



**REYKJAVÍK UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**  
BA | ML | PhD



**LAGAÐEILD**  
SCHOOL OF LAW

# Welcome to Reykjavík University

Reykjavík University (RU) is a vibrant international university located at the heart of Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland. Reykjavík University is Iceland's largest private university. Our focus is on research, excellence in teaching, entrepreneurship, technology development and co-operation with the active business community. We educate students to become leaders in business, law, technology and society at large, starting new companies and creating jobs. Academic programmes at Reykjavík University are based on internationally recognised models, and are continually under review and improvement.

## REYKJAVÍK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law offers ambitious and modern undergraduate and graduate programmes in legal studies with the aim of graduating outstanding lawyers who are capable of becoming leaders in their fields. The mission of the School of Law is to create and propagate knowledge in an academic environment that encourages initiative, critical thought and scientific working methods, thereby improving the quality of life and competitive position of Icelandic society.

The School of Law emphasises project and research-based learning and the key to such learning is to have the guidance of instructors who have themselves completed scientific research-based studies. Instructors in the master's programme, Icelandic and foreign, have all been chosen on the basis of their education, their professional experience, and their skill in teaching and research. After finishing their law exam, most of them went on to complete graduate studies in law at acclaimed foreign universities.

## THE RU SCHOOL OF LAW GIVES SPECIAL WEIGHT TO:

- Sound jurisprudential basis and command of classical and contemporary legal theories.
- The quality of teaching, diverse teaching methods, diverse study evaluation and the quality of feedback to students.
- Students receiving purposeful training in applying legal methodology.
- The use of electronic media in the study and practice of law.
- Encouraging students to develop independent working practices.
- Practical project work.
- Limiting the number of students to ensure quality services and a personal connection between students and teachers.
- Individualised course of study in the master's programme.
- Diverse choice of emphases and courses of study in the master's programme.
- Modern learning facilities.

## LEARNING FACILITIES

Reykjavík University moved to new facilities in the area Nauthólsvík in 2010. The new building is bright and spacious. Its design is first and foremost based on the needs of the students. The building offers different types of reading and working facilities. Class rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technology which supports diverse teaching methods and research facilities are of great quality.

## COURT ROOM

The School of Law has at its disposal a class room that is set up as a court room, giving students the opportunity to practice litigation in a real-life setting. At the School of Law, an emphasis has been placed on incorporating practical projects into the teaching. A part of that has been that students write subpoenas and expositions and conduct cases before a court.



# PROGRAMMES AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW:

- **BA DEGREE IN LAW**  
3-year undergraduate programme (180 ECTS)
- **ML DEGREE IN LAW**  
2-year master's programme (120 ECTS)
- **PhD DEGREE IN LAW**  
3-4 year programme (180 ECTS)



## **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (BA)**

Law study at Reykjavík University is an ambitious programme, placing high demands on students and teachers. Emphasis is placed on encouraging initiative in students and training them in public speaking and presentation. Lectures form part of the instruction, but it also includes work sessions and seminars. Students are required to take an active part in class discussions. Study at the RU School of Law consists of basic study for a BA degree and graduate study for the ML degree.

## **MASTER'S PROGRAMME (ML)**

RU's School of Law offers a 120 ECTS master's programme. Generally, the programme is completed in two years, that is, over the course of four semesters, but students must have finished the programme no later than three years after registering. The studies are in large part based on independent student work under the guidance of instructors with special emphasis placed on research and project work.

## **DOCTORAL STUDIES (PhD)**

The objective of the PhD programme is to train doctoral candidates for research and teaching careers and other positions which require in-depth scientific training and knowledge. The programme is designed to deepen the theoretical and methodological knowledge of PhD candidates in order to qualify them for independent and well-founded research in the field of law. The PhD programme at the Reykjavík University School of Law constitutes the equivalent of three years of full-time study and corresponds to 180 ECTS credits.



## STUDY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Foreign students have the opportunity to study at the master's level (as exchange students) and the PhD level. At the master's level, it is possible for foreign students enrolled in master's programmes at universities abroad to study at the School of Law for one semester or one year as a part of a study exchange programme.

Each semester various courses taught in English are suitable for foreign exchange students.

### EXAMPLES OF COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH AT THE MASTER'S LEVEL:

International Criminal Law	International Trade	European Constitutional Law
European Law on Financial Services	European Law: Internal Market	International and European Energy Law
Research Seminar on International Human Rights Law	International and Local Funding Agreements	Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights in Int. Commerce; IP Agreements
Trademark Law	European Company Law	Comparative Law
Legal English and Advanced Legal English	European Law: The State and Competition	International Courts and Dispute Settlements
Children's Rights: Social Policy and Law	European Convention on Human Rights	Research Seminar on European Contract Law

See course descriptions in the School of Law's course catalogue on [en.ru.is/law](http://en.ru.is/law).



# EXCHANGE STUDENTS



All prospective exchange students are nominated by their home university. After the nomination has been sent to Reykjavík University, the student and the university's coordinator will be sent an email with a web link to the online application form.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year is divided into two semesters, Fall and Spring. The Fall semester starts around August 20th and ends around December 20th. There is an exam period during the last weeks of the semester. Repeating exams for the Fall semester are at the beginning of January. The Spring semester begins around January 5th and ends around May 15th. Repeating exams for the Spring semester are at the end of May. Reykjavík University has a two week vacation at Christmas and a one week vacation at Easter time.

## ECTS CREDITS AND GRADES

ECTS credits are applied in RU for academic recognition purposes. Most courses at the School of Law are 7.5 ECTS credits. The maximum number of credits that can be taken for each semester is 30 ECTS. As a general rule, grades are given on a scale of 0-10, where passing grades are 5 and above (6 at the master's level).

## WORKLOAD

At RU 30 ECTS credits is the regular fulltime workload for a period of 16 weeks. Please be aware that taking more than the fulltime workload will demand a lot of time and may be difficult if students also want to travel and enjoy student life to the fullest.

## ICELANDIC LANGUAGE COURSES

An intensive Icelandic language course is offered in August each year. International students who are interested in participating can apply through the International Office. It is also possible for international students to attend an Icelandic language course at RU during their studies. This course is offered during the Fall and Spring semesters. In addition, international students have the option to learn Icelandic online in a self-study course that is free of charge at the website <http://www.icelandic.hi.is>. It is valuable to learn the basics of the Icelandic language as it will become much easier to understand the culture and participate in everyday life.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**May 1st** for admission to Fall semester starting in August of the same year.

**October 15th** for admission to Spring semester starting in January of the following year.

For further information regarding the application process and other services for foreign exchange students please contact Reykjavík University International Office:

## GENERAL INQUIRIES:

Telephone: +354 599 6200

Fax: +354 599 6201

Email: [international@ru.is](mailto:international@ru.is)



## **LÖGRÉTTA – REYKJAVÍK UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENT'S ORGANISATION**

The goal of Lögrétta is mainly to enhance academic work in the legal field both inside and outside the School of Law.

Lögrétta protects the interests of its members and functions as a contact between law students and the administrators of the School of Law. The president of Lögrétta looks out for the interests of law students at School meetings which he attends on their behalf.

The Lögrétta Debate Society operates under the auspices of Lögrétta and holds debate meetings on those legal issues most prominent at any given time. Lögrétta also publishes the Lögrétta Journal which is a reviewed legal journal.

Lögrétta furthermore organises various fun activities for students with the main events being the Lögrétta Day and the annual celebration in addition to almost weekly trips to companies and institutions.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

"University studies shouldn't only be hard work but also a venue to meet new people and have fun. Reykjavík University Law Student's Organisation, Lögrétta, is a strong organisation that has been active in ensuring that law students get the most out of their studies, both socially and academically."

*Marteinn Áki Ellertsson, law student, 3rd year*





“Firstly, it should be recalled how breath-taking Reykjavík University is. The architecture of the building is wonderful. I especially love the idea to make the whole University and the individual faculties in the shape of the solar system, where the individual faculties represent particular planets. I have no problem spending the whole day at the University, studying, relaxing, having fun with my school mates and working out in the World Class Gym in the basement of the building. In my opinion, the School of Law is on a high level because of the well set up and functioning system. I really appreciate the approach of the professors. They are, on one hand well educated, strict, honest and pros in their field of work, and the other, friendly and helpful. I also appreciate the possibility to choose and set up my own study program from a large number of courses in English.”

*Tibor Bajnovič, foreign exchange student from Slovakia*

„I am an avid supporter of Reykjavík University’s PhD program in law due to the University’s friendly atmosphere and the attentiveness and helpfulness of the faculty. As a PhD student, I am every day in touch with all the faculty members and I can get professional support not accessible in most of the other law schools. The facilities and resources are excellent and there is also a great deal of engagement with the international academic community. Each student is able to study abroad and get feedback on the research from highly respected professors from all around the world.“

*Milosz Marek Hodun, PhD student from Poland*

#### Further Information:



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