

Privat: This is a translation of the original document in German. It is provided for information purposes only and has no legal bearing.

415.415

Framework Ordinance for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs and for Minor Study Programs at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich

(Dated 20 August 2012) ^{1, 2}

The Board of the University has resolved:

A. Introduction

§ 1. ¹ This framework ordinance governs the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, as well as the minor study programs at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich (Faculty). Scope of regulations

² The framework ordinance also applies to mobility students from Switzerland and abroad, and to students of special programs of study at the Faculty, subject to special provisions in the program regulations.

³ Degree programs offered at the Faculty on the basis of bilateral agreements with partner universities are governed by a separate framework ordinance.

§ 2. ¹ Furthermore, the agreement between Swiss faculties of law on mutual recognition and transfer of credits, and on admission to Master's degree and PhD programs applies. Supplementary provisions

² Faculty Assembly issues program regulations.

³ The Faculty Assembly resolves questions that are not covered by this framework ordinance or by the program regulations.

⁴ In individual cases, the Dean is responsible for the decision.

B. General Information on Studies

§ 3. ¹ The Faculty offers a Bachelor's degree program and a Master's degree program. Study programs

415.415.1

Framework Ordinance at the Faculty of Law

² The Master's degree program can be completed either with or without one of the following concentrations:

- a. Legal Practice,
- b. Business Law
- c. Public Law

³ The Faculty offers minor study programs at the Bachelor's and Master's levels to students of other faculties at the University of Zurich.

Regular curriculum

§ 4. ¹ The program regulations establish the regular curricula for the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs and for the minor study programs, including specifications on the standard period of study.

² The regular curriculum enables full-time students to earn at least 30 ECTS credits per semester.

Admission

§ 5. ¹ The ordinance on admission to studies at the University of Zurich (Verordnung über die Zulassung zum Studium an der Universität Zürich, VZS⁵) governs admission to the degree programs.

² Any student who has been definitively excluded from studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich, or from any other Swiss faculty of law, will no longer be admitted to a program of study in law.

Language of instruction

§ 6. Most courses are conducted in German. Individual courses may be held in other languages.

C. ECTS Credits and Modules

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

§ 7. ¹ The scope of academic achievement is measured using the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

² ECTS credits are awarded only for modules that have been passed.

³ ECTS credits for a module are awarded in their entirety; partial credit is not given.

⁴ Full-time study requires an average course load of 30 ECTS credits per semester.

⁵ One ECTS credit corresponds to an average of 30 hours of work

⁶ The number of ECTS credits required for compulsory and core elective modules is set forth in the program regulations.

§ 8. ¹ Course content is divided into learning units (modules) that are Modules harmonized in terms of content and schedule.

² A module may consist of one or more courses and lasts one or two semesters.

³ Admission to a module may be made contingent on the fulfillment of prerequisites.

⁴ To pass a module, students must pass an assessment. A module is passed if the student earns at least a grade of 4.0, or if their work is marked as “passed.”

⁵ A module that has been passed may not be repeated.

§ 9. A distinction is made between the following module types:

- a. Compulsory modules, which all students in a degree program must attend; Modultypes
- b. Core elective modules, to be selected from a list of courses (core elective pool) provided for a subject area;
- c. Core elective modules in the form of written work (case studies, Bachelor’s or Master’s theses), to be selected from a list (core elective pool);
- d. Elective modules, to be freely selected from a circumscribed area according to the study regulation.

§ 10. ¹ Students must observe the deadlines for registering for modules. Registration for the assessment takes place automatically when modules are booked.

Registration and cancellation

² Registration and cancellation deadlines are binding.

³ Registrations and cancellations that do not comply with the deadlines will be accepted only when there are justifiable and verifiable reasons. Students must send requests to the Dean’s Office

⁴ Individual modules, especially seminars, may set a registration deadline that is earlier than the generally applicable deadline.

§ 11. ¹ ECTS credits that have been earned at other universities or universities of applied sciences will be recognized and transferred, provided the assessment and the corresponding module are equal in value, or the module can be incorporated as an elective module.

Recognition and transfer of ECTS credits

² The Faculty Council issues regulatory provisions defining the recognition and transfer of ECTS credits that have already been earned.

³ Earned ECTS credits can be counted toward a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree for ten years, starting from the semester in which they were acquired.

D. Bachelor's Degree Program

Program objectives

§ 12. The Bachelor's degree program provides students with a basic legal education and the ability to think methodically.

Structure of the Bachelor's degree program

§ 13. ¹ A total of 180 ECTS credits must be earned for a Bachelor's degree. This corresponds to six semesters of full-time study.

² The Bachelor's degree program consists of compulsory, core elective, and elective modules and is divided into two levels:

- a. Assessment level (60 ECTS credits, two semesters),
- b. Advanced level (120 ECTS credits, four semesters).

³ Courses in the Bachelor's degree program are designed to begin in the fall semester.

⁴ Students in the Bachelor's degree program must write a Bachelor's thesis that earns a grade of at least 4.0.

§ 14.⁷

Transition to advanced level

§ 15. Students who have passed all assessment-level modules except one may already book advanced-level modules. However, until the last assessment-level module is passed, a maximum of 18 ECTS credits worth of modules may be booked.

Conferral of the Bachelor's degree

§ 16. A Bachelor's degree is conferred when 180 ECTS credits have been earned in accordance with the program regulations; of those ECTS credits, at least 90 must be earned at the University of Zurich.

Title

§ 17. ¹ The Faculty confers the academic title of "Bachelor of Law UZH" to students who have successfully completed the Bachelor's degree program.

² The title «Bachelor of Law» is abbreviated as «BLaw».

E. Master's degree program

Program objectives

§ 18. The Master's degree program provides students with an in-depth legal education and the ability to carry out independent scholarly and practical work.

§ 19. ¹ Students with the following academic degrees are admitted without conditions or restrictions to the Master's degree program, which may be completed with or without a concentration in legal practice or public law: Admission to the Master's degree program

- a. Bachelor of Law der University Zurich,
- b. Bachelor of Law from a Swiss university.

² For the Master's degree program with a Concentration in Business Law, additional conditions and restrictions apply.

³ Students with a foreign Bachelor of Law degree or a degree of equal value from a state-recognized and accredited university may be admitted to the preparatory phase for the Master's degree program, or they may be accepted to the Master's degree program with conditions and/or restrictions worth up to 60 ECTS credits.

⁴ Students with a Bachelor's degree in a different branch of studies are admitted to the Bachelor's degree program rather than the Master's degree program. Credit is awarded for work completed in accordance with the regulatory provisions defined in § 11, section 2.

⁵ When deciding on admission to the Master's degree program, degrees are reviewed in accordance with Article 3 of the Bologna Guidelines of the Swiss University Conference.

§ 20.⁶ Bachelor of Law students at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich who need no more than 18 ECTS credits to earn their Bachelor's degree may book Master's modules worth up to 60 ECTS credits. Transition from Bachelor's to Master's level

§ 21. ¹ A total of 90 ECTS credits must be earned for a Master's degree. This corresponds to three semesters of full-time study. Structure of the Master's degree program

² As a rule, the Master's degree program consists of core elective and elective modules.

³ Students in the Master's degree program must write one or more Master's theses worth a total of 18 ECTS credits (written papers, moot court projects, etc.) that earn a grade of at least 4.0.

§ 22. A Master's degree is conferred when any additional requirements have been met and 90 ECTS credits have been earned in accordance with program regulations; of those ECTS credits, at least 60 must be earned at the University of Zurich. Conferral of the Master's degree

415.415.1

Framework Ordinance at the Faculty of Law

Title § 23. ¹ The Faculty confers the academic title «Master of Law UZH» to students who have successfully completed the Master's degree program.

² The title «Master of Law» is abbreviated as «MLaw».

F. Minor Study Programs

Admission § 24. Admission to a minor study program is regulated by the provisions of the Faculty where the student is completing their major program of study. The Faculty Assembly can set forth additional requirements for admission.

Definitive exclusion from studies § 25. Students who do not pass the repeat examination for a compulsory module, or who exceed the total permissible number of failed attempts, will be definitively excluded from both the minor study programs and from degree programs in law.

G. Assessments

Types and organization of assessments § 26. ¹ Assessments of student work are generally designed as:

- a. Oral or written examinations;
- b. Written work (case studies, Bachelor's theses, Master's theses);
- c. Presentations;
- d. Projects in the framework of a moot court or an eLearning event.

² The Dean's Office is in charge of organizing the examinations.

³ At oral exams, an expert holding a law degree at the licentiate or Master's level must be present.

⁴ The duration of the exams is governed by the program regulations..

Language § 27. The work on which assessments are based must, as a rule, be completed in the language in which the relevant modules are offered.

Non-attendance, withdrawal, unexcused absence from assessments § 28. ¹ Students who are unable to take an assessment due to urgent, unforeseeable, and unavoidable reasons – either prior to or during the assessment – must submit a written request to withdraw from the assessment, including rationale and appropriate evidence (for example, a doctor's note) to the Dean's Office as soon as possible, but no later than five business days after the absence begins.

² If a candidate fails to take an assessment and has not been excused, the corresponding module is registered as failed.

³ After students take an assessment, problems that had, or might have had, a negative effect on performance will not be considered.

§ 29. Candidates with disabilities or chronic diseases may submit a request for assessment-related compensatory measures to the Dean's Office up to five days prior to the cancellation deadline.

Compensatory measures

§ 30. ¹ Assessments are graded using a numerical system or on a «pass»/«fail basis».

Credits

² Grading is on a scale of 6.0 to 1.0. Half grades are given. Grades below 4.0 are failing grades.

³ The grades have the following meanings:

6.0	excellent
5.5	very good
5.0	good
4.5	satisfactory
4.0	sufficient
3.5 and 3	insufficient
2.5 and 2	poor
1.5 and 1	very poor

§ 31. ⁶ ¹ Assessment-level work that does not obtain a passing grade may be repeated one time, subject to section 2.

Repeating assessments at the assessment level

² Assessment-level case studies may be repeated as often as desired.

§ 32. ¹ At the advanced level of the Bachelor's degree program, a total of six failed attempts are allowed.

Repeating assessments at the advanced level

² Each time an assessment is failed, it is registered as a failed attempt.

This rule does not apply to case studies in the framework of the modules defined in § 9, lit. c, or to elective modules completed outside the Faculty.

³ Advanced-level assessments that receive a failing grade may be repeated two times, subject to section 4.

415.415.1

Framework Ordinance at the Faculty of Law

⁴ Core elective modules as defined in § 9, lit. c that are failed may be replaced by other passed modules of the same type as desired.

⁵ Core elective modules and elective modules that are not passed may be replaced by other modules from the same core elective pool, respectively by other elective modules.

§ 33. ¹ Up to 30 ECTS credits worth of failed attempts are allowed in the Master's degree program.

² Each time an assessment is failed, it is registered as a failed attempt. This rule does not apply to Master's theses or to elective modules completed outside the Faculty.

³ Assessments in a Master's degree program that receive a failing grade may be repeated one time, subject to section 4.

⁴ Core elective modules as defined in § 9, lit. c that are failed may be replaced by other passed modules of the same type as desired.

⁵ Core elective modules and elective modules that are not passed may be replaced by other modules from the same core elective pool or by other elective modules.

§ 34. ¹ Instructors determine whether and under what conditions insufficient Bachelor's or Master's theses may be revised a single time within a specified period of time.

² A Bachelor's thesis that receives a failing grade after subsequent revision is registered as a failed attempt.

§ 35. Students who fail an assessment select the repeat date and are responsible for registering on time.

§ 36. ¹ Students who take inadmissible aid to exams are given a failing grade, and the assessment is registered as a failed attempt.

² The right to initiate disciplinary proceedings is reserved.

³ If dishonest conduct, as defined by section 1, comes to light after conferral of an academic degree, the Faculty Assembly will revoke the degree; all diplomas will be rescinded.

Repeating assessments in the Master's degree program

Revision of Bachelor's and Master's theses

Procedure for failed attempts

Dishonest conduct when taking assessments

§ 37. After each semester in which students take assessments, a transcript of records is issued with a list of the number of ECTS credits earned to date, the grades earned, and failed modules. Transcript of records

§ 38. ¹ Students who fail the repeat examination for modules at the assessment level that may be repeated only once will be definitively excluded from studies. Definitive exclusion from studies

² Students who fail the second repeat examination for a compulsory module at the advanced level or who exceed the permissible number of failed attempts will be definitively excluded from studies.

³ Students who fail the repeat examination for a compulsory module in the Master’s degree program or who exceed the permissible number of failed attempts will be definitively excluded from studies.

⁴ Students who can no longer meet the core elective pool requirements will be definitively excluded from studies.

⁵ The definitive exclusion from studies is enacted by means of a Faculty Assembly resolution.

H. Final Degree

§ 39. Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees are conferred by the Dean in the name of the Faculty upon application by the student. Conferral of degree

§ 40. ¹ A grade for the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree is presented with the degree. This grade is the average of all modules (weighted by ECTS credits) for which credits and grades were given in the course of the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree program. Final grade and distinctions

² Calculation of the average grade is exact; the overall result is rounded to one decimal point.

³ The following distinctions are awarded for excellent and very good overall performance:

- a. 5.5 and above: summa cum laude,
- b. 5.0 and above: magna cum laude.

§ 41. ¹ When awarding credit, completed modules are generally considered in chronological order, starting with the earliest.

² If it is not possible to take all modules into consideration, the modules designated by the student from among the modules that were completed during the same semester will be credited to the degree. Awarding credit for a final degree

415.415.1

Framework Ordinance at the Faculty of Law

³ Superplus modules are modules that are, in accordance with the respective program regulations, not needed to earn the ECTS credits necessary for the degree in the respective study program.

⁴ Superplus modules are marked as “not counted toward the degree” in the Academic Record and are not relevant for the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree.

Documents § 42. Graduates of a degree program receive the following documents:

- a. the diploma,
- b. the diploma supplement,
- c. the Academic Record.

Diploma § 43. ¹ The diploma specifies the grade for the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree and, if applicable, the concentration defined in § 4³, section 2 and the distinction.

² The diploma bears the Dean of the Faculty’s and the President of the University’s signatures as well as the University and the Faculty seals.

³ The diploma is printed in German. An English translation is provided.

Diploma supplement § 44. The diploma supplement is issued in German with an English translation.

Academic Record (final transcript of records) § 45. ¹ The Academic Record (the final transcript of records) is issued in German. It contains a list of all successfully completed modules, the grade for the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree, and, if applicable, the distinction.

² For assessments not done at the University of Zurich, the name of the university where the assessment took place is provided.

I. Legal Protection

Legal recourse § 46. ¹ Students may file an appeal with the Faculty Council for newly listed credits on the transcript of records and new decisions on transfer of credit. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Faculty Council within 30 days of opening the transcript of records. It must contain a request and the rationale thereof.

² The Faculty Council makes a decision on the appeal; if necessary, it obtains an opinion from the examiner.

³ The evaluation of student work is controlled for any violations of the law or procedural provisions. Objections of inappropriate evaluation are excluded.

⁴ Decisions by the Faculty Council and the resolution by the Faculty Assembly on definitive exclusion from studies are subject to an appeal to the Appeals Commission of the Universities of the Canton of Zurich in accordance with § 46 of the University Act⁴ and §§ 19 et seq. of the law on administrative procedure (Verwaltungsrechtspflegegesetzes³).

J. Concluding Provisions

§ 47. ¹ The following transitional provisions apply for students who started the Bachelor's degree program, the Master's degree program, or who began studying law as a minor at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich before this framework ordinance entered into force, but who have not yet completed studies, and who have not been definitively excluded from studies⁶

Transitional provisions

1. As of the fall semester 2013, a change takes effect in the corresponding degree program, resp. the corresponding study program in accordance with the new regulations. This change is subject to the condition that no student may be excluded from studies on the basis of failed assessments prior to the spring semester 2013 (including the spring semester 2013).
2. As of the fall semester 2013, no assessments may be repeated in accordance with the old regulations.
3. Credits that have already been earned will be transferred when the transition is made to the new degree program or the new study program.
4. Modules passed in a degree program or a study program in accordance with the old regulations may not be completed again in the degree program or the study program governed by the new regulations.
5. The Faculty Assembly decides which modules in the degree program or the study program governed by the new regulations may no longer be completed, taking previously earned credits into account. At the Bachelor's level, students are otherwise free to choose the remaining modules necessary for their degree.

6. Modules worth a maximum of 6 ECTS credits that were completed outside of the Faculty, and a maximum of three case studies and two Bachelor's theses may be counted toward a Bachelor's degree.
7. Failed attempts that occurred during the Bachelor's degree program and the minor study programs at the Bachelor's level in accordance with the old regulations will no longer be taken into account after the change takes effect.

² These transitional provisions for the change from the old to the new degree program apply through the spring semester 2018 (spring semester 2018 included). Starting in the fall semester 2018, degree programs and study programs may only be completed in accordance with the new program regulations.

¹ [OS 67, 515](#); Begründung siehe [ABI 2012-09-07](#).

² Inkrafttreten: 1. August 2013.

³ [LS 175.2](#).

⁴ [LS 415.11](#).

⁵ [LS 415.31](#).

⁶ Fassung gemäss URB vom 2. Dezember 2013 ([OS 69, 63](#); [ABI 2013-12-27](#)). In Kraft seit 1. März 2014.

⁷ Aufgehoben durch URB vom 2. Dezember 2013 ([OS 69, 63](#); [ABI 2013-12-27](#)). In Kraft seit 1. März 2014.

⁸ Fassung gemäss URB vom 11. Dezember 2017 ([OS 73, 112](#); [ABI 2017-12-22](#)). In Kraft seit 1. März 2018