



European Master in Law & Economics

Overview

The European Master Programme in Law and Economics (EMLE) is the primary source of high quality postgraduate education in the field of the economic analysis of law in Europe. Successful graduates of the one-year course taught at a number of renowned European universities will obtain an LL.M. title or a master title equivalent to an LL.M. Multiple degrees are also awarded. The programme admits students of high academic merit who hold at least a bachelor's degree in either law or economics, or a related discipline.

Rationale

For law students, knowledge of the specific regulations of their home country is too narrow a base for counselling firms that are active in international trade. Additionally, knowledge of the economic effects of legal rules has become indispensable for understanding their clients' commercial needs. Similarly, economics students will profit from an accurate understanding of the institutional legal framework of market economies. For both lawyers and economists, knowledge of the other discipline and international contacts are crucial for a successful career. The European Master Programme in Law and Economics is the institutional response to these challenges. Consequently, many graduates of the programme have gone on to become PhD students and professors of law and economics or judges at high-level courts and advisors to international law firms, to name but a few.

History and Quality

The Programme started in 1990 at the Universities of Rotterdam, Gent, Oxford and Paris IX, with 20 students from different European countries. Since then, the number of participating universities has increased to ten. Students are now recruited not only from Europe but from around the world and the total number of admissions is set at 116 for the academic year 2006 / 2007.

From its very beginning the programme received recognition and financial support of the ERASMUS Bureau of the European Community.

In 2002, the EMLE programme was selected as a top Master's programme in the Joint Master Project of the European University Association. In September 2004, EMLE was recognised as an Erasmus Mundus Master's course by the European Commission. Following a very positive evaluation by a panel of academic experts, the programme received the Erasmus Mundus label as one of only 19 Masters programmes out of a total of 128 proposals. Through the support of Erasmus Mundus, the EMLE programme is able to offer 26 scholarships to highly-qualified Non-European students each year.

Structure

The programme starts each year in early October and ends in June. It is divided into three terms followed by the preparation of the Master's thesis. In the first term, students may choose between the universities of Hamburg, Bologna, and Rotterdam. Ghent replaces Rotterdam in the menu of choice for the second term. In the third term, additional opportunities exist, including studying in Haifa, Vienna, and Manchester. Furthermore, Rotterdam University maintains a link with the University of Berkeley, California (third term), while Hamburg University exchanges students with George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia, during the first and second term.

Courses

The courses of the EMLE programme are devoted to the economic analysis of the most important branches of private, public, international and European law.

During the first and second term, an effort has been made to harmonise the teaching contents across the respective partner universities in order to provide the students with a consistent curriculum and a common basis with respect to the methodology and basic concepts of law and economics. All courses are taught in English language and are concluded by an exam.

First term courses generally include an introduction to law and to microeconomics, as well as courses on the economic analysis of public, tort, and competition law in addition to comparative law. The second term comprises courses on the economic analysis of contract, property, public, and corporation law, with only minor variation in contents across the partner universities.

During the third term, the individual partner universities can, and do, specialise in specific aspects of law and economics, depending on the expertise of the teaching staff. Students are encouraged to choose their third term university with their thesis topic in mind since the thesis will be supervised and evaluated by an expert in the respective field at the third term university.

For further information please visit the EMLE website at www.emle.org.

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