STudent REseArch Mobility Programme (STREAM)
Project proposal

Host University:
Utrecht University

Field:
Business, administration and law

Specified field, subject:
Family law

Research project title:
UCERF: Family law

Possible starting month(s):

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Possible duration in months:

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Suitable for students in:  ☒ Bachelor level  ☒ Master level

Prerequisites:
English at C1 level (or native Dutch or German)

Description:
UCERF (Utrecht Centre for European Research into Family Law) is the leading Dutch centre in family & law research. We offer an excellent opportunity to develop your research skills by doing an internship in a pleasant work environment consisting of passionate researchers and lecturers. The supervision of the internship will be taken care of by an expert on the specific topic of the project. We offer four projects:

*Project ageing and private law*

Ageing is one of the main societal problems of this time. How are we going to deal with? Law and age is an interesting theme. Several questions need to be addressed in different research projects:

- Age differentiation in different areas of law, in respect of both young and old persons.
- How can private law facilitate care by family and the social network of people who need care? This would also involve inheritance law.
- How do social security law and maintenance between parents and children interact? Who is responsible for care of elderly people: the state, the family or both?
- What do human rights imply in respect of elderly? For instance, in relation to criminal and criminal procedural law, but also in respect of tort law.
Project non-marital cohabitation

Non-marital cohabitation is on the rise all over Europe. Only few jurisdictions have specific legislation for this type of relationship. That implies that when a couple splits up, it is often not clear what the partner’s respective legal position is. Who owns what? Does one partner have a claim against the other for contributions on household expenses? How do courts deal with these cases in different jurisdictions?

Project International family law

In a globalising world, international family law is more relevant than ever. Many international issues may arise when international couples marry, get children, divorce or die. At the European level, regulations deal with a number of these aspects. The new regulations on matrimonial property and registered partnership property will apply as of January 2019. New questions arise, which are studied at UCERF.

The (child’s) right to identity in family law matters

At an international and European human rights level, a (child’s) right to identity is established. Several instruments contain a right to identity, for example the CRC and the ECHR. The protection of identity as a legal concept is quite new, at least in family law, and seems to be one that is quite important. However, much about it is unknown to the legal world. Because there isn’t a legal definition of identity, the concept is complex and highly ambiguous. Subsequently, many important questions rise, for example, regarding the understanding of (the right to) identity from a legal point of view, its interpretation and its effect within a national (family law) level.

To support research on this topic that is conducted within UCERF, the student’s assignment consist of an explorative research on the right to identity in various national laws and case law. E.g.: Which countries have a right to identity in their national (constitutional/family) laws? Is a right to identity applied in family law jurisprudence, if so: in what kind of family law matters? Depending on the qualities of the (bachelor/master) student and duration of the research stay, the project can be made more or less detailed/extended. This innovative project gives the student a chance to work on a research area that has both scientific as well as societal relevance. Furthermore, the student gets the opportunity to strengthen his/her research skills.

About UCERF

With an experienced and enthusiastic team, UCERF creates new insights into family & law, directly relevant to society. Our research is typically multidimensional by nature, since we combine family law with many other areas of law in which families play a role, but which are traditionally overlooked. We cover a broad spectrum of topics in family & law research: ranging from the implications of human rights in those areas of social security law and labour law which are relevant to families, to gender, religion and identity-related topics in family law. We work from a multidimensional approach, in which human rights and gender perspectives are often included.
and in which the use of a comparative law and empirical methodology is promoted.


**Faculty and/or Department:**
Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance  
Utrecht Centre for European Research into Family Law

**Contact person, including position:**
dr. Charlotte Brand, coordinator Honours College

**Contact email:**
honourscollege@uu.nl

**Deadline for nomination to reach host university:**
ongoing

**Notification of admission given by the end of:**
Three weeks after application