

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master Thesis in European Intellectual Property Law
Examensarbete i europeisk immaterialrätt

30.0 Higher Education
Credits
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU700M
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2015-02-16
Changed:	2021-06-30
Department	Department of Law
Main field:	European Intellectual Property Law
Specialisation:	A1E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

Decision

Approved by the Education Committee (delegation) on 16 February 2015. Revised by decision of the Education Committee (delegation) on 14 September 2016. Revised by decision of the Department Board (by delegation) on 30 June 2021.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Students must have passed the first course in the Master of Laws programme in European Intellectual Property Law, Advanced Intellectual Property Law (15 ECTS), as well as fulfilled the requirements in one of the programme's specialised elective courses, Copyright and Transborder Litigation (15 ECTS) or Industrial Property - Patents and Trade Marks (15 ECTS).

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0100	Thesis Master in European Intellectual Property Law	30

Course content

This course is the final course in the Master of Laws Programme in European Intellectual Property Law. The aim is for the student to use his/her knowledge acquired to date in the programme and carry out an independent, sophisticated research project. The student shall plan and write an academic paper on a suitably focused subject area within European intellectual property law. The subject for the Master thesis can be interdisciplinary. The subject matter, focus and supervisor is determined in the preceding specialised elective course.

The Master thesis project consists of writing a coherent academic paper. On the way to the final academic paper, the student will write preparatory memoranda regarding approach, research questions, and focusing the subject, that are presented and discussed in a group at seminars as well as individually with a supervisor who will also provide written feedback.

The degree project is to be completed individually.

The course involves development, deepening and specialisation, both in terms of subject and approach, of the first term's courses in the Master Programme in European Intellectual Property Law.

Learning outcomes

After successful completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding, including both general knowledge of the area of intellectual property law and considerably advanced knowledge of the area that the academic paper discusses, including insight into current relevant work in research and development;
- display the ability to systematically and independently identify, formulate and delimit intellectual property law questions as well as plan and use appropriate methods to complete the Master thesis within specified time frames;
- demonstrate deeper knowledge as well as the ability to apply relevant legal scholarly methods, and, within the boundaries of the academic paper's subject area, make assessments considering relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects, and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- identify his/her need of additional knowledge and take responsibility for the development of his/her knowledge; demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- display the ability to clearly in oral and written format report and discuss his/her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that form the basis for the conclusions.

Education

Instruction consists of 20 weeks of full-time studies. Instruction is given in the form of seminars, lectures and individual supervision. Meetings with the supervisor will occur at least three times.

Lectures will cover choosing legal scientific method or methods, treatment of the topic, and searching for appropriate ways to approach the research problem. The seminar series covers academic writing (with examples from the students' own essay memoranda), formulation of research questions and appropriate delimitation of topics. Feedback will be provided in writing, individually and in seminar discussions.

The lectures aim to give students advanced knowledge in the methodology for creating theoretical and judicial knowledge as well as an orientation in different legal scholarly and similar approaches, for example comparative methods, legal economic methods, and sociology of law methods. Additional examples from issues with a doctoral thesis research project are used as a practical illustration of choosing methods, focus and demarcation. In the seminar series, the student has the opportunity to discuss in groups important questions for a scholarly project, such as identification of research questions, formulating and delimiting research questions, and methodological considerations. Other topics regarding developing and presenting judicial arguments are also addressed, such as scholarly techniques for writing and formulation, including quotation techniques, appropriate ways to use and refer to source material, accuracy, and other formal requirements.

The individual supervision includes feedback on the student's draft essay on at least three scheduled occasions.

The Master thesis project includes, in addition to presenting the author's own work in an appropriate form, also serving as discussant and critically reviewing and evaluating another student's Master thesis.

Participation in at least 80 per cent of all seminars and lectures is compulsory. In the event of special circumstances, the head of the course can grant exceptions. In this case, the student shall be responsible for completing an additional assignment.

Instruction and the degree project will be in English.

Forms of examination

Examination occurs in conjunction with the student presenting and defending their academic paper at a seminar on the thesis. All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Course grades are determined based on a combination of the individual's performance in each of the different elements of the course: academic paper 80 per cent, oral presentation 10 per cent, and serving as a discussant (opposition) 10 per cent.

A master thesis which is submitted too late can at most receive the grade E (Sufficient), unless the course director has granted an extended deadline in advance due to a lawful reason.

The examiner is appointed by the head of the department. The examiner is a different instructor than the supervisor. The examiner is the chairperson of the seminar on the thesis.

All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course.

Students who initially fail the examination are given the opportunity to be assessed a second time. Students who fail the course twice from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner for their next examination. This, however, does not apply if there are particular reasons that a different examiner cannot be appointed.

Students who have received a passing grade are not allowed to be assessed again in order to achieve a higher grade.

The grading system uses a criterion-referenced scale of seven grades with passing grades of A (Excellent), B (Very good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory), or E (Sufficient). Failing grades are Fx (Insufficient) or F (Entirely insufficient).

Grading criteria will be further specified and shall be made available at the latest at the beginning of the course.

Essential elements of assessment:

- 1.Ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse questions
- 2.Knowledge of details and insight into the subject
- 3.Written presentation - systematic, clear and logical presentation of the material, with focus on presentation of the central issues
- 4.Familiarity with relevant material and ability to use relevant material
- 5.Accounting for chosen method or methods; Relevance of the method or methods; Consistent use of the method or methods
- 6.Independence
- 7.Consideration of the social, scholarly and ethical aspects of the selected question
- 8.Substantiated conclusions with deeper discussion of the subject area
- 9.Mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e., specificity and precision in reporting references and sources
- 10.Clear, correct and concise language, using established terminology
- 11.Ability to receive and answer relevant criticism and comments
- 12.Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project

Misc

Effective date

These provisions are effective from 16 August 2017.

Required reading

Required reading is determined by the supervisor.