

Master's Program in Law

■ Master of Law

Program Educational Objectives

To respond to the demand for human resources in the areas of business law, the Master's Program in Law seeks to develop and re-educate highly specialized professionals who possess the professional legal ability to present appropriate solutions for the legal problems that companies face in the modern society.

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| Graduate Profile | This program, which is intended for those who have certain working experience at a company, fosters highly specialized professionals who can solve diverse problems arising in the modern society using specialized legal knowledge and the legal way of thinking. |
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Diploma Policy

The degree of Master of Law is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Master's programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competences.

| | Competences | Evaluation perspectives |
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| Knowledge and Skills | 1. Knowledge application competence: Ability to contribute to society with advanced knowledge | ① Can you apply knowledge gained through research and other activities in society? ② Can you identify new problems, even in other fields of expertise, based on broad knowledge? |
| | 2. Management competence: Ability to appropriately address challenges from broad standpoints | ① Can you take on major tasks with systematic planning? ② Can you understand and solve problems from multiple perspectives? |
| | 3. Communication competence: Ability to accurately and clearly communicate expert knowledge | ① Are you capable of efficient communication for research purposes? ② Can you discuss research or research-specific knowledge with experts from your own field and from other fields? |
| | 4. Teamwork competence: Ability to work with a team and actively contribute to the achievement of goals | ① Do you have experience cooperatively and actively working on challenges as part of a team? ② Have you helped promote projects and activities other than your own research? |
| | 5. Internationality competence: Willingness to contribute to international society | ① Are you aware of making contributions to international society and getting involved in international activities? ② Have you obtained the linguistic skills necessary for international information collection and action? |
| | 6. Basic specialized knowledge: Basic way of thinking in law and basic specialized knowledge about the areas of business law. | ① If the basic way of thinking was gained in law ② If basic knowledge was gained in the areas of business law |
| | 7. Ability to investigate and analyze literatures and precedents: Ability necessary for business law research to investigate and analyze literatures, judicial precedents, etc. | ① If the literacy to search and investigate on one's own gained to obtain literatures, judicial precedents, etc. necessary to learn or research in business law ② If obtained literatures, judicial precedents, etc. are accurately read and analyzed, and obtained information is sorted out |

| | Competences | Evaluation perspectives |
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| Knowledge and Skills | 8. Deep knowledge about the specific area of business law: Specialized knowledge necessary for the comprehension and research about at least one major area of business law | ① If the deep knowledge about at least one major area of business law is gained and understood ② If capable of carrying out research based on the deep knowledge and comprehension about at least one major area of business law |
| | 9. Thesis writing ability: Ability to write a thesis (Especially one supported by the problem awareness behind the experience as an adult member of society, etc.) based on the deep knowledge about at least one major area of business law | ① If research is carried out and organized into a thesis with an appropriate research theme set up based on the deep knowledge about at least one major area of business law ② If the problem awareness behind the experience as an adult member of society, etc. is incorporated in research and is reflected in the thesis |
| Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes | We will assess whether and to what extent students have acquired legal expertise and legal reasoning skills necessary to propose solutions to key issues in modern society, during the following opportunities. 1. The interim report sessions of master's theses in the fall of the second year. 2. The final oral exam by the end of the second year. All faculty members participate in both assessments in principle. | |
| Evaluation Criteria for Degree Theses/ Dissertations | Evaluation items for degree thesis 1. The thesis must show originality (Especially, supported by the problem awareness behind the experience as an adult member of society, etc.). 2. A wide range of important literature is investigated, and based on the comprehension of it, one's own ideas are expanded. 3. References and bibliography must be appropriately shown. Review board members • Review method The review of degree theses requires the approval of the review board members formed by one chief reviewer and two or more sub-reviewers. As sub-reviewers, those who are not a full-time faculty member belonging to the Master's Program in Law can be added. A thesis for degree grant meeting all of the above evaluation items passes as a master's thesis with the final exam included in the judgment. | |

Curriculum Policy

- Basic specialized knowledge: The Program offers an extensive range of subjects from foundation subjects in the area of business law to applied subjects in the areas of “Corporate Law”, “International Business Law”, “Intellectual Property Law”, “Social and Economic Law” and “Tax Law”.
- Ability to investigate and analyze literatures, etc.: The Program offers Legal Research and Writing to develop the ability to investigate and analyze literatures.
- Gain of deep specialized knowledge: The Program sets up seminars and other highly specialized subjects taught by full-time faculty members, and from the viewpoint of learning the latest working circumstances, some subjects are taught by professional practitioners as part-time faculty members.

Moreover, the Program has subjects participated by those who have completed Seminar on Civil Law, Seminar on Commercial Law, Seminar on Tax Law, Case Study of Labor Law and so on and the doctoral program students, etc.

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| Curriculum Design Framework | <p>In order to cultivate the basic skills and wide perspectives as well as generic knowledge and ability in associated areas with the student's major at the core, the Program offers Degree Programs' Common Courses, Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses to support students' research ability. The Program offers common Major Subjects and sets up subjects in the areas of “Corporate Law”, “International Business Law”, “Intellectual Property Law”, “Social and Economic Law” and “Tax Law” to gain specialized knowledge in these areas, and students gain advanced specialized knowledge through seminars, etc. Specifically, the following subjects are set up. Note that students can freely take any subjects in any area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Major Subjects: Legal Research and Writing, Introduction to Business Law, Special Studies on Business Law, etc. - Major Subjects 【Areas of corporate law】 Contract Law, Property Law, Security Law, Corporation Law, Accounting and Law, Securities Exchange Law, Civil Procedure Law, etc. - Major Subjects 【Areas of international business law】 Conflict of Laws, International Economic Law, International Civil Procedure, etc. - Major Subjects 【Areas of intellectual property law】 Copyright Law, Patent Law, Unfair Competition Law, Trademark Law, Design Law, International Intellectual Property Law, etc. - Major Subjects 【Areas of social/economic law】 Antimonopoly Law, Labor and Employment Law, Social Security Law, Constitutional Law, etc. - Major Subjects 【Areas of tax law】 Tax Law on Business, Tax Procedural Law, International Taxation, etc. - Seminar, etc.: Security Law Seminar, Civil Law Seminar, Company Law Seminar, Seminar on Civil Procedure Law, Conflict of Laws Seminar, Intellectual Property Law Seminar, Antimonopoly Law Seminar, Labor and Employment Law Seminar, Social Security Law Seminar, Constitutional Law Seminar, Tax Planning seminars, etc. |
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| <p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the time of enrollment, each student is set up with supervisory faculty members in the specialized realm closest to the research theme that the student entered in his/her research plan, etc. Then, through learning the required subjects “Special Studies on Business Law I to VI”, each of the supervisory faculty members gives the student one-on-one supervision on learning. - As for the learning of Major Subjects, students are encouraged to select them around those in the area corresponding to their respective research plans and the issues in which he or she is interested, let alone take Common Major Subjects. To select the subjects to be taken in the area, a learning plan is created according to the student's need under the advice of the supervisory faculty member, and the student learns in accordance with the plan. - To complete the Program, students must earn 30 credits or more including the required subjects (Special Studies on Business Law I to VI) of six credits, and in addition, a master's thesis, which goes through the interim report and then is submitted in accordance with the regulations stipulated by the degree program, needs to pass its review and the final exam. |
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Admission Policy

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| <p>Desired Student Profile</p> | <p>We seek candidates who have certain working experience at a company and have strong motivation to learn and enthusiasm to be able to develop the ability as highly specialized professionals to solve diverse problems arising in the modern society using specialized legal knowledge and the legal way of thinking.</p> |
| <p>Student Selection Process</p> | <p>Candidates are selected with a research plan and interview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research plan Candidates are evaluated around the problem setting ability, planning ability, specialized knowledge and other requirements for research. - Interview Candidates are evaluated around the basic legal thinking, logical thinking, critical thinking, the research ability, specialized knowledge, communication ability, etc. |

Learning Support Framework

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| <p>Academic Support</p> | <p>The "Legal Research and Writing" course at the time of enrollment explains how to research laws, cases, and literature, and how to cite previous studies appropriately.</p> <p>In February of the first year, a guidance session is held to support the writing of the master's thesis. To support students in comparative legal research and report writing, an on-demand workshop on Anglo-American legal bibliography is available.</p> |
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| Opportunities for Peer Interaction | <p>Students have access at any time to the Master's Research Room and the Legal Information Room, which serve as venues for peer discussion and information sharing.</p> <p>In seminar-style courses, graduates actively participate and share research insights and academic advice with current students.</p> <p>A social gathering among current students and graduates during the annual Homecoming Day serves not only to tighten their ties as fellow alumni, but also as an opportunity for cross-industry exchange without regard to age, gender or social status.</p> |
| Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction | <p>Small-group seminars and research workshops involving multiple faculty members are offered, providing students with opportunities to engage in discussions and receive research guidance not only from their primary advisors but also from other instructors.</p> <p>Joint research presentation sessions are held for each specialized legal field, where students can also receive advice and supervision from their co-advisors.</p> |

Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality

Assessments of learning outcomes and alumni surveys are conducted to evaluate the extent to which the knowledge and legal reasoning skills acquired during the program are utilized in their professional careers. Course-specific and program-wide student evaluations are also regularly analyzed to inform faculty development efforts aimed at ensuring effective course delivery.