

Master of Law University of Bern

European and International Law



*Build your own curriculum from an excellent choice of academic activities.
Earn credit points in a great variety of courses, seminars and Moot Courts.
Take advantage of a unique partnership with other universities.*

You have acquired a solid knowledge of your domestic legal system. Now is your chance to delve deeper into the legal field of your interest.

We offer you an outstanding curriculum in European and International Law. Many of our international law courses are already taught in English and the number is increasing. Whether you plan to specialise in domestic, European or international law, one tendency holds true for all legal fields: law increasingly communicates within an integrated system of global governance. Legal provisions with a cross-border impact are on the rise. The flow of goods, capital, services and people across borders leaves no field of law untouched. There is hardly any legal discipline which is not partly regulated by international treaties or indeed an international organisation. Constitutional basic rights are overlapped by the United Nations human rights covenants and the European Convention on Human Rights. National economic law is invariably dependent upon the overarching trade framework of the WTO and various free trade agreements. International law courses open up new horizons on norms, strategies and institutions that also help to understand choices to be made in domestic law better. This international interdependence is most visible in the relationship between Switzerland and the European Union. Their bilateral treaties fall under the domain of public international law. Switzerland has followed a policy of making its laws compatible with European Community legislation since 1988. Today, Swiss economic law can hardly be understood and developed without reference to European law.

A tendency in legal development often evolves within the framework of international organisations and the ensuing negotiations. New developments in human rights law, environmental law, economic law and criminal law emerge from the international stage. Conversely, principles which are common to many domestic legal systems around the world keep penetrating international law. They enrich it and support it in the quest for stability and predictability.

Today's legal world resembles a multi-storey house of highly interdependent levels. Within this house, the domestic and regional legal systems occupy only two storeys. They share the same building with communal law below and international law above them. It is not just for reasons of good neighbourliness that they interact with each other, but also to obtain mutual benefits. Whether you pursue a career in legal practice, diplomacy, administration or in an international organisation – only understanding European and International law will thoroughly prepare you to tackle the challenges which face the legal profession and the world at large.

Find a portrait of the University of Bern [here](#).

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Curriculum

Students enjoy great latitude in designing their course of study. Some students take a varied curriculum with courses ranging from intellectual property to anti-trust law to the protection of human rights.

Your reference guide throughout your studies in Bern will be the publication *Jus Bulletin* available in pdf [here](#), or in print at the university bookshop in the main building. Courses take place in the spring and autumn semester. Every course takes place at least once within three semesters. Note, that in the *Jus Bulletin* you will find only those courses which are held in the current semester. The following list, however, links all courses to the host institute's course website, where you will find detailed information. The language used in the following list indicates the course's language of instruction. The numbers (5 and 10) refer to the ECTS credit points. Following is a selection of courses with an international thrust:

Up-to-date online information on individual lecture, choose lecture listed below, then select *term* → + *Rechtswiss.Fakultät* → + *Masterstudium* → select *Department or Seminar*

Courses:

[International Environmental Law, 5](#)
[International Trade Regulation \(WTO law\), 10](#)
[International Negotiations, 10](#)
[The International and European Law on Climate Change, 5](#)
[The International Intellectual Property System, 10](#)
[International Humanitarian Law, 5](#)
[Selected Topics in International Economic Law, 5](#)
[International Law of Contemporary Media, 5](#)
[European and International Rail Transport Law, 5](#)
[Air Law, 5](#)
[Europarecht I \(Verfassungsrecht EU\), 5](#)
[Europarecht II \(Wirtschaftsrecht EU\), 5](#)
[Fallbesprechungen zu Europarecht I und II, je 5](#)
[Europarecht in der Schweiz, 5](#)
[Internationales Zivilprozessrecht, 10](#)
[Rechtsvergleichung im Privat- und Wirtschaftsrecht, 10](#)
[Internationales Privatrecht I und II, 10 und 5](#)
[Internationales Insolvenzrecht, 5](#)
[Europäisches und internationales Strafrecht, 5](#)
[Internationaler Menschenrechtsschutz, 10](#)
[Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention, 5](#)
[Schweizerisches und Europäisches Kartellrecht, 10](#)
[Europäisches Gesellschaftsrecht, 5](#)

[Internationale Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit, 5](#)
[Das Recht internationaler Organisationen, 5](#)
[Völkerstrafrecht, 5](#)
[Internationales Wirtschaftsstrafrecht, 5](#)
[Internationale Rechtshilfe, 5](#)
[Internationales Steuerrecht, 5](#)
[Internationale Kriminalpolitik, 5](#)
[Völkerrecht, 10](#)
[Ethik für Juristen, 5](#)

Seminars:

[Global Governance, 5](#)
[Comparative Constitutional Law, 5](#)
[Seminar in Public International Law, 5](#)
[Wirtschaftsseminar im Rahmen des Departements für Wirtschaftsrecht, 5](#)
[Seminar im Völkerstrafrecht, 5](#)
[Schweizerisches und Europäisches Konsumentenrecht, 5](#)
[Rechtsphilosophie, 5](#)
[Internationales Vertragsrecht, 5](#)
[Berner Rechtsdebatten, 5](#)
[Seminar im Europarecht, 5](#)
[Willem C. Vis Vienna Arbitration Moot Court, 15](#)
[Moot Court in WTO Law 10](#)

Additionally, you may take courses at Bern's close-by partner universities of Fribourg and Neuchâtel, within the BENEFRI programme. Learn more about the programme on the last page of this document. For courses in European and International Law within BENEFRI, contact the website of the European Institute of the University of Fribourg at <http://www.unifr.ch/euroinstitut>.

Neuchâtel

Rhétorique, 5
Modes amiables de gestion des conflits, 5
Droit international public approfondi (ONU, maintien de la paix), 5
Droit des migrations, 5
Droit de l'OMS et santé public, 5
Propriété Intellectuelle, développement et santé public, 5
PI, biotechnologies et technologies de l'information, 5
Organisation du sport suisse et international, 5
Arbitrage international, 5
Droit de la santé, dopage et sport, 5
Successions internationales, 5
European Law Moot Court Competition, 10
Concours René Cassin (droits de l'homme), 10
Concours Jean Pictet (droit humanitaire), 10

Fribourg

Transnational litigation, 5
International Commercial Contracts, 5
Comparative Constitutional Law and Theory of State, 5
Bilaterale Verträge Schweiz - EU, 5
WTO und Menschenrechte, 5
Rechtsschutz in der EU, 5
Streitbeilegung im Völkerrecht, 5
Contentieux européen, 5
Résolution internationale des disputes commercial, 5
Droit fiscal international et européen, 5
La suisse et le droit international, 5
Les institutions européennes en contexte, 5
L'effectivité des droits de l'homme, 5
Moot Court CEDH (droits de l'homme), 5

The University of Bern



The University of Bern was founded in 1834. The historic roots of the university, however, date back to the founding of an institution of higher learning at the local Abbey in 1523, where law was added to the theological background in the 18th century. In 1903, the faculty of law moved into the main university building - overlooking the city. In 1908, Albert Einstein received his habilitation in physics from the University of Bern.

The Faculty of Law

The faculty of law has a strong reputation for the quality of its teaching staff, who are leading scholars in their fields. Many of the faculty's institutes are internationally recognised for their research activities. Find a list of all the faculty departments and institutes [here](#).

Besides the Bachelor and the Master programmes, the faculty of law also offers LL.M (Legum Magister) and DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies in Law) programmes. Find more information [here](#).

[The School of Criminology](#), International Criminal Law and Psychology of Law has its own postgraduate programme. [The Center of Competence for Public Management](#) also has its own postgraduate programme.

[The World Trade Institute](#) (WTI) of the University of Bern is a world leading academic institution, with practical impact, dedicated to the regulation of international trade and economics. The WTI follows a multidisciplinary approach – fusing law, economics and international relations. Find the WTI's brochure [here](#). The WTI hosts its own Master degree in Law and Economics (MILE). Find out more about MILE [here](#). Additionally, the WTI offers a [distance learning programme](#) on international trade regulation. The WTI is also the host institution of the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) on International Trade Regulation. Find out more about NCCR [here](#). The WTI shares its state-of-the-art research facilities with the Institute of European and International Economic Law.

Libraries

The law library, located in the main university building stocks an outstanding selection of books, journals and jurisprudence. The WTI hosts the leading Swiss library on international trade law and economics. Legal publications and reading space can also be found at the university's main library, located in the historic old town, or at the close-by National Library.

Public Events, Brown Bag Seminars

Find the agenda on the lunchtime “brown bag” seminars [here](#).

Summer Academy

Find out about the WTI's summer courses On International Trade and WTO law [here](#) .

Student housing

Find information on student housing [here](#) or organise individually.

Sports and Culture

See what the university's sport facilities, and trainings have to offer, [here](#).

A selection of cultural events can be found [here](#).

Links

[University of Bern](#)
[City of Bern](#)

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General Information

MLaw

The Master of Law University of Bern is awarded upon completion of 70 – 80 credit points and a Master thesis of 20 credit points. The full Master programme usually takes three semesters. Entry is possible in spring and autumn. A course is completed with an exam an oral presentation and/or a written paper, depending on the course requirements. Credits are awarded in 5 points for a two-hour and 10 points for a four-hour per week course. Seminars usually amount to 5 credits, Moot Courts to 10. The languages of instruction are English and German in Bern and additionally French at the BENEFRRI partner institutions.

If you do your whole Master degree in Bern you may choose to specialise in a particular field of study and accordingly receive a “mention of specialisation” with your Master diploma. In order to acquire this mention of specialisation, a number of courses from your area of specialisation are compulsory. Find more information [here](#).

LL.M. and DAS

You need 60 credit points for the LL.M. and 42 credit points for the DAS University of Bern. Find out more (page 4 onwards), [here](#).

Doctoral Studies

As a rule, you must meet the criteria for eligibility at the institution where you received your Master degree or equivalent. Additionally, you have to be admitted to the University of Bern. Find more information [here](#).

Exams

Register for exams and find results on the “[ePUB](#)” website.

Orientation

Find class rooms [here](#). Find a plan of the university facilities [here](#).

Admission

MLaw: As a rule you must hold a Bachelor degree in law from a Swiss university or an equivalent degree.

LL.M.: You must hold a Master degree from a Swiss university or equivalent degree. Find more information [here](#).

Application

Find all regular application forms [here](#). Find the application deadlines [here](#).

Exchanges

Erasmus and International

Erasmus students can find all relevant information from the law faculty, [here](#), and the International Office, [here](#).

Find our partner institutions [here](#), or organise your exchange individually. Find further information [here](#).

BENEFRRI Partnership Universities of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchâtel

The partnership between the University of Bern and the Universities of Fribourg and Neuchâtel is called BENEFRRI. The three universities are geographically close-by. If you are enrolled at one of these universities – as a regular or as an exchange student – you may take courses in Bern and vice versa. If you are enrolled at Bern and take courses in Fribourg or Neuchâtel, you will receive the same amount of credits as you would for courses with similar requirements in Bern (5 or 10 points). For detailed information on all courses, consult the websites of these universities directly: [Fribourg](#) and [Neuchâtel](#). All students are eligible to take part in BENEFRRI. Find the application form with the deadlines, [here](#).

Swiss Mobility

Students from a Swiss university outside the BENEFRRI network who wish to to study in Bern for one or two semesters find information [here](#).

Scholarships

Find information on scholarships [here](#). For Erasmus, [here](#).

Faculty Laws and Regulations

Find information on the dean's website, [here](#).

Contact

Find reception hours and contact details of the dean's office and secretariat [here](#).

For Erasmus, contact the International Office, [here](#).

Address

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www.rechtswissenschaft.unibe.ch