

Faculty of Law

UNIVERSITY OF
COLOGNE

THE DEAN



Admissions Regulations

European Legal Perspectives
Postgraduate Master's Program
Master of Laws (LL.M.)

**NOTE: ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION OF THE ADMISSIONS REGULATIONS IS LEGALLY BINDING.
THE ENGLISH VERSION IS ONLY PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.**

Official Admissions Regulations for the Postgraduate Master's Program *European Legal Perspectives* of the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne

27 July 2020

Pursuant to § 2 paragraph 4 sentence 1 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz - HG*) in the version of the Higher Education Future Act (HZG) of September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 10 of the Act on the Consistent and Solidary Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in North Rhine-Westphalia and on the Adaptation of State Law with Regard to the Effects of the Pandemic of April 14, 2020 (GV. NRW. p. 218b), and § 4 paragraph 1 of the Examination Regulations of the Postgraduate Master's Program *European Legal Perspectives* of the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne of 27 July 2020 (*Amtliche Mitteilung* 83/2020) the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne promulgates the following regulations:

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§ 1

Scope of Application

These regulations govern the eligibility and admission to the postgraduate master's program *European Legal Perspectives* of the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne (hereinafter: Master's program).

§ 2

Eligibility Requirements

(1) In order to be eligible for admission to the master's program, a candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

a) He or she must possess a primary professional degree obtained in a law degree program in accordance with § 2,

b) He or she must possess relevant professional experience of generally not less than one year in accordance with paragraph 4, and

c) He or she must have very good English skills in accordance with paragraph 5.

(2) ¹In addition to the First Examination within the meaning of § 5 paragraph 1 of the German Judiciary Act (*Deutsches Richtergesetz*), the following, in particular, are regarded as a primary professional degrees as contemplated by paragraph 1:

a) A primary professional degree subject to the application of the Basic Law that has been obtained in a law degree program with at least 240 credit points (CP),

b) a primary professional degree that has been obtained in a law degree program with at least 240 CP within the European Union,

c) a primary professional degree that has been obtained in a law degree program outside the European Union with at least 240 CP, or

d) an equivalent relevant degree as recognized by the examination committee.

²The admissions committee shall decide with regard to the recognition and comparability of degrees. ³The equivalence agreements as approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and German Rectors are to be taken into consideration.

(3) ¹Applicants who hold a primary relevant degree, in which they earned less than 240 CP, upon application, may have 60 CP recognized and credited toward the 240 CP required in paragraph 2, provided they have acquired the missing competencies to the extent of other

qualifying achievements. ²Qualifying achievements must be related to the objective of the master's degree program within the meaning of § 2 of the examination regulations and may have been acquired through additional achievements completed in a program of study or acquired outside of a university setting. ³In particular, additional relevant professional experience of one year may be recognized as a qualifying achievement. ⁴The professional experience required under § 2 paragraphs 1 and 4 may not be taken into account with regard to recognizing and transferring credits toward the CP [required by the master's program]. ⁵Double crediting is not permitted. ⁶The criteria for recognizing credits is to be determined individually by the admissions committee on a case-by-case basis. ⁷ General recognition and transfer of credits in their entirety is not permitted.

(4) ¹At the time an applicant commences study in the program, he or she must provide proof of relevant professional experience of not less than one year. ²Professional experience is relevant if it is commensurate with the objectives of the master's program as set forth in § 2 of the examination regulations. ³In particular, practical pursuits in the field of law in which the applicant has worked independently on legal problems is relevant. ⁴The admissions committee shall rule on questions of relevance, taking into consideration the objectives of the Master's program.

(5) All applicants must prove English proficiency at level C 1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEA) by means of a recognized language test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent documents.

§ 3

Admissions Requirements

(1) Applicants are selected and admitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act on Admission to Higher Education Studies in North Rhine-Westphalia, the Ordinance on the Allocation of Study Places in North Rhine-Westphalia, the provisions of the Framework Regulations for the Conduct of Selection Procedures in Admission Restricted Study Courses at the University of Cologne, as amended from time to time, as well as the provisions of the regulations on admission to the studies of non-residents of education at the University of Cologne in their current version.

(2) ¹Twenty five (25) seats in the master's program may be allocated for each winter semester. ²The admissions committee may, no later than one month prior to the application deadline pursuant to § 4 paragraph 1, increase the number of seats to be allocated to up to fifty (50). ³Increasing the number of seats after the application deadline is not permitted.

(3) ¹In the event the number of applicants entitled to admission exceeds the number of available seats, the top 25 applicants shall be admitted on the basis of their overall grade results in their first professional degree, taking into account their professional experience and other qualifications. ²If the admissions committee has made a decision in accordance with paragraph 2 sentence 2, the number of applicants shall increase in accordance with sentence 1. ³For

applicants with several degrees, the degree with the best grade shall apply. ⁴If no overall grade is identifiable, the application will be placed behind the last applicant with an identifiable average grade. ⁵In the event two candidates are ranked the same, a drawing by lot shall determine the order of admission. ⁶The admissions committee may decide to conduct selection interviews in electronic form. ⁷In justified exceptional cases, the admissions committee may, notwithstanding the examination results, admit applicants on the basis of special criteria (e.g. special qualifications or based on the many years of relevant professional experience).

(4) Admission shall be refused if

1. the eligibility requirements set forth in § 2 are not satisfied, or
2. the applicant has already obtained a master of laws degree (LL.M.) in the same program at a higher education institution with the scope of the Basic Law or a corresponding degree, or
3. the applicant has definitively failed to pass an examination in this master's program, required by the examination regulations, at a university within the scope of the Basic Law; this also applies to programs of study which are closely related to this master's program in terms of substantive content.

§ 4

Application, Application Deadline

(1) The application for admission (application) must be submitted in writing to Cologne Law Education GmbH by July 15 of the year in which the course begins using the form provided by Cologne Law Education GmbH.

(2) The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. A curriculum vitae in tabular form,
2. a certified copy of the higher education entrance qualification,
3. a written justification (letter of motivation) written in English on two (2) DIN A4 pages for the choice of the Master's program, and
4. as substantiation to satisfy the admissions requirements set forth in § 2 of these regulations, certified copies of suitable documents.

(3) The admissions committee, upon request, may permit applicants to submit individual documents (in particular the final certificate) not available on July 15 by September 15 instead.

§ 5

Notice of Admission / Rejection

(1) ¹Applicants who have been admitted shall receive a notice of admission from the University of Cologne. ²The notice of admission states the date by which the applicant must enroll. ³If the deadline to enroll is missed, enrollment in the master's program shall be refused.

(2) ¹Admission to the master's program applies solely to the study period immediately following admission. ²A successful application may not be deferred until the winter semester of the following year.

(3) In the event some applicants who are admitted pursuant to paragraph 1 fail to enroll within the deadline, or if enrollment is refused for other reasons, a corresponding number of applicants who did not initially receive a letter of admission will be admitted in the order of the ranking they obtained pursuant to § 3 paragraph 3 (succession procedure), provided that there are open seats within the determined number of permissible admissions.

(4) Applicants who cannot gain admission after the admission procedure has been completed will receive a rejection letter, accompanied by a notice regarding appeal remedies.

§ 6

Withdrawal, Revocation

¹Admission may be withdrawn or revoked if it is subsequently established that the applicant has been wrongly admitted to the program, in particular if this was done on the basis of false information provided during the application procedure. ²If the applicant has already been enrolled, the applicant will be ex-matriculated from the master's program. ³The applicant must be given the opportunity to comment before the admissions committee rules on the matter.

§ 7

Admissions Committee

The admissions procedure is carried out by the examination committee pursuant to § 22 of the examination regulations for the master's program *European Legal Perspectives* (LL.M.) of the Faculty of Law (Admissions Committee).

§ 8

Entry into Force, Publication

¹These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices of the University of Cologne (Amtliche Mitteilungen). ²They apply for the first time to admission to the winter semester 2020/2021.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne of 14 May 2020 as well as the resolution of the Rectorate of 23 June 2020.

Cologne, 27 July 2020

Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Cologne

University Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Ulrich Preis