

## **1. Introduction**

The Liberal Arts & Sciences: Global Challenges honours program offered by Leiden University College The Hague (LUC) is very appealing to students who want to work in the world of international justice. The major International Justice gives students ample opportunity to study law in its global context. However, as such, it does not allow them to practice law, for example, as an attorney/barrister/solicitor (*advocaat*), judge or prosecutor in The Netherlands. Moreover, the entry requirements for certain legal jobs within international and regional organisations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, as well as at international courts and tribunals, include that candidates need to have a degree that qualifies them to enrol at the bar in one of the organisations' member states. Furthermore, certain Master of Law programs (LL.M) require applicants to have obtained an Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B.), though often exceptions exist for students having majored in IJ.

For students who are interested in pursuing a career path with a focus on practicing law, LUC and Leiden Law School (LLS) offer the Double Degree Studies Program (DDS), which allow students to obtain both an B.A. and LL.B degrees. This program allows students to get exemptions of study credits in both degrees, based on similar courses obtained in the other program. The double degree can be obtained through **two different pathways**:

- **Concurrent double degree path**, in which LUC students start their LL.B degree while they are completing their LA&S at the LUC.
- **Consecutive double degree path**, in which LUC students obtain their LL.B degree after completing their LA&S at the LUC.

## **2. Applying to the Double Degree Studies Program**

### **2.1. Concurrent double degree path**

The concurrent double degree is designed to allow students to pursue two degrees at the same time: a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences (majoring in International Justice) and an LL.B degree from LLS. The LA&S degree is considered the primary degree, which students must follow fulltime (Article 2.4 LUC Course and Examination Regulations - OER) and the LL.B. a part-time degree. Students enrolled in the concurrent path will start their LL.B during the second semester of year 1 or 2 at LUC and, depending on their trajectory, can complete the LL.B degree 1 or 2 years after completing their LA&S B.A..<sup>1</sup>

The concurrent path is open to LUC students who:

- have been successfully admitted to and are registered at LUC;
- are majoring in International Justice;
- have minimum 3.0 GPA and did not fail any course at the end of their first year at the LUC;<sup>2</sup>
- are fluent in Dutch and successfully pass a language test during the LLS program (including Dutch students).

There is no nationality requirement.

Moreover, students wishing to enrol in the concurrent path should be able to organize their work well, work independently and be able to work in two different educational environments at the same time.

---

<sup>1</sup> Students that apply during their second year benefit from fewer exemptions at LUC, as in the meantime they will complete some of the courses for which they would have obtained exemptions.

<sup>2</sup> Those with a GPA lower than 3.0 who intend to apply can request an exemption with a letter of motivation.

*Application* - LUC students start their enrolment process in the DDS program during their first or second year at LUC. To initiate their application to the DDS program, the interested students shall email the DDS Coordinator by **30 November**, and include their name, student number, and intention to apply (DDS Coordinator: Bernardo Ribeiro de Almeida - [b.ribeiro.de.almeida@luc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:b.ribeiro.de.almeida@luc.leidenuniv.nl)).

After their initial application, the interested students must take part in the *Inleiding Bestuursrecht (Introduction to Administrative Law)* course at LLS during their first year at LUC (block 3 or 4) as a trial course to test their suitability to the DDS. The students who successfully complete the *Inleiding Bestuursrecht* course are eligible to register for the LL.B. part-time program, which will start in September of the subsequent year. Students must follow the regular process of applying to the LLS, through the Studielink.<sup>3</sup>

In order to participate in the Double Degree Studies program, LUC students who have been admitted to LLS have to submit the following documents to the LUC Double Degree Studies Coordinator:

- a transcript of LUC grades, showing a minimum GPA of 3.0, and no course failed; and
- the transcript of the trial course which they have completed at LLS

The deadline for the submission of these documents is **30 June** of the academic year. Students will be notified of the outcome of their application **by 15 July**.

*Scheduling* - Selected students are enrolled in the LL.B. programme as part-time students and attend evening classes in order to avoid scheduling conflicts with LUC courses.

*Rules* - For each program, its own Rules and Regulations apply, in particular, the requirements for the Binding Study Advice (BSA) (45 EC for LUC; 30 EC for part-time study LLS).

*Discontinuation* - Students can at any time discontinue their participation in the DDS program. The courses which they successfully finished at the LLS count towards their elective space at LUC, to a maximum of 30ECs. If a student decides to discontinue their DDS, they must inform the DDS Coordinator, their study advisor at LUC, and their study advisor at LLS. They also must deregister from the LLS program.

*Information* - The current DDS coordinator is Bernardo Almeida ([b.ribeiro.de.almeida@luc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:b.ribeiro.de.almeida@luc.leidenuniv.nl)). Students can address questions regarding their study plan to their study advisors at the LUC and LLS, and to the course administration at LUC.

## **2.2. Concurrent double degree path**

The concurrent double degree path allows students to pursue their LL.B degree in an accelerated fashion after obtaining their LA&S. In this case, they can typically finish their LL.B degree approximately 2 years after their LA&S. The advantages of the slow path is a lower workload during their LA&S program and a course reduction during their LL.B. The main disadvantage is to not benefit from course exemptions for their LA&S B.A.

*Application* – students should apply to the LL.B. program at Leiden Law School through the normal path, and subsequently request exemptions given by the Law School for their LA&S courses. To this end, it is recommended that students first approach their LLS study advisor to help with this process. Subsequently, students should request any exemptions from the Board of Examiners of LLS.

---

<sup>3</sup> Leiden University strongly advises to apply before 1 May for the following academic year.

### 3. Course exemptions

Students enrolled in the DDS can normally obtain exemptions for these courses:

- **Introduction to Socio-Legal Studies** (LUC) can be replaced by ***Oriëntatievak: Grondslagen van het Recht*** (LLS).
- **Sovereignty & Statehood** (LUC) can be replaced by ***Beginselen van de Democratische Rechtsstaat*** (LLS).
- ***Inleiding Internationaal Publiekrecht*** (LLS) can be replaced by **Principles of Public International Law** (LUC).
- ***Methoden en technieken van de Rechtswetenschap*** (LLS) can be replaced by **Research Design in International Justice** (LUC).
- **Advocacy & Litigation** (LUC) can be replaced by **Moot Court** (LLS).<sup>4</sup>
- ***Europees Recht*** (LLS) can be replaced by **Comparative Legal and Economic Integration** (LUC).
- **Three 300-level electives at LLS** can be replaced by three of the following courses at the LUC:
  - o **Transitional Justice**
  - o **Global Security and Collective Action**
  - o **Vulnerability, Gender and the Ethics of Care**
  - o **Digital Technology and International Law**
  - o **International Criminal Law**
  - o **Law, Governance and Development**
  - o **Making Human Rights Work**
  - o **Foreign Relations Law**
  - o **Feminist Philosophy**
- ***Inleiding Europees Recht*** (LLS) can be replaced by **Structure and Functioning of the EU** (LUC).
- **Three 200-level electives at the LLS** can be replaced by three of the following courses at the LUC:
  - o **Law, Culture and Society**
  - o **Gender, Media and conflict**
  - o **Constitutions and Constitutionalism**
  - o **Gender and Development**
  - o **Political and Economic Foundations of Law**
  - o **International Humanitarian Law**
  - o **International & Regional Human Rights**
  - o **International Environmental Law**
  - o **Security and Rights**
  - o **Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality**
  - o **International Dispute Settlement**
- ***Bachelorscriptie*** (LLS, year 3, sem 2) can be replaced by **Capstone (on legal topic)** (LUC).

**Example 1:** A student enrolled in the DDS does not take the LUC course Introduction Socio-Legal Studies. Instead, they receive an exemption for that course at LUC, based on taking the LL.B course *Oriëntatievak: Grondslagen van het recht* at the LLS.

**Example 2:** A student enrolled in the DDS does not take the LL.B. course *Inleiding Internationaal Publiekrecht*. Instead, they receive an exemption for that course in the LL.B. programme, based on taking the LUC course Principles of Public international law.

<sup>4</sup> Note that Moot Court is taught later in semester 2. If taken during the last year of LUC, the grading period of Moot Court can delay your LUC graduation.

From the following courses at LLS, at most 40 EC of the following courses can count towards the LUC degree, and at most 15 EC can be at 100-level:

- **Onderneming en Recht (10 EC)**
- **Bestuursrecht**
- **Rechtseconomie**
- **Arbeidsrecht / Personen- en familierecht**
- **Moot Court**
- **Materieel strafrecht (10 EC)**
- **Staatsrecht**
- **Inleiding Recht**
- **Beginselen van de Democratische Rechtsstaat**
- **Inleiding Burgerlijk Recht (10 EC)**
- **Inleiding Strafrecht**
- **Inleiding Bestuursrecht**
- **Oriëntatievak: Grondslagen van het Recht / Oriëntatievak: Entrepreneurship and Management**
- **Romeins recht**
- **Belastingrecht**
- **Verbintenissenrecht (10 EC)**
- **Goederenrecht**
- **Burgerlijk Procesrecht**
- **Strafprocesrecht (10 EC)**
- **Bestuursprocesrecht**
- **Vergelijkend en Internationaal Privaatrecht / Rechtsfilosofie II**

*Example:* A DDS student does not take the LUC course 'Elective I'. Instead, they receive an exemption for that course in the LUC programme, based on taking the LL.B. course *Inleiding bestuursrecht*.

Students in the Double Degree Studies can use LLS courses to fill their electives: up to 45 EC in total, starting with the 30 EC elective space and expanding, if need be, with the 15 EC in the LUC elective space.

Per degree the break down looks like this:

	LUC	Exempted based on LLB courses
First year programm	40 EC	
LUC elective space	15 EC	10 EC
Major	85 EC	15 EC
Elective space	30 EC	30EC
Global citizenship	10 EC	
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 EC</b>	<b>55EC</b>
<i>of which in LUC programme</i>	<i>125 EC</i>	

#### 4. Registration of Results

Courses can only count towards one of the two degrees, which means that courses are registered at one of the programm. Exemptions at the LL.B. program are granted on the basis of similar courses at LUC. This means:

- For the courses listed as possible exemptions above, an exemption will be given.
- For the other courses, LUC creates 'Elective' ('keuzevak') as a course unit in uSis. Students in the LL.B. program are then exempted from this course.
- No course title or level is listed besides 'keuzevak', and no result is registered.

- Exemptions need to be requested at the end of the academic year from the LUC Board of Examiners. Please contact the study advisors to go through the procedure.

## 5. Study abroad

Students enrolled in the DDS program cannot obtain credits from studying abroad. They are allowed to apply via LUC or LLS, but all exchange credits will be regarded as extracurricular.

Approved in August 2024 by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hanne Cuyckens', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Hanne Cuyckens, on behalf of the LUC College Board

The Leiden University College The Hague