

Master's Thesis in International Commercial Arbitration Law, 15.0 ECTS, JU679M

Course description

In general

This course is the final course in the Master of Laws Programme in International Commercial Arbitration Law. During this course the students will author an independent, qualified research project (thesis). Students will concurrently take the course in Advanced International Arbitration Law.

The course aims to prepare and support students work on their master theses by focusing for example on the requirements for academic writing, handling and choice of methodology, selection choice of research inquiries, requirement of scholarly legal study, as well as the prerequisite for legal analysis and argumentation within the area of international arbitration.

Students shall plan and author a thesis within an appropriate and limited subject area within international arbitration law. Students shall also orally present their research and will also comment on another student's thesis (act as an opponent) during opposition seminars.

The Master thesis project is to be completed independently and individually and submitted as a single paper; it may not be divided into different essays. The subject for the thesis may be multi-disciplinary.

The course further develops and deepens the student's knowledge, both in terms of subject and methodology, beyond the preceding courses in the Master programme.

Seminars

During the course the students will participate in two seminars:

“Defining the research question and delimiting the scope of an academic writing”

“Methodology and the use of sources”.

Supervision

Research proposal

The students submit a research proposal. The detailed instructions regarding the research proposal are uploaded in Athena. On the basis of research proposals, the supervisors of the theses will be assigned and supervision commences.

First draft

The first draft should contain at least a draft of the Introduction and some of the substantive chapters. The research question should be clearly defined and a detailed outline (covering also the unready chapters) should be provided. The outline of the missing chapters can be provided as headings and subheading. It is also a good idea to provide a list of most important sources.

Each student will be assigned a thesis draft to comment on. The comments of the reviewer should be detailed and constructive. Both strong points of the draft and weak points should be mentioned.

Opposition

The thesis sent for the opposition should be a finished thesis. Formatting, bibliography etc can be unfinished.

The opposition will be focused around two students – one giving constructive criticism, and the other receiving the criticism. The thesis supervisor is in charge of the seminar. The examiner is not present. The students will be assigned their roles in advance of the opposition seminars.

The purpose of the “opposition seminar” is to subject the thesis to constructive critical review and discussion. “Opponents” can identify aspects of the work that they praise, as well as identify areas where improvements can be suggested.

Comments from the supervisor

The students are entitled to get comments on the research proposal, the first draft and the thesis submitted for the opposition. In addition, the supervision can take form of group tutorials and/or one-on-one meetings.

Examination

In order to submit his/her thesis, the student has satisfactorily completed the course International Commercial Arbitration Law and Advanced International Arbitration Law. Examination occurs in conjunction with the student presenting and defending his/her academic paper at a seminar on the thesis. Course grades are determined based on a combination of the individual's performance in each of the different elements of the course: the thesis, the oral presentation and the opposition.

The thesis seminar is part of the examination process. The examiner is the chair of the thesis seminar. The supervisor is not present. The students will be assigned their roles ahead of the seminar.

The purpose of the thesis seminar is for the author of the thesis to show the ability to orally report and discuss the conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that form the basis for the conclusion and for the opponent to show the ability to critically review and discuss an academic work.

The examiner is appointed by the head of the department. The supervisor may not be the examiner.

All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Students who initially fail the examination are given the opportunity to be assessed a second time. Students who have received a passing grade are not allowed to be assessed again in order to achieve a higher grade. Students who fail the course twice from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner for their next examination. This, however, does not apply if there are particular reasons that a different examiner cannot be appointed.

Submission of the thesis

The thesis is to be submitted in Athena by 25 May 2023, 12:00.

The thesis should be approximately 11,000 – 13,000 words, including footnotes. Footnotes should contain only sources. The word count excludes the cover page, abstract, table of contents and bibliography.

Please read carefully the disciplinary guidelines of the Stockholm University:
[https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.303348.1476968013!/menu/standard/file/SU%20FV-2.5.1-](https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.303348.1476968013!/menu/standard/file/SU%20FV-2.5.1-2623-)

[16%20Guidelines%20for%20disciplinary%20matters%20at%20Stockholm%20University.pdf](https://www.su.se/polopoly_fs/1.303348.1476968013!/menu/standard/file/SU%20FV-2.5.1-2623-16%20Guidelines%20for%20disciplinary%20matters%20at%20Stockholm%20University.pdf)

Each thesis is submitted to an anti-plagiarism program.

Grading criteria and evaluation protocol

Please see the grading criteria and evaluation protocol in Athena.