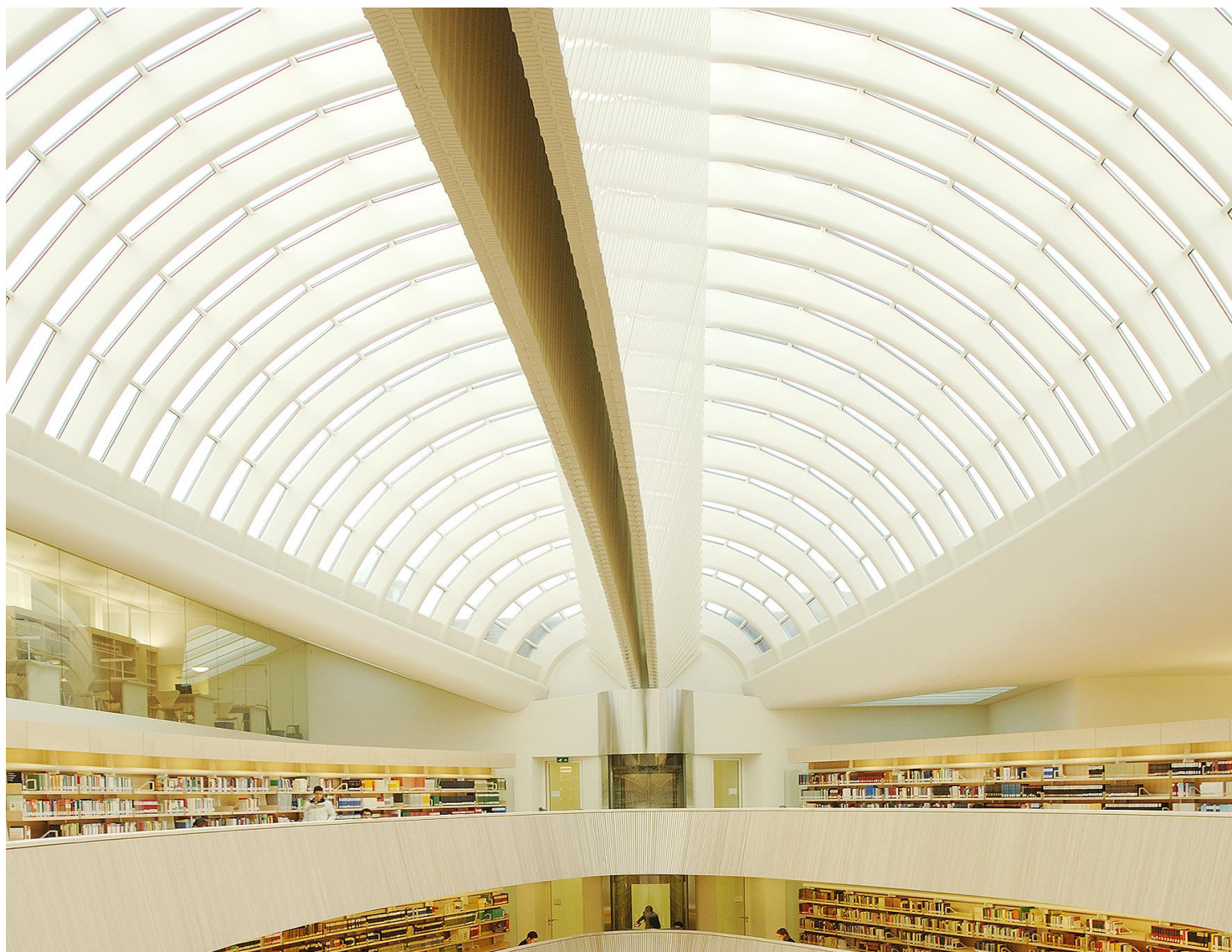




Double Degree Master's Programs

Information Brochure Outgoing Students

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1. The Double Degree Master's Programs

1.1 Aim and Content

The master's programs conducted jointly with the partner faculties offer students the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the Swiss legal system, the legal system of the country of the respective partner faculty, and of international law. Familiarity with foreign legal systems is an important objective of the program.

The standard period of study is two years. Upon successful completion of both the study program at the partner university and at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich (RWF UZH), graduates are awarded the Master of Law degree from RWF UZH as well as the corresponding degree from the partner university.

1.2 Partner Faculties

The Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich (RWF UZH) offers double degree master's programs in cooperation with the following 13 partner faculties:

- **Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law, USA**
- **Doshisha University, Graduate School of Law, Japan**
- **University of Edinburgh, The Edinburgh Law School, United Kingdom**
- **Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Faculty of Law, Belgium**
- **King's College London, The Dickson Poon School of Law, United Kingdom**
- **The University of Queensland, Law School, Australia**
- **The University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law, People's Republic China**

- **Université de Strasbourg, Faculté de Droit, des Sciences Politiques et de Gestion, France**
- **Universiteit Maastricht, Faculty of Law, The Netherlands**
- **Universiteit van Amsterdam, Faculty of Law, The Netherlands**
- **University of California, Berkeley Law, USA**
- **Yeshiva University, Cardozo School of Law, USA**

2. Admission Requirements

2.1 General Admission Requirements

To participate in the double degree master's program at RWF UZH, applicants must be enrolled at the University of Zurich as their home university. In addition, students must successfully complete the application process at RWF UZH.

Admission to a Double Degree Master's program is determined by suitability. The following criteria are decisive for the selection process:

- Academic achievements,
- Knowledge of the language of instruction,
- specific study motivation,
- additional qualifications relevant to studies and
- special admission requirements of the partner faculties

There is no entitlement to a study place, not even at partner universities without admission restrictions. Among other prerequisites, partner universities may require participants to demonstrate language proficiency.

Information on language requirements is provided for guidance only and can be found in the flyers of the respective partner universities. All requirements are subject to change.

2.1.1 Language Certificates

English Certificates

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)
- Cambridge Certificate in English
 - Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)
 - Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
 - Pearson Test of Academic English (PTE)

French Certificates

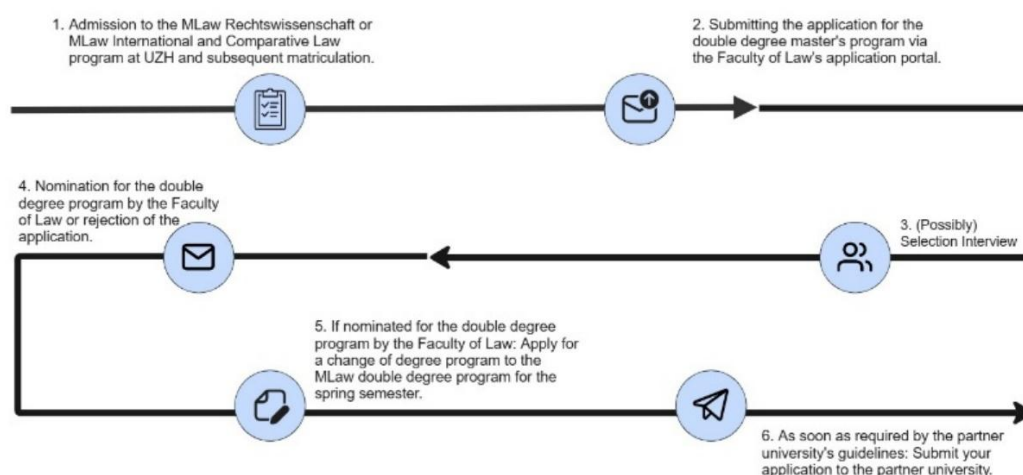
- Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALF)
- Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFL)

- Diplôme du Test de connaissance du français (TCF)

2.2 Special Admission Requirements

The individual partner faculties have specific admission requirements. Further information on the requirements of each partner university is available in the respective partner university flyer.

3. Application Procedure



3.1 Students with a Bachelor's Degree of RWF UZH

Students who have completed their bachelor's degree at RWF UZH and are already matriculated must complete the following steps:

1. Application for a Change of Degree Program:

Students request a change of degree program to Master of Law UZH (RVO 21), mono-study program Rechtswissenschaft or International and Comparative Law for the fall semester via the student portal. The change of

degree program must be requested within the relevant deadline. The Student Administration Office processes the application.

→ [Changing Degree and/or Study Program](#)

2. Examination of the Admission Requirements:

An examination of the formal and academic admission requirements is carried out. Students get a notification in the student portal about the result.

3. Application for a study place in the Double Degree Master's Program

Students apply for a study place in the double degree master's Program via the double degree application platform ([→link](#)). The application period begins on **the 1st of September and ends on the 13th of September** (11:59:PM).

Applications are only possible for the fall semester.

4. Allocation of a Study Place:

The decision on the allocation of study places for the double degree master's program will be made by the RWF UZH by mid-October. The decision will be communicated to the applicants by email.

5. Change of Study Program for the Spring Semester:

Students who have been allocated a place in a double degree master's program must request a change of degree program to the respective double degree master's program for the spring semester. In the application they must enclose the confirmation of the study place allocation. The application must be submitted via the student portal within the relevant deadline and will be then processed by the Student Administration Office.

[→ Changing Degree and/or Study Program](#)

Failure to request a change of degree program may result in the loss of the study place in the double degree master's program.

Applicants who cannot be allocated a study place at a partner faculty of the double degree master's programs remain matriculated in the respective Master of Law UZH for at least one semester and can, if desired, request withdrawal at the end of the fall semester. The application is made via the student portal and is processed by the Student Administration Office.

[→ Withdrawing from University](#)

3.2 Students who have not completed their Bachelor's Degree at the RWF UZH

The following application and admission process applies to students who have not completed their bachelor's degree at RWF UZH and who are not yet matriculated:

1. Application for the Master of Law UZH:

Students apply for the Master of Law UZH (RVO 21) degree program, mono-study program Rechtswissenschaft or International and Comparative Law for the fall semester via the application portal. The application must be

submitted within the relevant deadline. The Admissions Office processes the application.

[→ Admission to the Master's Program](#)

2. Examination of the admission requirements:

An examination of the formal and academic admission requirements is carried out. Questions about the admission process can be directed to the UZH Admissions Office. Students get a notification in the application portal about the result.

3. Application for a Study Place in the Double Degree Master's Program:

Students apply for a study place in the double degree master's Program via the double degree application platform. Please note that you can only submit an application once you have been officially admitted to the MLaw UZH program. The application period begins on **the 1st of September and ends on the 13th of September** (11:59:PM).

Applications are only possible for the fall semester.

4. Allocation of a Study Place:

The decision on the allocation of study places for the double degree master's program will be made by the RWF UZH by mid-October. The decision will be communicated to the applicants by email.

5. Change of Study Program for the Spring Semester:

Students who have been allocated a place in a double degree master's program must request a change of degree program to the respective double degree master's program for the spring semester. In the application they must enclose the confirmation of the study place allocation. The application must be submitted via the student portal within the relevant deadline and will be then processed by the Student Administration Office.

[→ Changing Degree and/or Study Program](#)

Failure to request a change of degree program may result in the loss of the study place in the double degree master's program.

Applicants who cannot be allocated a study place at a partner faculty of the double degree master's programs remain matriculated in the respective Master of Law UZH for at least one semester and can, if desired, request withdrawal at the end of the fall semester. The

application is made via the student portal and is processed by the Student Administration Office.

→ [Withdrawing from University](#)

3.3 Specifically: Application for a Study Place in a Double Degree Program at RWF UZH

After (conditional) admission to the master's program at UZH, applicants must submit a complete online application to the Office of the Vice Dean of Studies of RWF UZH via the double degree application platform ([→link](#)) including all relevant documents for allocation of a place in a double degree master's program. Applicants may apply for up to two partner universities, prioritizing their choice. Please note that each partner university can only be listed once. If you are interested in multiple study programs from the same faculty, you may elaborate on this in your motivation letter.

The application platform can be found on the following [RWF website](#) under 'Application, admission and allocation of study places' under 'Apply now'.

The following mandatory documents must be submitted online:

- Complete **application form** for the allocation of a place on a double degree master's program;
- **Letter of motivation** in the respective language of instruction of the partner faculty, for each desired partner faculty; your motivation letter should also outline your overall motivation for participating in the double degree program. Students who completed their Bachelor's degree at another university should additionally explain their motivation for pursuing their studies at UZH.
- **Curriculum vitae** (with photo) in the respective language of instruction of the desired partner faculty;
- **Copy of the bachelor's degree** (or Transcript of Records if the bachelor's degree has not yet been awarded);
- **Admission's letter to the master's program** by the UZH Admissions Office;
- **Copy of the passport or identity card**;

Proof of language skills (copy of online test results is sufficient for the application) (Exception: No proof is required for the Universiteit Maastricht, although providing one is advantageous.)

The following documents are optional:

- Proof of other relevant (i.e. legal) qualifications, e.g. work references, recommendation letters

3.4 Allocation of a Study Place

The respective Steering Committee of the Faculty of Law selects students on the basis of written applications and individual selection interviews. In case of sufficient qualification, the individual selection interview may not be necessary.

Study places are allocated based on the following criteria:

- **average grade of bachelor's degree** or previous academic achievements;
- knowledge of the **language of instruction**
- the **student's motivation** to study presented in the letter of motivation and during the interview; and
- **additional relevant qualifications** for the double degree master's program (e.g. work references, legal internships)

The **minimum requirements** are as follows:

- minimum average grade of 4.7 (or deviating requirements of the partner faculties); and
- Bachelor of Law degree within 5 years

The selection interview may be a decisive factor for the allocation of a study place. The provisional dates of the selection interviews are published in advance on the Internet. Please keep these dates available! The invitations to the individual selection interviews are sent by e-mail.

The final decision on the allocation of study places in a double degree master's program will be communicated to the applicants via e-mail by **mid-October**.

The allocation of a place in a double degree master's program by RWF UZH is subject to admission by the respective partner faculties. Applicants nominated for the double degree program undergo a further application or registration process at the partner universities, the details of which are determined by the respective partner faculty.*

**Exception: The LL.M. in Public International Law and LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law master's programs at the University of Amsterdam are selective and therefore subject to a separate additional selection process at the UvA. Students who are not admitted to one of these selective programs may be offered admission to the regular LL.M. program at the UvA..*

4. Module Selection at RWF UZH before the Allocation of Study Places

The official module booking deadline at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich (RWF UZH) ends before the final decision about allocation of a study place in the double degree program is made. The cancellation deadline, however, will not have passed by the time the study places are allocated. Students must therefore book their modules in a manner that allows them to continue their studies both in the event of allocations and in the event of a rejection. Once the decision about the allocation has been received, modules booked for the opposite outcome may be cancelled.

This brochure only provides a brief overview of the important points regarding module selection. For more detailed information and concrete examples, we recommend downloading the information video on module selection and booking from [our website](#).

4.1 Study Program Rechtswissenschaft

Compulsory modules of the single-degree master's program in Law that are not included in the double degree program may be credited there as elective modules. Students who wish to complete these compulsory modules **regardless** of whether they are allocated a study place in the double degree program or not may therefore book them directly, without the need to register for additional alternative modules.

Students who do not wish to complete these compulsory modules in the event of admission to the double degree program must, in parallel, book an equivalent number of ECTS credits in elective modules. If admission to the double degree program is granted, the previously booked compulsory modules may be cancelled and only the

elective modules completed. Modules can only be cancelled within the respective cancellation deadline.

However, cancellation is no longer possible for request and application modules and, in this context, also for the compulsory module "*Case Studies in Public Law*" in the master's program in Rechtswissenschaft. Students must therefore **decide bindingly** in advance (before knowing whether they have been allocated a place) whether they wish to complete the module.

If you intend to complete the case studies or another request and application module only in the event that you are not allocated a place in the double degree program, it is advisable not to book the module in the fall semester during which the application process takes place.

4.2 Study Program International and Comparative Law

In the single-degree program of International and Comparative Law (ICL), the elective pools are comparatively larger than in the double degree program International and Comparative Law. However, no additional core elective pools are introduced.

Students enrolled in the ICL can therefore easily complete their module selection without knowing whether or not they are allocated a place in the double degree program. The key is to ensure a balanced choice of modules so that the ECTS credits booked in each core elective pool do not exceed the maximum required for the double degree program. Alternatively, they can of course also book surplus modules and cancel some after receiving the space allocation.

5. Study Program at RWF UZH

5.1 Duration and start of studies

The double degree master's program generally lasts for four semesters. Students spend two semesters each at RWF UZH and at the partner faculty (exception: study program at the Berkeley School of Law).

The start of studies at RWF UZH is always in fall semester. It is not possible to start the program in spring semester.

Master's modules can be completed prior to the start of the double degree master's program, but the duration of studies is always **at least four semesters**, regardless of how many master's modules have already been completed.

5.2 Course Content

The study program at RWF UZH comprises study achievements in the amount of 60 ECTS credits according to the Study Regulations for the Double Degree Master's programs ([StudO DD RWF](#)).

Students at RWF UZH can choose between the two following study programs:

- Study program Rechtswissenschaft (mostly in German)
- Study program International and Comparative Law (exclusively in English)

The study program at the partner faculty is determined by the relevant regulations of the faculty in question. Coursework completed at the partner faculties is taken into account in the UZH degree by means of a general transfer of 30 ECTS credits. For information on the different study programs of the partner universities, please consult the websites of the respective partner universities.

In addition, you will find a flyer with a useful overview of the study program for each partner university on our [website](#).

5.3 Important Information Regarding Equivalent/Similar Modules

If students complete equivalent or similar modules at RWF UZH and at the partner faculty, these cannot be counted twice towards the course credits. Whether two modules are equivalent or similar is determined by their content. If equivalent or similar modules have nevertheless been completed, these ECTS-Credits will not be counted towards the degree, and the student must complete an additional module to achieve the missing ECTS-Credits. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he/she does not take equivalent or similar modules.

Overlapping courses

The list below shows which modules occur in both study programs (at RWF UZH and some of the partner universities) and may not be completed again because the content is equivalent or too similar.

The list is not exhaustive and subject to change. If you are unsure about two possibly similar modules not listed here, please contact the Student Centre using **the contact form**.

University of Amsterdam	UZH
International Human Rights Law	International Human Rights Law
International Trade Law	International Trade Regulation

KU Leuven	UZH
Constitutional Law of the EU*	European Institutions
EU Economic Law*	European Economic Law
The Law of the WTO	International Trade Regulation
(The Law of) International Organisations	International Organisations
International Criminal Law	International Criminal Law
International Arbitration	International Commercial Arbitration (+Workshop)
International and European Human Rights	International Human Rights

*Courses are part of the mandatory curriculum at KU Leuven

Maastricht University	UZH
Criminological Perspectives	Kriminologie/Criminology
Criminalistics and Forensics DNA	Kriminaltechnik - Naturwissenschaftliche Forensik und Rechtsmedizin
Forensic Psychopathology	Forensische Psychiatrie
International Dispute Settlement	Alternative Streitbeilegung International Commercial Arbitration
International Commercial Dispute Resolution	International Commercial Arbitration
International Dispute Settlement	Cross Border Litigation / Complex Procedure
International Humanitarian Law	Recht der Gewaltanwendung und humanitäres Völkerrecht

King's College London	UZH
International Commercial Arbitration	International Commercial Arbitration
	Moot Court in International Commercial Arbitration
Transnational & International Criminal Law	International Criminal Law
Human Rights Law: International & Transnational Perspectives	International Human Rights

5.4 Language

Classes and exams at RWF UZH take place in German and English or exclusively in English. Classes and exams at the partner faculties take place primarily in the language of instruction of the faculty in question

5.5 Enrollment and Study Fees

Students are principally regularly enrolled at RWF UZH during the whole program (at least four semesters). The tuition fees of RWF UZH are cancelled for the semesters spent at the partner faculty. The tuition fees at the partner faculty are determined by the relevant agreement of RWF UZH with the partner faculty. For more information on tuition fees at the partner faculties please also refer to the flyers on our website.

5.6 Application for the Master's Degree and Graduation

Double degree students can apply for their UZH master's degree in the fourth semester if they have successfully completed their study program in Zurich and at the partner university according to the StudO DD RWF. The date of conferral of the RWF UZH Master's diplomas depends on the awarding of diplomas by the partner faculties.

The study achievements at the partner university can be generally credited towards the degree with 30 ECTS Credits. Please submit the transcript of records from the partner faculty to the RWF UZH Student Centre immediately upon receipt via the contact form (subject: Recognition & Crediting: Double Degree Crediting). In addition, we require confirmation from the partner university of the successful completion of its study program. Please note the [deadlines](#) for submitting the request for transfer of credits as well as the deadline for applying for graduation. You can find more information about the process on our website [here](#).

Important notice: Students participating in the programme with our partner faculties are generally eligible to apply for graduation from the RWF UZH no earlier than the second graduation deadline.

6. FAQ

Can I still complete coursework/the master's thesis at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich while completing the semesters at the partner university?

During your stay at the partner faculty, you remain enrolled at the University of Zurich (UZH) and may continue to take modules offered by UZH. It is, however, your own

responsibility to ensure that you can attend the dates of courses and examinations despite being abroad. For Double Degree students abroad the regular conditions apply; no special adjustments are made.

In principle, it is also possible to write your master's thesis while at the partner university. In doing so, you must consider any potential attendance requirements, particularly for seminars, as well as the fact that research opportunities abroad may be limited and that a possible physical submission could involve organizational difficulties. The responsibility to make sure everything processes smoothly lies with you. In addition, you require the approval of your supervisor to ensure that completion under these conditions is feasible.

Is it possible to undertake an exchange semester while enrolled in a Double Degree Master's programme? Can credits earned during an exchange be transferred to the Double Degree Master's programme?

Students enrolled in a Double Degree programme are not eligible to participate in an exchange programme or exchange semester during their Double Degree studies. Credits earned during an exchange undertaken prior to the start of the Double Degree programme cannot be transferred towards the Double Degree Master's degree.

Can I submit my language certificate after the application deadline if I don't have it yet?

Generally, this is not possible. If a language certificate is required and missing at the time of application, you should expect your application to be rejected. Please ensure that all required documents are submitted before the deadline.

Do I need to submit a language certificate if English is my native language?

As a rule, all students applying to a partner university with language requirements must submit the corresponding language certificate. Native speakers are only exempt if they provide written confirmation from the partner university stating that no language certificate is required in their specific case. Obtaining such confirmation is the sole responsibility of the student. This also applies to all other cases in which an exemption from the language requirement is possible.

Do the credits earned at the partner university count toward my final grade average at UZH?

The study program successfully completed at the partner faculty will be accredited at RWF UZH with a general accreditation of **30 ECTS credits**. These credits are recorded as “passed” without a grade. Consequently, they do not contribute to the calculation of the final grade average at UZH.

Do I need to complete the study program at the Faculty of Law (RWF UZH) before going to the partner university, or can I return afterwards to finish the program?

You may return to the Faculty of Law at UZH for one or more semesters after your stay abroad if you have not completed the study program before your time at the partner university. Please note the maximum study period of five years in the double degree program according to §13 RVO RWF DD.

If I have already completed some master’s modules during my bachelor studies at UZH, can I apply directly for the double degree year abroad?

It is not possible to apply directly for the year abroad. While it is possible to apply for the double degree program even if you have already completed a considerable number of master’s modules in advance, you must still complete one year at UZH before beginning your stay abroad. The program cannot be shortened; the duration of study is always four semesters from the time of admission.

Can I also take the compulsory modules of the single-degree master’s program in Rechtswissenschaft within the double degree program?

Yes, in the Double Degree program you may also take compulsory modules. If you are completing the double degree with the study program *Rechtswissenschaft*, these modules can be accredited as elective modules toward your degree. Accreditation is not possible if you are completing the double degree with the study program *International and Comparative Law*, as the compulsory modules are taught in German.

Please note:

- Failed attempts in compulsory modules taken within the double degree program count toward the maximum number of failed attempts permitted for elective modules.
- The general repetition rules apply: a compulsory module may be attempted no more than three times, even within the double degree program.

- Failed attempts remain in effect, even if you change study program (regardless whether you are changing from the single to the double degree program or the other way around).
- Three failed attempts in a compulsory module taken as an elective in the double degree program do not result in exclusion from the double degree program, but they do prevent you from switching back to the single degree program.

7. Website

This brochure does not claim to be exhaustive. Please also consult our website on the double degree master’s programs. The website contains further useful information and is updated regularly.

8. Contact

If you have any questions about the Double Degree Master’s programs, please contact the Student Center RWF via [contact form](#) or book a [consultation hour](#) (Wednesday, 9.00h – 12.00h, online) with the coordinators of the double degree program.

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