LLM and MSc in Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management

Launching in September 2008, the Masters Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management (LLM/MSc) offer unique programmes for lawyers and non-lawyers.

Maastricht University Faculty of Law offers two complementary one-year master programmes in Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management.

• The LLM degree is primarily aimed at lawyers and technology transfer officers wishing to advance their career in legal services and knowledge management involving all fields of intellectual and industrial property law.

• The MSc degree is aimed at graduates with a science or technical qualification (e.g. biology, chemistry, electronics, engineering, pharmacology or physics, etc.) wishing to become experts in the field of intellectual and industrial property law, including the preparation of eligible candidates for the European Qualifying Exam for European Patent Agent.

* At this time, Masters Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management are not yet an accredited programmes as defined by the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW). The accreditation procedure for these degree programmes has been initiated and is expected to be completed by the time the programmes commences in September 2008. (See www.nvao.nl).

Maastricht University is a signatory of the “Code of conduct with respect to international students in Dutch higher education”. More information about this code of conduct is available at www.internationalstudy.nl

“International organisations, transnational companies, law firms, patent and trademark agents and research institutions look for candidates with a strong academic record when recruiting junior professionals specialized in intellectual property. They ask fluency in English, a working knowledge of French and/or German, a strong knowledge of intellectual property law and knowledge management, prior experience in or exposure to science and technology, and the ability to work with lawyers, non-lawyers, and scientists in an interdisciplinary environment. These master programmes are an excellent preparation for an international or European professional career.”

Professor of European and International Intellectual Property Law, Maastricht University and Academic Director IEEM Intellectual Property Law Programmes, Macau SAR, China.
Objectives

The programmes are designed to train graduates at an advanced level to work in legal practice, management in knowledge-intensive industries (e.g. high-tech, biotech, life sciences) and research institutes. Although both degrees will each have their own specialisation and focus, they will also have a large number of courses in common, so as to train lawyers and non-lawyers to work together across their respective disciplines. The MSc programme will furthermore prepare eligible graduates for further training and work as patent attorneys (See www.epo.org/patents/learning for information on the conditions for admittance to the European Qualifying Exam). In this context there will be a strong emphasis on practical technical language training and skills training in respect of patent drafting, interpretation and litigation. The LLM degree trains its graduates for legal practice or consultancy in the field of intellectual property and knowledge management. Both programmes will also prepare graduates for further academic studies and research-oriented career prospects as PhD candidates.

Language of Instruction

The programmes are taught entirely in English. In the MSc programme, however, attention will also be given to French and German as two official languages of the European Patent Office and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market.
Programme Outline

Both programmes will consist of three terms each. The first term will run from September to December the second from January to May, and a third and final term from June to August, during which the students will also work on their master thesis. LLM and MSc students will each follow their individual tracks with each having their individual focus. The LLM and MSc students will furthermore spend a considerable amount of time together during the common core of the two master programmes. Throughout the first term students will be exposed to the fundamentals of valorisation of knowledge and of the international protection of intellectual property law as well as the functioning of international organisations such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the World Trade Organization, European Patent Office. Furthermore they will be offered an in-depth exposé of the European Union and US systems of intellectual property protection and more particular skills training: moot court and litigation training for LLM students, and patent claims construction, drafting and procedures before the Boards of Appeals of the EPO for MSc students.

During the second term this structure will be maintained, but increasingly students will be free to incorporate more elective elements in their individual programme. During the third and final term students will work on their LLM or MSc Thesis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Term</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>September - October</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal for master thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November - December</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials (2 ECTS) Skills (2 ECTS) Module (2 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Trade Marks and Unfair Competition (3 ECTS) Patent Law I (3 ECTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March - April</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research for master thesis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research for master thesis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research proposal for master thesis</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LLM (24 ECTS)**
- Tutorials (2 ECTS)
- Skills (2 ECTS)
- Module (2 ECTS)

**Common Core (30 ECTS)**
- Principles of International Intellectual and Industrial Property Law (3 ECTS)
- Copyright and Related Rights (3 ECTS)

**MSc (24 ECTS)**
- Tutorials (2 ECTS)
- Skills (2 ECTS)
- Module (2 ECTS)
The curriculum

Specialist resident and non-resident staff from academia, practice, the judiciary and industry will teach the common core courses, as well as the specially designed LLM or MSc modules, training for diverse careers, such as legal practitioner, manager of knowledge, technology transfer officer or patent agent.

The LLM track offers tailor-made courses in addition to the common core courses and modules. This pillar gives graduates with a degree in law, economics or political science the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in the field of knowledge management and technology transfer that is relevant for their field of expertise, such as working in a law firm, as an official in governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutes, etc.

The MSc track offers tailor-made courses in addition to the common core courses and modules. This pillar gives graduates with a degree in science or technology the opportunity to deepen their practical and theoretical knowledge in the field of intellectual and industrial property law, including the preparation for the European Qualifying Exam for European Patent Agent (See www.epo.org/patents/learning for information on the conditions for admittance to the European Qualifying Exam). Most of all, however, the masters are designed to offer students with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to study together to jointly advance their understanding of the valorisation of knowledge, the law of intellectual property, and the management of intangible assets. The programmes both culminate in an independent piece of research, the thesis, on which students work under the close supervision of a member of faculty.

Common Core Modules (2 ECTS each)
1) EPC Procedure
2) Patents in the US and Asia
3) Trade marks in the US and Asia
4) Copyright in the US and Asia
5) Annual IEEM IP Seminar and Intellectual Property Master Classes, Macau

MSc Modules (2 ECTS each)
6) Claim drafting and Interpretation: EPC v US (Chemistry and Mechanics)
7) EPC opposition
8) IP and Computer Science – Protection of software through copyright and patents; open source and proprietary paradigms
9) IP and Life Sciences

LLM Modules (2 ECTS each)
10) Managing and Financing IP – Law and Economics, Taxation and Business Plan Drafting
11) Media Law
12) Technology Transfer and Franchising Law
13) Global Policy and Economics of Intellectual Property Law

The timing and availability of all modules is subject to the schedules of non-residential specialist staff.
Admission

All Candidates must:

• demonstrate their proficiency in English by submitting the results of either the TOEFL or the IELTS test (IELTS score of 7 & and for every section a 6; TOEFL 260 computer based & 5.0 essay writing test, 620 paper-based & a TWE score of 5.0, 105 internet-based & a TWE score of 5.0.).

Candidates for admission to the LLM degree must:

• have a recognized bachelor degree in law or related fields such as economics, political science or international relations, all with demonstrable knowledge of intellectual property law or knowledge management;
• have a 2.1 (upper second) degree or an equivalent good to very good degree; or
• have a recognized master degree in law or related fields such as economics, political science or international relations. Demonstrable knowledge of intellectual property law or knowledge management will be considered favourably.

Candidates for admission to the MSc degree must:

• have a recognized bachelor degree in science or technology (or equivalent), all with demonstrable knowledge of intellectual property law or knowledge management;
• have a 2.1 (upper second) degree or an equivalent good to very good degree; or
• have a recognized master degree in science or technology (or equivalent). Demonstrable knowledge of intellectual property law or knowledge management will be considered favourably.
Applications and enrolment

Applications for admission can be submitted to Maastricht Faculty of Law. Together with two copies of your admission form, you must submit two copies of each of the following:

- a letter of motivation;
- an authenticated copy of grades obtained during your university studies; and
- two letters of reference.

More information about admissions, application and registration is available at: [www.law.unimaas.nl/masters](http://www.law.unimaas.nl/masters) > Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management.

Please note that the deadline for admissions is 1 May 2008. Late applications may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Tuition fees

For the 2008 - 2009 academic year, tuition fees for these programmes are set at €14,000 (EU citizens and non-EU citizens).

European Qualifying Exam

The MSc programme offered by Maastricht University may serve as a key step in preparing for the European Qualifying Exam. Please note that the profession of patent agent is highly regulated. Admission to the EQE is subject to precise requirements set by the EPO. These requirements include prior degrees obtained and work experience. See [www.epo.org/patents/learning](http://www.epo.org/patents/learning) for information.

Grants and Scholarships

The Dutch Government and Maastricht University make grants available for international students wishing to study in the Netherlands. You will find more information about the conditions and the application procedure at: [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl), [www.grantfinder.nl](http://www.grantfinder.nl) and [www.unimaas.nl/masters](http://www.unimaas.nl/masters).

Studying in the Netherlands

To study in the Netherlands, international students must obtain a Dutch residence permit. Prospective students from non-EU/EEA countries will have to apply to the Dutch Immigration Service (IND) for a residence permit before arriving in the Netherlands. The Student Service Center (SSC) of Maastricht University can assist students in applying for an entrance visa. For more information, please contact: visa@ssc.unimaas.nl

Any more questions about the application and registration procedure?

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about these exciting new programmes. Please contact: Prof. Anselm Kamperman Sanders (a.kampermansanders@pr.unimaas.nl)
Contact information

Faculty of Law
Universiteit Maastricht
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 43 388 3259
Fax: +31 43 388 4887
E-mail: masters@law.unimaas.nl
Internet: www.law.unimaas.nl/masters

Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management