

# DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME UCU – SCHOOL OF LAW

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*Regulations*

## **Contents**

[Introduction](#)

[Regulations](#)

[Contact details](#)

[Annex A – course planner](#)

[Annex B – overview of required courses](#)

[Annex C – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

## Introduction

In the Netherlands it is necessary to obtain a degree in Dutch law to qualify for the so-called “*toga professions*” – practicing lawyer, public prosecutor and judge. These law degrees have, what is called, “*civiel effect*” and consists of a legally recognized Bachelor and Master in law. University College Utrecht and the Utrecht University School of Law offer UCU students the possibility to do a double degree program (DDL: Law and Liberal Arts & Sciences Double Degree). Students, who according to UCU regulations have met all requirements for a UCU Bachelor’s degree and all requirements set by the UU school of Law for the LLB, are awarded two fully accredited Bachelor’s degrees, a Bachelor’s Degree of Arts or Sciences, and a LLB (*Bachelordiploma Rechtsgeleerdheid*). It allows these students to enter a master program to obtain the required “*civiel effect*”.

By doing both simultaneously students optimize time as well as avoid paying the high institutional tuition fee for a second bachelor’s degree program. The DDL is a fairly unique opportunity for UCU students interested in pursuing a career in legal practice in the Netherlands and thus obtaining both degrees in four years.

The four-year program encompasses 240 ECTS in course credits, of which at least 140 in law. Students spend the first two years taking required and elective courses at UCU, in which they focus on law, choosing courses from the law track. This prepares them for a double entrance exam (private law and public law) which they take before the start of the third year to assess their legal knowledge. After passing the entrance exam,<sup>1</sup> students are admitted to the Double Degree program. During the second semester of the third year and in the fourth year students take courses at UCU and the UU School of Law. They conclude their program with a 15 ECTS Extended Bachelor’s Thesis in law. Upon completion they are qualified to apply to all Master’s programs in law (LLM) at Utrecht University, as well as many other universities, in the Netherlands and abroad.

This document sets out the regulations and criteria that apply to the Double degree programme and to students admitted to the programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Both parts of the double entrance exam MUST be passed by the end of their fifth semester.

# Regulations

## 1. The entrance exam - requirements

- 1.1. Students must pass the double entrance exam (both parts) by the end of their fifth semester to be admitted to the DDLL.
- 1.2. The entrance exam consists of two parts: public law (August year two) and private law (January year three).
- 1.3. Students who seek to register for the DDLL and sit the entrance exam:
  - 1.3.1. Must be second year UCU students
  - 1.3.2. Have declared their Major in SSC or are interdepartmental with law as one of their tracks.
  - 1.3.3. Must be proficient in Dutch: VWO diploma, or proof of NT2, including passing the Dutch language test for entering the bachelor law programme, or IB with A-level Dutch.
  - 1.3.4. Have completed either *Introduction to law* or *Law, society and justice*, and one other level 2 course prior to the first part of the entrance exam. Both *Introduction to law* and *Law, society and justice* are compulsory courses for the DDLL program.
  - 1.3.5. Have completed or are in the process of completing the minimum requirements of the law track prior to the second part of the entrance exam.
  - 1.3.6. Have at the time of sitting the second part of the entrance exam a minimum GPA of 3.3.
- 1.4. Students who meet the above requirements register for the entrance exam during midterm (Fall or Spring). The law fellow informs students about the registration process before the break (Fall or Spring).

## 2. The entrance exam

- 2.1. The entrance exam consists of two parts: private law and public law and covers four introductory courses of the law degree: *Inleiding privaatrecht I (verbintenissenrecht)*, *Inleiding privaatrecht II (goederenrecht)*, *Inleiding staats- en bestuursrecht* and *Inleiding strafrecht*.
- 2.2. Registered students are duly notified about the contents of the entrance exam and the materials to be studied.
- 2.3. The grading of the entrance exam is based on pass/fail.
- 2.4. Students must pass both parts of the entrance exam before their fifth semester.
- 2.5. There is no possibility of re-sitting the exam.
- 2.6. Students obtain an exemption for the four courses referred to under paragraph 2.1., when passing the entrance exam, amounting to 30 EC.

## 3. Enrolling in the DDLL - further requirements

- 3.1. In addition to regulation 1.3.4., students must have completed successfully the following courses of the UCU law track prior to their sixth semester to gain entrance to the DDLL:
  - 3.1.1. UCSSCLAW12 Introduction to law
  - 3.1.2. UCSSCLAW11 Law, society and justice
  - 3.1.3. UCSSCLAW21 International Law
  - 3.1.4. UCSSCLAW33 European Union Law
- 3.2. At least one of the following courses:

- 3.2.1. UCSSCLAW26 Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective
- 3.2.2. RGBUPRV007 Insolventierecht (this course is an entrance requirement for the Master's programmes Privaatrecht en Onderneming en recht)
- 3.3. At least one of the following courses:
  - 3.3.1. UCSSCLAW13 *Criminal Justice Systems*<sup>2</sup>
  - 3.3.2. UCSSCLAW22 Comparative Constitutional Law
  - 3.3.3. UCSSCLAW31 International Human Rights
  - 3.3.4. UCSSCLAW34 International Commercial Arbitration
  - 3.3.5. UCSSCLAW35 International and Transnational Crimes

#### **4. Law courses**

- 4.1. In addition to the courses set out in regulation 3, students must successfully complete the following courses of the School of law bachelor programme.
  - a. Constitutioneel recht
  - b. Materieel strafrecht
  - c. Verbintenissenrecht
  - d. Goederenrecht
  - e. Bestuursrecht
  - f. Venootschappen en rechtspersonenrecht
  - g. Burgerlijk en bestuur procesrecht
  - h. Strafprocesrecht
- 4.2. Students enroll in these courses after successfully completing the second part of the entrance exam (second semester year three).

#### **5. Law thesis**

- 5.1. DDLL students write an extended bachelor law thesis of 15 EC.
- 5.2. Although the thesis fulfills both the UCU thesis requirements and the School of Law thesis requirements, set out in the OER, it does count towards UCU's GPA and allows students to obtain the law thesis exemption.
- 5.3. DDLL students register for the extended Bachelor's thesis not earlier than in their fourth year.
- 5.4. The UCU law fellow – in his role as thesis coordinator – determines whether the thesis proposal meets the requirements mentioned in regulation.
- 5.5. DDLL students can only write their 15 EC law thesis in their fourth year.

#### **6. Exemptions**

- 6.1. DDLL students are, in addition to regulation 2.6, exempt from the following major courses of the bachelor programme in law of the School of Law:
  - a. Grondslagen van recht
  - b. Perspectieven op recht
  - c. Inleiding Europees recht
  - d. Public international law
  - e. European law
  - f. Privaatrecht in perspectief

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<sup>2</sup> The offering of this course is pending.

- g. Algemene rechtsleer
  - h. Afstudeerwerk (Bachelor's thesis))
- 6.2. The courses referred to in regulation 3 cover these exemptions in terms of substance.

## **7. Obtaining the double degree**

- 7.1. Students enrolled in the DDLL programme obtain their degree upon completion of the programme by the end of their eighth semester and not later.
- 7.2. The programme is completed when all grades are registered in Osiris no later than 31 July.

## **8. Jurisdiction exam, boards UCU and the School of law**

- 8.1. Jurisdiction over issues pertaining to individual courses is regulated by the course code.
  - 8.1.1. UCSSCLAW courses are governed by the UCU Exam board.
  - 8.1.2. RGBU courses are governed by the School of Law Board of Examiners.
- 8.2. Jurisdiction over issues pertaining to regulation 1, 2 and 3 is to the UCU Exam Board in consultation with the law fellow.
- 8.3. Jurisdiction over issues pertaining to regulation. 5 is to the UCU Exam Board in consultation with the law fellow.
- 8.4. Jurisdiction over issues pertaining to regulation 7 is to the UCU and School of law Exam boards in joined session, in consultation with the law fellow.

## **Contact details**

Depending on the nature of questions or comments, students and staff should contact either one of three persons involved in the DDLL program. For requirements concerning the entrance exam, contact Bald de Vries. For questions regarding UU Rechtsgeleerdheid curriculum planning, and related post-registration requirements, contact Kim Goossens. For all other questions, contact Diana Odier-Contreras Garduño.

**Diana Odier-Contreras Garduño – UCU Law Fellow & Tutor** – [d.i.odier-contrerasgarduno@uu.nl](mailto:d.i.odier-contrerasgarduno@uu.nl) - 030 253 9255 (during office hours); UCU Office: Newton JJ.

**Kim Goossens - Studieadviseur Rechtsgeleerdheid** – Office: Janskerkhof 2/3.

- Telefonisch spreekuur studieadviseurs: Monday, Thursday and Friday 13:00-1400, 030 253 7009
- Inlooppreekuur studieadviseurs: Janskerkhof 2-3, Monday 10:00-12:00
- Email: [studieadviseur.rechten@uu.nl](mailto:studieadviseur.rechten@uu.nl) (subject: "UCU double degree t.a.v. K Goossens")

## Annex A – course planner (example)

Jaar	Onderwijsperiode	Cursus	Studielast
Jaar 1, 2017-18	Fall	<b>UCSSCLAW12 Intro Law</b> UCACCACA11 (verplicht Semester 1) UCSSC1 (breadth requirement; verplicht in jaar 1) UCHUM 1 level (breadth requirement jaar 1)	30 ECTS
	Spring	<b>UCSSCLAW21 International Law</b> <b>UCSSCLAW11 Law, Society and Justice</b> UCACCMET12 (SSC requirement) Niet juridisch tweede track UCSC 1 level	30 ECTS
	Summer	<b>Summer course: UCSSCLAW13 Criminal Justice Systems</b> (keuzevak)	7,5 ECTS
Jaar 2, 2018-19	Fall	<b>UCSSCLAW33 EU Law</b> Niet juridisch tweede track SSC 2 level UCACCMET24/ MET25/MET23 + 2D (SSC requirement)* <b>UCSSCLAW26 Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective</b>	30 ECTS
	Winter	<b>Winter course:</b>	7,5 ECTS
	Spring	<b>UCSSCLAW22 Comp Const Law</b> UCHUM Language & culture 1 Ruimte voor vak Keuzevak (optie: <b>UCSSCLAW34 Int Commercial Arbitration</b> )	30 ECTS
	<b>Summer</b>	Summer course	7,5 ECTS
		<b>Entrance Exam part 1 August 2016 (public law)†</b>	0 ECTS
Jaar 3, 2019-20	Fall	Exchange or elective courses	30 ECTS
	Winter	<b>Winter course:</b>	7,5 ECTS
		<b>Entrance Exam part 2 January 2017 (private law)†</b>	0 ECTS
	Periode 3(Spring)	<b>Constitutioneel recht (7,5 ECTS)</b> Niet-juridische cursus tweede track SSC 3 level <b>UCSSCLAW31 Int Human Rights</b>	30 ECTS
	Summer	Summer course	7,5 ECTS
Jaar 4, 2021-22	Periode 1 (Fall)	<b>Materieel strafrecht</b> <b>Verbintenissenrecht</b>	15 ECTS
	Periode 2 (Fall)	<b>Goederenrecht (7,5 ECTS)</b>	15 ECTS

		<b>Bestuursrecht (7,5 ECTS)</b>	
	Periode 3 (Spring)	<b>Vennootschappen en rechtspersonenrecht (7,5 ECTS)</b> <b>UCU Extended Research Thesis (15 ECTS)*</b>	22,5 ECTS
	Periode 4 (Spring)	<b>Burgerlijk procesrecht en bestuursprocesrecht (7,5 ECTS)</b> <b>Strafprocesrecht* (7,5 ECTS)</b> <b>Insolventierecht (7,5 ECTS)**</b>	15 / 22,5** ECTS

\* MET22 is also an option

**UCU verplicht law vak**

**RGL verplichte bachelorvakken**

**UCU juridisch keuzevak**

† Although students receive 0 ECTS for these exams, the two Entrance Exams combined count towards 30 ECTS for the *civiel effect*.

## Annex B - overview of required courses

DDL programme compulsory law courses			
UCU	UCSSCLAW12	Introduction to Law	7.5 ECTS
	UCSSCLAW21	International Law	7.5 ECTS
	UCSSCLAW11	Law, Society and Justice	7.5 ECTS
	UCSSCLAW33	European Union Law	7.5 ECTS
	UCSSCLAW26 OR RGBUPRV007	Property Law and Contract Law in Historical and Comparative Perspective OR Insolventierecht	7.5 ECTS
	UCSSCLAWEX	Entrance exam Public Law	0 ECTS (30 ECTS vrijstellingen)
	UCSSCLAWEX	Entrance exam Private Law	
	UCSSCRES32	Extended Social Science Research Thesis	15 ECTS (with minimal 7.5 ECTS content for law)
RGL	RGBUSBR004	Bestuursrecht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUSBR005	Constitutioneel recht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUPRV004	Verbintenissenrecht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUPRV005	Goederenrecht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUPRV006	Vennootschappen en rechtspersonen	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUSTR013	Materieel strafrecht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUSTR012	Strafprocesrecht	7.5 ECTS
	RGBUPRV008	Burgerlijk procesrecht en bestuursprocesrecht	7.5 ECTS
UCU		Vrijstelling keuzeruimte RGL op grond van vier UCU cursussen	30 ECTS



## Annex C – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### *1. Why are no answers given to Entrance Exams practice questions?*

To deny students answers to the Entrance Exams practice questions is based on a decision made by both UCU and the Department of law. Although this understandably poses a challenge, students are expected to be able to work independently with the materials provided to them and should be able to prepare sufficiently as such. Students are encouraged to work and prepare for the Exams together, which might take away any questions. Furthermore, the answers to the given practice questions can usually be found in the materials assigned.

### *2. Is it possible to complete the DDLL program in more than four years?*

Students are supposed to complete both bachelor's programs in 4 years. In case there are special circumstances which prevent a student to complete both programs in time, an exception may be allowed.

### *3. Can students who have limited/no knowledge of Dutch language participate in the DDLL program?*

As studying, understanding and applying the law necessitates good language skills, the program is only open to students who are proficient in Dutch, or who in any case are at the standards set above in the Pre-Registration Requirements section.

### *4. May students still take courses at UCU during their seventh and eighth semester?*

In principle, DDLL program students are entitled to remain registered in courses offered at UCU for eight semesters. However, the UCU Examination board possess full discretion on this matter.

### *5. Which courses taken during the four years count towards the UCU LA&S degree and which courses count towards the UU Bachelordiploma in Rechtsgeleerdheid?*

Courses that satisfy specific requirements in both degree programs count towards both degrees and the GPA on the final transcript for that degree. Also, according to paragraph 3.20.5 courses taken at the UU School of Law only to satisfy requirements for the LLB do not count towards the UCU Bachelor of Arts or towards the GPA on the final transcript for the BA. Finally, according to the student handbook, elective courses that do not fulfill specific degree requirements count towards the UCU BA and its final GPA.

### *6. Who registers students for courses at the UU School of law?*

Neither students nor tutors need to register for UU courses. The study advisor of the Graduate School of Law will register students and DDLL students may ignore standard emails sent out by the university asking students to register for their courses.

### *7. Which master's programmes are available for the DDLL students at UU and their specific entrance requirements?*

The Master's programs of the UU School of Law to which DDLL students can be admitted are after completion of both degrees (BA and DDLL) are: European Law, Law and Economics, Legal Research, Onderneming en recht, Privaatrecht, Public International Law, Staats- en Bestuursrecht en Strafrecht. For the Master's programs Privaatrecht and Onderneming en recht an additional course, RGBUPRV008 Insolventierecht, is required

Admission to the Master's program Notarieel recht is not possible on the basis of the DDLL, since the compulsory Bachelor's courses of the so-called Notarieel traject (notary law) are required for admission to this Master's program. These courses are not included in the DDLL.

*8. Which tuition fee is supposed to be paid for the fourth year?*

Students continue to pay the UCU tuition following the same steps as they have done during the last three years. Please keep in mind that students enrolled in the DDLL are still UCU students during the fourth year. Consequently, they are entitled to take courses at UCU alongside their courses at UU School of Law as well as have a tutor during their last and fourth semester.

*9. Can students have an access pass to UCU buildings during their fourth year?*

Yes. However, this has to be requested to College Hall and *must* be returned at the end of their fourth academic year.