

Minor EU Law and Human Rights

Course guide 2025-2026

Courses

The programme covers one semester (two blocks) and consists of the following courses. In Block A, from September to November, the courses Law of the European Union (5 EC) (EU institutions and internal market), Human Rights Law in Europe (5 EC) (Freedom of expression and religion) and Moot Court Skills (5 EC) (moot court skills and English legal terminology on specific EU/ECHR legislation) are taught. In the fourth week of Block A, an optional excursion to the European Parliament and other institutions in Brussels will be organized.

In Block B, from November to January, the following courses are central: EU Social law (5 EC) (European labour law and anti-discrimination law), EU Asylum law (5 EC) (Entry into the EU as an asylum seeker, Turkey agreement, procedure, return and applicable human rights) and EU Law for sub-central Authorities (5 EC) (State aid and European public procurement law and basics of LDT). In addition, to fulfil the free space in their curriculum, students can participate in the international week of Hochschule Heidelberg (3 EC).

Hereafter, a short description of the content of the individual courses and additional practical information will be provided (see below). This information is also provided via CANVAS, including the learning outcomes and an elaboration on the examinations.

Literature (compulsory/recommended), your class schedule and exam overview:

Enclosed you will find information on literature for our courses. You are kindly requested to purchase the necessary books **well in advance**, since delivery usually takes a long time. E-books might be a better solution in that regard (cheaper, quicker, less paper).

The following courses are fourth year courses, within the minor '**EU Law and Human Rights**'. **English is the exclusive language** of all exams, instructions and other means of communication, for both students and instructor.

Block A

1. Human Rights Law in Europe (HRLiE)

The course '*Human Rights Law in Europe*' provides for a broad introduction to the European Law system of the establishment and protection of human rights (in particular, the freedom of speech and belief, freedom of religion and right to education) within the framework of the Council of Europe (which is not part of the EU) and relevant case law under the ECHR by the ECtHR.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

The study load standardization is 5 ECTS (140 hours). The load is generally divided into the following categories:

- Lectures: 14 hours
- Tutorials: 14 hours
- Self-study and exam (see below for: '**exam overview**') preparation: 112 hours.

Literature

- Howard Davis, *Human Rights Law Directions*, Oxford University Press, last print
- Reader Human Rights Law in Europe with compulsory case law, legislation and additional literature, last edition
- *Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation*, Oxford University Press, last print
- Relevant legislation (via CANVAS)

2. Law of the EU (LoEU)

European Union law has become an ever more important legal source for an increasing number of areas of national law in the EU member states and thus for almost every legal professional in the EU. The impact of EU law can be clearly seen in e.g. criminal law, company law, labour law, environmental law and consumer law. In this course your basic knowledge of EU law already acquired will be further elaborated upon in order to be able to deal with EU law matters in practice. The focus will be on the practical effect of general EU law in national law. In term B the specific areas of EU social law, EU asylum law, EU public procurement law and EU state aid law will be studied at a more advanced level.

After having concluded this course, you will be able to analyse a practical EU law case and to advise about such a problem to a client. Since EU law is formed largely by the case law of the EU Court of Justice (CJEU), significant attention will be given to reading, understanding and analysing judgments of the Court.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

The study load standardization is 5 ECTS (140 hours). The load is generally divided into the following categories:

- Lectures: 14 hours (7 x 2)
- Tutorials: 14 hours (7 x 2)
- Self-study per week (reading materials and cases, preparing questions and exercises): 70 hours (7 x 10)
- Exam preparation (including assignment 1 and 2): 42 hours (see below for: '**exam overview**')

Every week there will be a lecture and a tutorial on the same topic. The lectures provide for a general overview of that week's topic. Next, in the tutorial you are expected to have prepared the questions and exercises for that week. These will then be discussed in the tutorial. Part of the lecture or tutorial will be the compulsory group presentation(s).

Literature

- Nigel Foster, *EU law Directions*, Oxford University Press, last print
- *Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation*, Oxford University Press, last print
- Compulsory case law from the CJEU

3. Moot Court Skills (MCS)

Moot court skills and English legal terminology on EU/ECHR law. Students will learn the proper knowledge of analysing relevant case law, preparation of legal documents, arguing the case, art of cross-examination, etc. in a moot court setting with their fellow students. This Moot Court presents students with the opportunity to work as part of a team to argue the facts of a fictional case on either EU law or ECHR law before a (student) Court. English Legal terminology (specifically on EU law and ECHR law), presentation skills, peer feedback, teamwork and 'how to moot'; will be part of this course.

The course concentrates on vocabulary, researching, reading, speaking and presenting/mooting in a legal (specifically EU and ECHR Law) context.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

Tutorials with individual and group assignments (reading, listening, speaking and writing), plenary discussions and pair work (feed up, feedback and feedforward during our feedback sessions for the moot court). The teacher is trainer, coach and instructor, giving general instructions, setting the standards and giving feedback.

- Tutorials and feedback: 5 x 3 hour(s): 15 hrs
- Training: 3 x 3 hour(s): 9 hrs

The study load standardization is 5 EC (140 hours). The load is generally divided into the following categories:

- Tutorials : 15 hours
- Training : 9 hours
- Self-study : 90 hours
- Preparation for presentation and writing assignments : 24 hours.
- Exam : 2 hours (see below for: '**exam overview**')
- Total : 140 hours

Literature

- Study materials via CANVAS.
- Study guide Moot Court Skills, digital available via CANVAS.

Block B

1. EU Law for sub-central Authorities (EULfscA)

This course is on the basic legal (and economic) aspects of the internal market established within the EU, specifically public procurement, State aid and services of general economic interest (SGEI) as well as some basic elements of 'Legal Design (Thinking)'.

The topics covered in this course concern aspects of the internal market established within the EU which are particularly relevant for legal professionals. Knowledge of the public procurement rules is essential for both professionals working for government institutions, since they are bound by these rules, and for private companies interested in working for those institutions, because the rules are intended to give them a fair chance of obtaining a public contract. Public procurement law is a legal area which is developing rapidly and perceived irregularities in public procurement often lead to litigation. The rules on State aid are also relevant for both legal practitioners working for public and private organisations. Government organisations will have to make sure they do not contravene the prohibition on State aid contained in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU). They can do so by using the exceptions provided (f.i. SGEI). Private organisations which receive government money must be aware of the consequences of receiving illegal or unlawful State aid.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

- Six lectures: 6 x 2 hours
- Four tutorials: 4 x 2 hours
- Three (peer)feedback: 3 x 3 hours
- Two workshops (week B1 and week B9): 2 x 2 hours
- One Q&A: 1 x 1 hour
- Exam2: 0,5-1 hour
- Self-study and (preparation) for EXAM1 and EXAM2: remaining time (see below for: '**exam overview**')
- Total: 140 hours

Literature

- Compulsory reader EULfscA, digital available via CANVAS
- Student hand out (by Martijn Wools), digital available via CANVAS
- *Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation*, Oxford University Press, last print

- Additional mandatory literature provided on CANVAS via hyperlinks.

2. EU Asylum Law (EUAL)

Topics covered in this course are amongst others basic concepts of migration (refugee, asylum seeker, statelessness, internally displaced person), grounds for persecution, internal flight alternative, safe countries, exclusion and cessation and non-refoulement. Interesting questions that we will reflect upon are: How to distribute the "burden" of processing asylum applications, how does the Common European Asylum System function, and to what extent the conditions on qualification, reception, procedures and returns are met in the various EU Member State?

In the course EU Asylum Law, the focus will be on the relevant EU legislation and proposals in the field of asylum. Amongst others the Dublin III Regulation, EU-Turkey statement and the Returns Directive will be discussed. Besides that, relevant case law of the European Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights will be analysed. Moreover, the influence of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and the European Convention for Human Rights on EU asylum law will be dealt with.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

The study load standardization is 5 ECTS (140 hours). The load is generally divided into the following categories:

- Lectures: 12 hours (6 x 2)
- Tutorials: 12 hours (6 x 2)
- Self-study per week (reading materials and cases, preparing questions and exercises): 60 hours (6 x 10)
- Exam preparation (including assignment 1 and 2): 56 hours (see below for: '**exam overview**'))

Literature

- European Asylum Support Office (EASO), *An Introduction to the Common European Asylum System for Courts and Tribunals. A Judicial Analysis*, 2016, digital available via CANVAS
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration*, Luxembourg, 2020, digital available via CANVAS.
- *Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation*, Oxford University Press, last print
- Additional materials available via CANVAS

3. EU Social Law (EUSL)

In this course students will be made familiar with the impact of EU law on social and labour law of the EU Member States. Areas such as transfers of undertakings, anti-discrimination, working time, posting of workers etc. have become increasingly influenced by harmonisation at EU level in the last decades. This course will guide students through the most important pieces of EU legislation in the field of social and labour law and their practical legal implications in national law. In addition, the case law of the CJEU on these topics will be studied extensively. After completion of the course students will be able to assess on their own the consequences of EU social law for national social law in a given case.

Work methods, actual instruction time and study load:

The study load standardization is 5 ECTS (140 hours). The load is generally divided into the following categories:

- Lectures: 14 hours (7 x 2)
- Tutorials: 14 hours (7 x 2)
- Self-study per week (reading materials and cases, preparing questions and exercises): 70 hours (7 x 10)
- Exam preparation (including presentation, assignment and written exam): 42 hours (see below for: '**exam overview**')

Literature

- T. Jaspers, F. Pennings and S. Peters (eds.), *European Labour Law*, Intersentia, 2019
- Nigel Foster, *EU law Directions*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 14, last print
- *Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation*, Oxford University Press, last print
- Compulsory case law of the CJEU
- Materials published via CANVAS.

Extra literature (optional):

- Students that do not have a legal background are highly recommended to purchase and self-study the following literature: Anthony Arnall, *European Union law: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, last print (might still be: 2017, ISBN 978-0-19-874998-1). Note that it will prove very helpful to have read this book prior to the start of the program, especially if your knowledge on Europe and the European union is a bit rusty.

Exam overview:

Course:	Exam:	Exam description:
HRLiE	Exam1 (70%)	Handwritten exam on paper (individual answers to open questions)
	Exam2 (30%)	Group presentation (+ individual questions) of group essay (in Word)
LoEU	Exam1 (70%)	Handwritten exam on paper (individual answers to open questions)
	Exam2 (30%)	Group presentation (+ individual questions) of group essay (in Word)
MCS	Exam1 (50%)	Written pleadings (to be prepared in advance in Word)
	Exam2 (50%)	Oral pleadings (presentation/pleading skills + legal content)
EULfscA	Exam1 (50%)	Written legal advice (to be prepared in advance in Word)
	Exam2 (50%)	Visual (of your written legal advice f.i. PPT, Prezi, poster) + presentation
EUAL	Exam1 (30%)	Legal analysis of a case (individual written assignment)
	Exam2 (70%)	Group presentation (+ individual questions) of group work (scenario/legal advice)
EUSL	Exam1 (70%)	Handwritten exam on paper (individual answers to open questions)
	Exam2 (30%)	Small paper assignment (individual written assignment)