSSCLAW11 Law Society & Justice
2. UCSSCLAW12 Introduction to Law
3. UCSSCLAW21 International Law
4. UCSSCLAW33 European Union Law
5. At least one of the following courses:
   a. UCSSCLAW27 International and European Labor Law
   b. UCSSCLAW26 Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective
   c. RGBUPRV007 Insolventierecht (this course is an entrance requirement for the master’s programmes Privaatrecht and Onderneming en recht)
6. At least one of the following courses:
   a. UCSSCLAW13 Criminal Justice Systems
   b. UCSSCLAW22 Comparative Constitutional Law
   c. UCSSCLAW31 International Human Rights
   d. UCSSCLAW34 International Commercial Arbitration
   e. Transnational Law Perspective Winter Course.\(^6\)

In addition, students must write their thesis during their fourth academic year. (They are not allowed to start earlier).

7. Thesis (15 ECTS in the field of law):

NOTE: Students have also the possibility to earn 7.5 ECTS towards the DDLL through an internship (UCSSCINT21)

In Annex A, guidelines for course planning are provided.

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\(^5\) Taking part of UCU in Africa, a summer course, an exchange program or internship does not amount to extenuating circumstances in relation to this rule and other rule of the DDLL program.

\(^6\) The TLP winter course is no longer offered by UCU.
VI. Writing a thesis on a legal topic
Students need to write an Extended Bachelor Thesis, which fulfills both the thesis requirements of UCU and the Department of Law. The thesis counts for 15 ECTS. For DDLL students the content of the thesis must be 100% on a topic in a certain field of law in order to receive an exemption for the Afstudeerwerk (bachelor’s thesis law). The UCU law fellow determines whether the content of a UCU thesis is 100% on a law related topic.

VII. Exemptions within the Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid
Participants in the double degree programme receive standard exemptions in the Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid on the basis of the completed entrance exam, compulsory law courses and for non-law elective courses (45 ECTS) on the basis of completed courses at UCU. Every student has to submit a formal request for exemptions to the Board of Examiners of the School of Law (Examencommissie Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid: examencommissie.rechten@uu.nl) before 1 April (e.g. 2016) in order to graduate in August (e.g. 2016). It is mandatory to request these exemptions in order to make sure the student can graduate in the automatic graduation procedure. The request should include a list of the UCU law courses completed for the double degree programme and a transcript from Osiris with all UCU results until then.

VIII. Deadline for the thesis
In order to graduate in February, the deadline for submitting request for exemption for the bachelor’s thesis\(^7\) to the Board of Examiners is February 1\(^{st}\) so that students can graduate on 28/9 February.

In order to graduate in August, the deadline for submitting the exemption thesis request\(^8\) to the Board of Examiners is August 1\(^{st}\) so that students can graduate on 31 August.

IX. Contact Details
Depending on the nature of questions or comments, students and staff should contact either one of three persons involved in the DDLL program. For requirements concerning the entrance exam, contact Bald de Vries. For questions regarding Rechtsgeleerdheid curriculum planning, and related post-registration requirements, contact Kim Goossens. For all other questions, contact Diana Odier-Contreras Garduño.

Bald de Vries – Department of law Office: Achter Sint Pieter 200
Telephone number: 030 253 7083
Email: u.devries@uu.nl

Diana Contreras-Garduño - UCU Law Tutor

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\(^7\) In order to submit this request the grades of the student’s thesis need to be handed in beforehand.
\(^8\) In order to submit this request the grades of the student’s thesis need to be handed in beforehand.
X. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

1. Why are no answers given to Entrance Exams practice questions?
   Answer: To deny students answers to the Entrance Exams practice questions is based on a decision made by both UCU and School of Law. Although this understandably poses a challenge, students are expected to be able to work independently with the materials provided to them and should be able to prepare sufficiently as such. Students are encouraged to work and prepare for the Exams together, which might take away any questions. Furthermore, the answers to the given practice questions can usually be found in the materials assigned.

XI. Is it possible to complete the DDLL program in more than four years?
   Answer: Students are supposed to complete both bachelor’s programs in 4 years. In case there are special circumstances which prevent a student to complete both programs in time, they should contact both the UCU Law Tutor and study advisor for law, Kim Goossens, as well as the Dean. Both the UCU Law Tutor and Kim Goossens will inform the Dean of the progress of the student as well as the courses needed to be completed and when are those courses on offer.

XII. Can students who have limited/no knowledge of Dutch language participate in the DDLL program?
   Answer: As studying, understanding and applying the law necessitates good language skills, the program is only open to students who are proficient in Dutch, or who in any case are at the standards set above in the Pre-Registration Requirements section.

XIII. May students still take courses at UCU during their sixth, seventh and eighth semester?
   Answer: In principle, DDLL program students are entitled to remain registered in courses offered at UCU for eight semesters. However, the UCU Examination board possess full discretion on this matter.
XIV. Which courses taken during the four years count towards the UCU LA&S degree and which courses count towards the UU Bachelordiploma in Rechtsgeleerdheid?

Answer: Courses that satisfy specific requirements in both degree programs count towards both degrees and the GPA on the final transcript for that degree. Also, according to paragraph 3.20.5 courses taken at the UU School of Law only to satisfy requirements for the LLB do not count towards the UCU Bachelor of Arts or towards the GPA on the final transcript for the BA. Finally, according to the student handbook, elective courses that do not fulfill specific degree requirements count towards the UCU BA and its final GPA.

-Who registers students for courses at the UU?

Answer: neither students nor tutors need to register for UU courses. Kim Goossens will register students and DDLL students may ignore standard emails sent out by the university asking students to register for their courses.

XV. Which master’s programmes are available for the DDLL students at UU and their specific entrance requirements?

Answer: The master’s programs of the UU School of Law to which DDLL students can be admitted are after completion of both degrees (BA and DDLL) are: European Law, Law and Economics, Legal Research, Public International Law, Privaatrecht, Onderneming en recht en, Staats- en Bestuursrecht en Strafrecht. For the master’s programs Privaatrecht and Onderneming en recht an additional course, RGBUPRV007 Insolventierecht, is required. This course will be from 2016-17 and onward in period 4. Admission to the master’s program Notarieel recht is not possible on the basis of the DDLL, since the compulsory bachelor’s courses of the so-called Notarieel traject (notary law) are required for admission to this master’s program. These courses are not included in the DDLL.

XVI. Which tuition fee is supposed to be paid for the fourth year?

Answer: Students continue to pay the UCU tuition following the same steps as they have done during the last three years. Please keep in mind that students enrolled in the DDLL are still UCU students during the fourth year. Consequently, they are entitled to take courses at UCU alongside their courses at UU School of Law as well as have a tutor during their last and fourth semester.

XVII. Can students have an access pass to UCU buildings during their fourth year?

Answer: Yes. However, this has to be requested to College Hall and must be returned at the end of their fourth academic year.
ANNEX A: Course Planner for students entering the programme in 2016-17

UCU cohort 2014-15 and later, September start.

This schedule applies to students that complete the entrance exams in 2016-17 and the subsequent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jaar</th>
<th>Onderwijsperiode</th>
<th>Cursus</th>
<th>Studielast</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Jaar 1, 2014-15 | Fall             | **UCSSCLAW12 Intro Law**  
UCACCACA11 (verplicht Semester 1)  
UCSSC1 (breadth requirement; verplicht in jaar 1)  
UCHUM 1 level (breadth requirement jaar 1) | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Spring          | **UCSSCLAW21 International Law**  
**UCSSCLAW11 Law, Society and Justice**  
UCACCMET11 (SSC requirement)  
Niet juridisch tweede track UCSC 1 level | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Summer course: UCSSCLAW13 Criminal Justice Systems (keuzevak) | 7.5 ECTS   |
| Jaar 2, 2015-16 | Fall             | **UCSSCLAW33 EU Law**  
Niet juridisch tweede track SSC 2 level  
UCACCMET24/ MET25/MET23 + 2D (SSC requirement)  
**UCSSCLAW26 Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective** | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Winter course: RGBOS031x Transnational Law Perspective | 7.5 ECTS   |
|               | Spring          | **UCSSCLAW22 Comp Const Law**  
UCHUM Language & culture 1  
Ruinthe voor vak Keuzevak (optie: **UCSSCLAW34 Int Commercial Arbitration** or **UCSSCLAW27 International and European Labour Law**) | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Summer          | Summer course                                                         | 7.5 ECTS   |
|               |                 | **Entrance Exam August 2016 †**                                       | 0 ECTS     |
| Jaar 3, 2015-16 | Fall             | Exchange of elective courses                                           | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Winter course: RGBOS031x Transnational Law Perspective | 7.5 ECTS   |
|               |                 | **Entrance Exam Pt2 January 2017 †**                                   | 0 ECTS     |
|               | Periode 3(Spring) | **Constitutioneel recht (7.5 ECTS)**  
Niet juridische cursus tweede track SSC 3 level  
**UCSSCLAW31 Int Human Rights** | 30 ECTS    |
|               | Summer          | Summer course                                                         | 7.5 ECTS   |
Jaar 4, 2016-17
Periode 1 (Fall) Materieel en formeel strafrecht 15 ECTS
Verbintenissenrecht
Periode 2 (Fall) Goederenrecht (7,5 ECTS) 15 ECTS
Bestuursrecht (7,5 ECTS)
Periode 3 (Spring) Vennootschappen en rechtspersonenrecht (7,5 ECTS) 22,5 ECTS
UCU Extended Research Thesis (15 ECTS)*
Periode 4 (Spring) Burgerlijk procesrecht en bestuursprocesrecht (7,5 ECTS) 15/22,5**
Procesrecht Strafrecht* (7,5 ECTS)
Insolventierecht (7,5 ECTS)**

UCU verplicht law vak
RGL verplichte bachelorvakken
UCU juridisch keuzevak
† Although students receive 0 ECTS for these exams, the two Entrance Exams combined count towards 30 ECTS for the civiel effect.

* It is advisable that students start writing their thesis earlier on during their fourth academic year.

** The course RGBUPRV007 Insolventierecht is an entrance requirement for the master’s programmes Privaatrecht and Onderneming en recht. Insolventierecht is a required elective for the bachelor’s degree Rechtsgeleerdheid which can be chosen instead of UCSSCLAW27 International and European Labor Law or UCSSCLAW26 Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective.
This four-year program encompasses 240 ECTS in course credits, of which at least 140 in law. In addition, at least 60 ECTS must be completed in UU law courses. Doing these two bachelors simultaneously means that some UCU law courses will give the students some exemptions at the Law Faculty. The following table explains such exemptions:

Please keep in mind that:
- All UCU courses count towards the UCU degree, including law courses.
- Students may obtain credit exemptions at the Law Faculty for some of the law courses taken at UCU.
- Regarding TLP winter courses. If the students decides to take it more than once, the first TLP winter course will count towards the UCU degree (as an off-campus course). The second or more TLP winter courses will count towards the UU Law degree.