How do I apply for a place on the programme?

The application procedure to follow depends on your background and qualifications. For more information, visit www.uni-passau.de/en/apply

To be offered a place on the programme, you must have a good first degree in law from a non-German university, ranked among the best 25% of your cohort. You also need German language skills at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR), attested by either DSH-1 or an equivalent certificate.

Good German language skills are required to study this degree programme, as that is the language of instruction. If you need to learn or perfect your German first, we have just what you need: www.uni-passau.de/en/learn-german

The application deadline for the LL.M. German Law, which commences in October each year, is 15 July.

Further information and contact details

Programme page on the web
www.uni-passau.de/en/llm-germanlaw

Website of the Faculty of Law
www.jura.uni-passau.de/en

Academic Advice Service
Primary contact for prospective international students seeking advice on study options and entry requirements
Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau, Germany
Phone: +49 851 509 ext. 1154, 1152, 1151 or 1150
E-mail: advice@uni-passau.de
www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice

International Office
Assists international students with the immigration formalities and with getting settled in Passau
www.uni-passau.de/en/international

Student Registration Office
Contact for enquiries related to your application
www.uni-passau.de/en/student-registration-office

Language Centre
Offers a wide range of language courses
www.sprachenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en

Centre for Careers and Competencies
Helps students seeking internships or career entry positions and offers transferable skills courses
www.uni-passau.de/en/zkk

iStudi Coach for job market induction
Provides job market orientation and advice on internship and job search to international students
www.uni-passau.de/en/iStudi

German Courses Passau
German language courses for international students
www.uni-passau.de/en/learn-german
Why study German Law with us?

The LL.M. German Law for foreign graduates is a research-oriented degree programme that equips students with expertise in the German legal system. Unlike many other subjects, laws are specific to the societies that brought them forth, and therefore vary significantly from country to country.

Currently there is a steadily growing need for legal practitioners with in-depth knowledge of the German legal system. Building on a previous law degree earned abroad, this degree programme gives students essential skills and specific expertise in German law, while placing particular emphasis on research.

The Scientific Methods module enables students to leverage their methodological and systematic competences developed over the course of the programme when conducting independent research – skills they will apply when writing their master’s thesis, which forms part of the programme.

Features

- Excellent reputation and rankings for the Faculty of Law at the University of Passau
- A multicultural environment owing to the international orientation of the University and the Faculty of Law
- German Courses Passau: German language courses specially designed for law students and open to students on this LL.M. programme
- Attend modules together with German students
- Previous academic achievements at other German universities may be counted towards the degree

Programme syllabus

The degree programme consists of three modules:

1) Foundation module
2) Scientific Methods module
3) Elective module

1) Foundation module: this consists of the foundation courses in Civil Law and Constitutional Law (both courses include a lecture and a tutorial). You will choose one of these two foundation courses, each of which is taught for a period of two semesters (Foundation Courses 1 and 2).

2) Scientific Methods module: This module, which takes place in the winter semester, consists of a seminar for master’s students, in which you will write a seminar paper and give a presentation.

3) Elective module: You will choose three of the following five electives: Civil Law, Public Law, Criminal Law, International Aspects of German Law and Principles of Law. Two courses are held in the winter semester and one in the summer semester. Instead of the two winter-semester courses, you may study the foundation course (Civil Law 1 or Constitutional Law 1) not already completed in the foundation module.

Career prospects

Those graduating with this degree typically go on to work in an international law firm in their home country, where they give legal advice on aspects of German law either directly or by obtaining information from a correspondent law firm and presenting the response in a form that is readily understood by their clients.

One example of such a client would be a foreign business enterprise which intends to sell its goods or services on the German market.

On the other hand, this programme imparts the necessary expertise for advising German clients on the graduates’ home countries’ legal systems, e.g. if a company which intends to open a subsidiary or branch abroad and requires legal advice on the legal structure, tax laws, employment regulations and so on.

In addition to imparting important work-related expertise, the degree programme also prepares students for doctoral study in Passau, at another German university’s law faculty or indeed at a foreign university’s law faculty.

The fact that graduates are well-versed in two distinct legal systems allows them to engage in comparative legal research. Students who write a good master’s thesis as part of their master’s degree, have also proven that they are able to produce an independent scientific work of high quality.