International and Comparative Law Programme
Faculty of Law
Uppsala University
Sweden
Preface

Welcome to the Uppsala Faculty of Law, the oldest law faculty in Scandinavia! Here, in the immediate surroundings of the Cathedral you will find a milieu combining old academic traditions with the latest knowledge, as well as ample opportunities for relaxing at the various student nations, unique for Uppsala University.

At Uppsala University and its Faculty of Law you will encounter a truly European Law Faculty with specialization in European Law in all the different disciplines and a staff with highest academic merits. Your studies here will follow a model for problem-based instruction, meaning, i.e., that teaching is largely carried out in small groups and seminars, focusing in the student’s oral and written abilities, as well as his or her ability for independent work and critical thinking. This teaching method was introduced at the Faculty more than a decade ago and has contributed to the Faculty’s high ranking in Sweden and abroad.

Uppsala is often called the city of the eternal youth. As the Dean of the Law Faculty, I take a special pleasure in your choice. I hope that the time you will spend at Uppsala University will become one of true learning and life-long friendship.

Maarit Jänterä-Jareborg
Dean of the Faculty of Law
Professor of Private International Law and International Civil Procedure
Reasons to study in Uppsala

The town of Uppsala
Located 65 kilometres north of Stockholm and with a population of 180 000 people, Uppsala is the fourth largest town in Sweden. It has the charm of a small town, as well as the opportunities of a big city.

There are two Universities in Uppsala. Uppsala University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Uppsala University
Uppsala University was founded in 1477 and is the oldest university in Scandinavia. Several famous scholars originate from here, Carl von Linné, Olof Rudbeck and Anders Celsius among others. The Nobel Prize has been rewarded to researchers at Uppsala University six times since 1901. The University offers education and research in Law, Medicine, The Humanities, Political Science, Economics and Natural Science of high international standard within about 40 first-degree programmes as well as about 1300 single subject courses annually.

Uppsala University offers a great opportunity to enjoy rich social life for the student, much due to the 13 Student Nations, which offer a wide range of activities from pubs and restaurants to sports, libraries and housing; all at a comparatively low price.

The Faculty of Law
The oldest law department in Scandinavia is the Faculty of Law at Uppsala University. It was founded 1477 as well as the University. It is situated in the centre of Uppsala in a building that was constructed in the 17th century. The Faculty of Law has been located in the building since 1962. Since 1994 a large part of the Faculty, including the Law Library, has expanded into new premises just across the river Fyris.

There are about 2000 undergraduate students and 80 postgraduate students at the Faculty of Law. Every year about 100 of our students travel abroad and we receive about 150 exchange students.
Legal studies at Uppsala University

Studies at university level in Sweden are based on a two-semester system. The autumn semester runs from September to the middle of January and the spring semester from January to June. One semester covers 30 ECTS-credits in 20 weeks.

A degree in Law ("Juris kandidatexamen" or in English "Master of Laws Degree") takes four and a half years and encompasses 270 ECTS-credits. There is no Bachelor of Law exam given in Sweden. Law study with a Master of Laws Degree and research is offered at six universities in Sweden: Uppsala, Lund, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Umeå and Örebro – all differ in various ways.

At the Faculty of Law in Uppsala, instruction is problem based, which puts a lot of responsibility on the student. A normal workload is 40 hours a week, including everything from teaching, preparation, written assignments and self studies. Please notice that attendance at seminars on all courses is compulsory.

There are two levels of legal studies: the compulsory basic level that teaches basic knowledge about Swedish law, including European and some International law, for three years and on top of that the level of advanced courses for one and a half year.

1st level: Compulsory courses
Semester 1 Introduction to Legal Method, Constitutional Law and International Law
Semester 2 Civil Law I
Semester 3 Civil Law II
Semester 4 Criminal and Procedural Law
Semester 5 Company Law, Economics and Tax Law
Semester 6 Administrative Law and International Law

2nd level: Advanced Courses
The second level of legal studies in Sweden consists of 90 ECTS-credits. There are courses given in Swedish and in English. Exchange students from all over the world, students attending our International and Comparative Law Programme and Swedish students can choose between the courses given in English.
The International and Comparative Law Programme

Students with a three year (or more) degree in Law from a foreign country can apply to the International and Comparative Law Programme (Juris Magisterexam). Students who have finished their Bachelor of Law Degree before the application time is due are qualified to apply. Please note that it is not possible to complement.

The programme encompasses one year studies of a total of 60 ECTS-credits – 30 ECTS-credits for one or two advanced courses and the remaining 30 ECTS-credits for a thesis. There are 15 ECTS-courses and 30 ECTS-courses. A course of 30 ECTS-credits is called thematic. It is usually characterised by independent studies that do not follow the regular systematic in books etc. All thematic courses contain extensive written assignments. The thesis comprises 30 ECTS-credits. Every student has his/her personal supervisor. Within certain limits the student can choose the theme of the thesis and the supervisor him/herself, although the thesis must deal with international or comparative law.

Please notice that there are no special courses on master level. As there are only a few students on this programme, you attend advanced courses (2nd level) together with final year students and exchange students from all over the world.

Students are admitted to the Master programme once a year and the application deadline is February 1 regardless if you wish to start in the autumn or in the spring. You apply through the website Studera.nu (http://www.studera.nu). Eligibility requirements and other useful information can also be found at Uppsala University’s webpage: http://www.selma.uu.se/publik/main?AF =0300&funktion=master&prog=JIC2E&lasar=null

The academic degree will be given the English translation “Master of International and Comparative Law”. Please note that only students who have attended the national Swedish law programme will receive a degree that the
will be given the English translation “Master of Laws” (LL.M.).

**Scholarship**
Uppsala University does not award scholarships. A limited number of scholarships for students from all over the world are available each year from the Swedish Institute (http://www.si.se).

You can find more information about Doctoral Studies at Uppsala University at www.jur.uu.se “Research Education”.

(Photos: Markus Marcetic, Tommy Westberg)

**Doctoral Studies**
Students with a Swedish Master of Laws Degree can apply for Doctoral Studies, and in some cases students with a foreign Master of Laws Degree are also eligible. Please observe that the Master of International and Comparative Law degree from Uppsala University does not give you qualification for Doctoral Studies. A satisfactory knowledge of Swedish is required. Doctoral studies consist of participation in doctoral courses and seminars, research, reading and the writing of a dissertation. The Doctor of Laws Degree comprises four years of full time studies (240 ECTS-credits). Alternatively, the Licentiate of Laws Degree is an intermediate degree. This degree comprises two years of full time studies (120 ECTS-credits).
Being a student in Uppsala

Back in the 17th century the Student Nations in Uppsala started out as a gathering point for students from different regions in Sweden. Today, the 13 Nations organize a variety of activities and offer for example pubs and restaurants for students at comparatively low prices. The Nations also provide housing and have small libraries along with sports and other activities. Each Nation has an International Secretary to help and introduce foreign students to the student life of Uppsala.

Foreign students are free to join any Nation they like however, membership in one Nation is compulsory (the cost is about 200 SEK per semester). As a member of a Student Nation you get a student ID. You are not allowed to sit an exam or participate in any student activities without showing this ID. There is a fourteenth Nation, Skånelands Nation, which requires no fee, but has no facilities or activities. If you register with this nation you are allowed to sit exams but you will not be admitted to the other nations and their activities.

Uppsala Student Union (Uppsala Studentkår)

The Student Union is mainly responsible for the welfare of the students by dealing with health care, housing, educational, financial and recreational matters etc. Membership in Uppsala Student Union is compulsory. The fee is about 120 SEK per semester. The fee for the Student Nation you choose and Uppsala Student Unions’ fee can be paid altogether at “your” Student Nation. Like the nations, the Student Union has an International Secretary who you may contact. The International Secretary is also responsible for international relations, publishes a very useful booklet: “International Student Guide” and articles in the student newspaper ERGO.

The Law Association

The Law Association (Juridiska Föreningen, JF) was founded in 1844. It is a non-political association that works for solidarity between law students and for promoting contacts between students, teachers and practising lawyers.

JF is housed in comfortable premises, “Jontes stuga” (for addresses see below), where you can meet other law students over a cup of coffee. JF arranges, among other things, trips to the Swedish Parliament (Riksdagen) and dinner parties with interesting guests and various other festivities during the year.
**Law Library**
The Law Library at the Faculty of Law is of high standard, with collections of inter alia EC, English, German and French materials. However, students can not expect to find adequate information in all fields of non-Swedish substantive Law. Students at the Faculty of Law also have access to the main University Library, Carolina Rediviva.

**ELSA**
ELSA (The European Law Students’ Association) is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit-making organisation run by and for students. It is comprised of students and recent graduates who are interested in law and have demonstrated commitment to international issues. Law students from Austria, Hungary, Poland and West Germany founded ELSA in 1981. ELSA is today the worlds’ largest independent law students association and it is represented in more than 200 law faculties in 39 countries across Europe with membership in excess of 25 000 students and young lawyers.

ELSA maintains various activities, for example:
- STEP, the Student Trainee Exchange Programme
- S & C Seminars and Conferences
- A.A. Academic Activities

There is a local branch of ELSA in Uppsala. They arrange activities for members such as trainee exchange programme seminars, lectures, debates and study visits. There are also social activities for Erasmus students, among other things they offer a welcome dinner party every semester. If you wish, one of ELSA’s members can be your mentor and help you find your way during your stay here.
Other Activities

Except for various student activities you will find lots of leisure activities in Uppsala and its close surroundings. For sports and physical training, at a very cheap price, “Svettis” or “Stallet” is the place to go. If you like music there is a whole range of orchestras and choirs for almost every level from amateur to professional. There are several student associations, for example the Uppsala Association for Foreign Affairs (Utrikespolitiska föreningen) that arranges lectures and debates on foreign politics. Please contact the Student Union or your Student Nation for further information. Also Stockholm is only 40 minutes away by train.

A good advice is to buy a bike. This is the means of transportation for 95 % of the students. You may find addresses where to buy a second hand bike in the “International Student Guide”.

(Photo: Jonas Hedlund)

(Photo: Markus Marcetic)

(Photo: Staffan Claesson)
Before arrival
Admission letters for the International and Comparative Law Programme will be sent by the Admissions Office of Uppsala University (and not from the Faculty of Law) in the beginning of May. When the Faculty of Law gets the names of the Master students admitted to the programme, we send letters with information along with application forms for courses and accommodation etc.

Accommodation
Most students in Uppsala live in dormitories (or “corridors”) where five to twelve students share a kitchen and sometimes showers and toilet facilities, but each one having a private room. The student room is fully equipped with bed, chair, table, lamps and a few other pieces of furniture. The students have to provide their own pillow, blankets, towels etc. Non-resident foreign students admitted to the International and Comparative Law Programme will be assisted in finding housing although the University can not guarantee housing to this category of students. Assistance by Uppsala University provides that the (binding) application form for accommodation has been filled in and sent back before the deadline. The deadline for the spring semester is middle of November and for the autumn semester middle of June.

As there is currently a great shortage of student housing students are strongly advised to apply for a room as soon as they are admitted to the programme directly to “Studentstaden AB”. Student housing is also provided by the Student Nations.
Language courses
The Faculty of Law does unfortunately not offer a Swedish language course for students attending the International and Comparative Law programme. If you want to attend a Swedish language course please contact the Department of Scandinavian Languages, Uppsala University or “Folkuniversitetet” see the website, www.folkuniversitetet.se. You will get more information about their courses and prices there.

Special Needs
Uppsala University has various facilities for students with disabilities in all their localities, including the localities of the Faculty of Law. Wheelchairs can circulate in all places, and there are special bathrooms with large doors and special equipment. For people with hearing dysfunction it is possible to use special hearing aid in the classrooms. Visually impaired students can have their books copied with large text. Students with other disabilities can have the special equipment they need to participate in class etc. Part of these facilities – talking books, copying to large text and transcription into Braille – are available free of charge for students within the ERASMUS programme. The “personal” part of hearing aid the student must bring him/herself, and we need to know whether this part is compatible with our equipment. It is possible to get other types of help as note taking help, sign language interpreters (Swedish sign language) or personal assistants, but this must be paid for by the sending university along with any costs for transportation service for students with disabilities. There are a few student apartments which are adjusted for disabled persons, but we can not guarantee that they are free when needed. There are some student rooms in houses with elevators where it is possible to enter with a wheelchair. In any event we need to know as soon as possible if a disabled student is planning to come here in order to give us time to make the necessary arrangements.

It is very important for us that disabled students get a fair chance of dealing with their studies under the same premises as students that are not disabled.

Internet
Internet is accessible free of charge at most libraries in Uppsala, as well as in most student rooms. You can get access to an internet account through UpUnet-S at Uppsala Student Union. You can find the application form for the internet account at: www.student.uu.se/english, “UU Computer network”.

(Photograph by Markus Marcetic)
Insurance
In order to study in Sweden, it is necessary to be covered by a valid medical insurance. EU-citizens are covered automatically if they bring the EU Health Care Insurance Card or form E 128 or E 111 filled out by the local authorities. **Master students are not covered by a medical insurance by Uppsala University.** In addition, make sure to check your domestic insurance policies in order to cover your stay in Sweden. It is also advisable to buy a property and theft insurance since none of your personal belongings are covered by the owners of the student housings or similar.

Passport (Visa)
You need a valid passport for entry into Sweden. In some cases a visa is also required. However, citizens of EU countries and Iceland and Norway need only an ID card provided that the citizenship is stated on the card. For further information contact the Swedish Embassy or Consulate in your country.

Work
Students are free to take a job at any time while in Sweden without a work permit as long as their student residence permit or visa is valid.

In order to work during your stay in Sweden, for example at the Nations which is a popular way to get to know people, you have to get a co-ordination number (“samordningsnummer”) or a Swedish civic number (“personnummer”). Visit the local tax office to have it sorted out.
At Arrival
To start courses in the autumn semester you should be here around 25th of August. For the spring semester you should be here around 16th of January.

If you travel by train you will probably change trains in Stockholm and take the train to Uppsala. It is a trip of about 40 minutes.

If you travel by air you will arrive either at Arlanda Airport or at Skavsta Airport. You can easily reach Uppsala from Arlanda Airport by bus (no. 801) or train in about 30 minutes. Going by taxi costs about SEK 500 (ask for fixed price) and takes about 30 minutes. If you arrive at Skavsta Airport you have to take a bus to Stockholm and continue from there to Uppsala. This journey will take at least 3 hours.

All Master students should contact the International Administrative Assistant at the Faculty of Law as soon as possible after arrival to register on the programme and to get an information package from Uppsala University. Here you will find a lot of information that is very useful before you start your studies.

Registration on courses
You must register personally for the course you are accepted to before it starts, the registration is compulsory. If you for some reason can not be present at the registration you must let us know, or your place in the course will be given to another student.

Orientation Programme
There are various activities organized by the Student Union, the International Committee of the Nations and The International Office for Foreign Students in Uppsala at the beginning of your first semester. You will get more information at the Faculty of Law or you can find it at www.inter.uadm.uu.se.
Aneta Soimu
26 years, from Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, student since autumn 2004

What about your judicial education in Moldova?
I studied for five years at the Department of Law, State University of Moldova. I hold the title of “Licentiate in Jurisprudence” and I majored in International Trade law.

What were you working with before coming to Sweden?
I was working as a Junior lawyer at a pharmaceutical company for 2.5 years. Additionally, I performed as a part-time lecturer for Administrative law and Civil law courses at the Trade Co-operative College of Moldova. I am still employed at the pharmaceutical company and hold a position available there after finishing Master studies. Additionally, while working at the company, I completed post-graduate studies in International Public and Private Law at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Iassy, Romania.

Why did you want to take the ”Juris Magister” in Uppsala?
I was especially interested in the International and Comparative Trade Law course as this falls within the subject of my academic and professional specialization. I applied for Master studies at a Swedish university because the foreign view on Swedish judicial education is of wide recognition: the high level of academic standards, the advanced method of teaching and self instruction provides a prolific field for acquiring knowledge in European context.

Which courses did you attend?
I attended the course of International and Comparative Trade law and the additional course of EC/EU Constitutional Law.

How do you like studies at the Faculty of Law?
The Faculty of Law has a well developed educational system with an extensive curriculum. Classes are based on consecutive seminars and lectures dedicated to specific legal issues of the course. The system of self instruction consists of a network of students’ groups working on similar or specific assignments as received from the teacher. The work in such a group is based on analysing the questions and drafting the solutions, demanding therefore a high responsibility on the part of each participant.

What about practical things?
The administrative office of the Faculty of Law was very helpful and open to benefit the studies and practical matters of Master students. For instance, the Master meetings as organised on regular basis by the study counsellors introduced us to the Swedish culture. Moreover, the Faculty of Law organised free lectures on significant issues as related to Human Rights and involved the Master students in these activities.
Gerard Conway
28 years, from Ireland, student in Uppsala from autumn semester 2000 – spring semester 2001

Tell me about your judicial education.
I did my undergraduate degree in Law & European Studies at the University of Limerick in Ireland, including a semester spent on Erasmus exchange in Belgium. Following that, I studied in the evening while working in Dublin. I studied for the degree of Barrister-at-Law in King’s Inns in Dublin, and was awarded the degree and called to the Bar in 2000.

Why did you decide to go to Uppsala?
I went for several reasons. First, I wanted to spend some time travelling while at the same time continuing my education. One of the main motives for going to Sweden was that all university education is free of charge. The other important reasons were that Uppsala has a good reputation and offered a course in English that included options in the two subjects I knew I wanted to study – public international law and legal theory.

Which courses did you attend? What was your thesis about?
I attended the course International Law: Classical Concepts and the course Comparative Legal History and Contempory Jurisprudence.

My thesis was about “The Principle of Ne bis in idem as a Rule of International Law”, basically, it had two aspects – how the principle of ne bis in idem could operate across different legal systems and how it operates under the statutes of the international criminal tribunals. After I graduated, I revised the thesis and it has been published in two international legal journals.

What are you working with today?
When I returned to Ireland, I completed a six-month traineeship in the Legal Division of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Following that, for a period of seven months, I worked as a judicial researcher in the Judges’ Library in Dublin. In November 2002, I began my current employment as a legal research officer in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Dublin.

Do you think the studies at Uppsala University are useful in your work?
Yes, they are. For example, I studied the relationship between public international law and EC/EU law as part of the course International Law: Classical Concepts. This area has come up frequently in all of the positions I have had. Also, I have had to do comparative research in the jobs I have had, and the course in comparative legal history was useful for this. More generally, the experience of doing research as part of the Master’s developed my research abilities.
What degree in law do you hold?
I studied four years at the International Economic Law Department at the China University of Politic and Law, and took the bar examination in my fourth year at the university. I am specialised in international trade law.

What did you work with before you came to Sweden?
I worked as a law lecturer and tutor in a local judicial school for 8 years. I taught foreign economic law and company law and I was at the same time a part-time lawyer as well, practicing law in commercial litigations.

Which courses did you attend? What was your thesis about?
I took courses in International and Comparative Trade Law, EC Constitutional Law and EC Common Market Law. My thesis is about the Comparison of free movement of workers between China and the EU.

How did you like studying in Uppsala?
I do like the way of teaching in Uppsala. Everyone has to be part of the class and students are allowed to communicate with teachers freely on classes, which is very different from teaching methods in China. It is also a good idea to have seminars for master students together with international exchange students, which always provides very useful information of different legal systems during discussions. However, sometimes I feel there are too many students on one class, for example, if more than 15 students attend one seminar, there will not be enough time for them to give their opinions.

What are you working with now?
I work in a local law firm as a lawyer, specialised in foreign legal services. My main duties are to provide PRC legal opinions on loan and on security agreements to foreign banks. I represent foreign banks in obtaining approvals from and completing registrations with PRC government agencies in foreign loan transactions. I also assist foreign investors in establishing FIEs, branches and representative offices.

Do you think the studies at Uppsala University are of use in your work?
Definitely. I have improved myself both in professional and language aspects through the courses I took, and most important, I’ve got to know different people coming from all over the world and experienced a totally different life in Uppsala, which also benefits me very much for my future career.
Mariana Pena: 
26 years old from Argentina, masters studies in Uppsala during 2003

Where did you study and what exam do you hold? 
I studied at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I hold a law degree (J.D.) which enables me to practise law in Argentina.

What were you working with before you came to Sweden? 
In Argentina, most students work while they do their studies in order to have practical experience when they graduate. I worked at a national court for over two years and at the legal department of a multinational company for a year, while doing my studies. After I graduated I worked for a law firm in the area of bankruptcy law.

Which courses did you attend? What was your thesis about? 
I attended EC/EU Constitutional Law and Transport Law while studying the Masters’ Programme. I was in Uppsala as an exchange student as well and attended the course in International Public Law: Classical Concepts. I wrote a thesis on procedural developments in the Interamerican System of Human Rights, which I compared to the reform of the European Human Rights System.

Do you speak Swedish? 
Javisst! When I first came to Sweden I didn’t even know how to say “hello” in Swedish. That was very frustrating at the beginning because, although everyone speaks English, I found it hard to integrate into the Swedish society. After some time I was able to have conversations in Swedish and write simple letters. However, I should say that students who don’t speak Swedish shouldn’t worry at all. I actually did all my law studies in English. They’ll certainly have no problem when trying to communicate in English while being in Uppsala!

What are you working with today? 
I’m now doing an internship on a training course in International Organizations at Sorbonne University in France. I also work for the American NGOs Coalition for the International Criminal Court, in New York. My duties include: doing legal research on issues concerning the ICC, following up cases being investigated, providing outreach to member organizations and attending regular meetings at the United Nations.

Did you do something special while staying in Sweden? 
As every student city, Uppsala has a very active social life. I used to enjoy going out with friends, who came from all over the world. I also used to work out at the university gym. I took Swedish lessons and taught Spanish. And I also did things I had never done before, such as baking typical Swedish Christmas cookies and ice-skating on a lake. I also did small trips within Scandinavia. On the whole, I have excellent memories about my time in Uppsala. Cultural aspects helped, without any doubt, enrich the academic experience.
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