Master's Programme

European Criminal Justice in a Global Context - LLM

- Examines the role of criminal justice systems in a Europeanized and internationalized legal environment
- Personal interaction between staff and students
- Great preparation for a career in legal practice at national and international level
Criminal justice systems face the challenges of internationalisation, digitalisation and European integration. EU law and criminal law have entered into a dynamic interaction, which shapes and redefines their very foundations. This is necessary to control crime and ensure due process at a national, EU and international level, but also to enforce EU policies and retain Europe’s position as a global actor in the area of security and criminal justice. This LLM links the criminal justice systems of the EU member states to criminal law, constitutional law and administrative EU law. It deepens your knowledge on the effects of EU criminal law on national criminal justice. It analyses interactions with the criminal justice systems of other states under new, innovative forms of enforcement cooperation. It examines the relationships between criminal justice systems and the sharply increasing number of EU enforcement agencies. Are you ready to dive deeper into this stimulating area of debate?

CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME
We offer you active learning methods in which your own interests, ambitions, and aims guide your learning experiences. In the elective modules (Capita Selecta) you will focus on topical issues of EU criminal law and research of the staff. Our new Legal Skills Academy puts skills-teaching in the spotlight, so by the time you finish your Masters you have the confidence and skills needed to perform as a professional in legal practice. From the very beginning, you will also take part in research and thesis training that prepares you to write.

European Criminal Justice in a Global Context

This NEW LLM at Utrecht University deepens your knowledge on EU criminal law and its interaction with national criminal justice systems. The programme is designed to prepare you for today’s dynamic, fast-changing and increasingly globalised legal environment. It offers you an inspiring intellectual challenge during your study period as well as the platform for a rewarding legal career.

A Master’s programme offers students and graduates ample opportunity to explore, specialise and enjoy the areas that interest and excite them. Being able to combine these three elements throughout my Master’s programme has given me some of my most treasured experiences and set me up for a future in my chosen field. The ‘exploration’ takes shape through a selection of mandatory and elective courses, taught by a wide range of instructors, from both within and outside the university. Through lectures as well as my own research, which is supervised by leading researchers in my chosen fields, I’ve been able to dive deeper into a range of fascinating legal topics.

Outside of class, students are encouraged to interact with the guest speakers at conferences and expert seminars organised by the University’s research institutes. I was surprised by how approachable many of these experts, such as John Vervaele, Stanislaw Tosza, Tony Marguery, and Michiel Luchtman, were, and how willing to engage and share their experiences with students like me. For those more interested in legal practice, the UU Masters allows them to focus their activities in a different direction altogether – through a variety of practical courses, moot courts and internships with law firms. Finally, ‘enjoyment’, for me, came from working with colleagues from all parts of the world, participating in university societies, working at the university research institutes, contributing to the university’s legal journals (#UJIELrepresent), and the simple pleasure of living in a young, vibrant city like Utrecht, where there is always something to do, be it a live jazz night or a foreign film festival.

Matija Kajic (Croatia)
your Master’s thesis.
For highly motivated students Utrecht University’s School of Law offers the LLM’s Honours Programme.

Compulsory courses:
■ The constitutional foundation of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
■ Indirect enforcement of EU law
■ Transnational enforcement of criminal law
■ Supranational criminal law enforcement
■ Elective modules (Capita Selecta)
■ A Research and Thesis Trajectory

CAREER PROSPECTS
The unique knowledge and skillset developed through the LLM in European Criminal Justice programme creates a path for graduates to work in diverse and wide-ranging areas of law and/or administration at a national or European level, or in a wider international context. From the public prosecutor's office summoning a foreign witness, to a private defence lawyer using the EU directive on the presumption of innocence to support their argument in a national criminal case. Most courts, visits to legal and professional organisations and guest lecturers provide a concrete vision of what it is like to work in this area.

WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?
Law is in constant motion, changing even as it sets off changes in the world. Every day, lawyers are focused on discovering answers to completely new questions; working with others, they are building tomorrow’s society, today. By progressive innovative, multi-dimensional legal research the School of Law plays an active and significant role in helping to solve the major issues facing our world. Through challenging teaching programmes, the school trains its students to become outstanding lawyers who will take the lead in driving justice and societal change.

A LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
Established in 1636, the Utrecht University School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the Netherlands and remains one of the leading centres of excellence of its kind in Europe. Today, our beautiful and historic faculty buildings provide a supportive and inspiring work environment to around 500 lecturers and almost 4,000 students. Many of our alumni hold prestigious positions with leading companies and institutions around the world. The Shanghai Ranking An excellent opportunity to explore the challenges surrounding criminal justice in Europe and beyond
It has become clear that no area of national law can escape the influence of European Union law. Against this backdrop, EU criminal justice policy and legislation are increasingly prevalent, while the number of cases concerning criminal law appearing before the CJEU is steadily growing. Do you want to understand this process and its impact on criminal law? Do you want to contribute to the development of this intriguing area of law? Then it is essential that you familiarise yourself with the relevant parts of EU law itself, and with the criminal justice systems of the Member States. This LLM offers, in my view, an excellent opportunity to prepare for current and future challenges surrounding criminal justice in Europe and beyond.

Sacha Prechal
Judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union
2019 ranks Utrecht University as the best research university in the Netherlands and 49th in the world.

**UTRECHT AND THE NETHERLANDS**

Located in the heart of the Netherlands, Utrecht is the ideal place to study criminal law and build up professional contacts. A thirty minute train ride will bring you to the international legal capital The Hague, where many relevant institutions in the area of European criminal justice are close by, including Eurojust and Europol and several Brussels-based EU and international institutions. Your professors have close links to many of these organisations, enabling you to visit them, see the law in action and listen to eminent guest speakers.

**ADMISSION**

We welcome graduates with a bachelor’s degree in Law or students with a Liberal Arts Sciences degree with substantial knowledge of criminal law. For further details on how to apply and specific entry and language requirements please visit: www.uu.nl/masters/ecj.

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### European Criminal Justice in a Global Context

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<td><strong>Capita Selecta</strong>&lt;br&gt;Six modules including a compulsory Research and Thesis Trajectory</td>
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**Research and Thesis Trajectory**

**The LLM’s Honours Programme**

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**More information:**

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Studying at Utrecht University:  
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