



### **Terms of Reference, evaluation of Legal Research in Norway (JUREVAL)**

The board of the Faculty of Law, University of Bergen (UiB) mandates the assessment committee appointed by the Research Council of Norway chaired by Professor Henrik Palmer Olsen (Copenhagen University) to assess the Faculty of Law based on the following Terms of Reference.

#### **Assessment**

You are being asked to assess the quality of research and its relevance for education and wider society of the research conducted by the Faculty of Law as well as its strategic targets and the extent to which it is equipped to achieve them. You should do so by judging the unit's performance on three assessment criteria (a. to c.) below. Be sure to take into account current international trends and developments in science and society in your analysis.

- a. research production and quality;
- b. relevance for education;
- c. societal relevance;

For a description of these criteria, see Section 2 of the JUREVAL protocol. Please provide a written assessment on each of the three criteria. Please also provide recommendations for improvement. We ask you to pay special attention to the following 4 aspects below in your assessment:

1. The University of Bergen is organised into seven faculties, each of which is comprised of a diversity of disciplinary perspectives and academic cultures. Organised legal teaching has been offered since 1969. The faculty was established in 1980 and is organised as one research unit divided into several thematic researcher groups. We are one of three faculties in Norway offering a 5-year integrated master's degree based on a broad research portfolio within a variety of legal areas. Bound by our social contract to educate legal practitioners we put great resources, administrative and academic, into managing a large master's program, as well as an integrated research-based master. Our strategic efforts during the evaluation period have been aimed at strengthening basic research within traditional Law disciplines, as well as developing interdisciplinary research collaborations on a regional, national, and international level. We build on UiB's extensive experience in joint projects and profile as an internationalized institution with deep regional and national engagement. Our efforts must be seen in relation to the specific geographical, economical, and institutional preconditions, including the particular national/Nordic alignment of the institution.
2. In the strategic period 2001-2015 the Faculty's ambition has been to strengthen traditional research fields such as criminal law and criminal justice; the rule of law and democracy; competition law and the law of the markets; and the law of property and obligations.



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3. During the current strategic period (2015-2022) we are aiming to make research fields within Law visible as significant contributors to relevant research milieus and to knowledge-based sustainable social development. In this regard, we have incorporated UiB's three strategic areas - marine research, climate and energy transformation and global challenges – in our project planning and researcher group activities.
4. During both strategic periods we have encouraged young researchers to engage in basic research and the Faculty has aimed to produce several high-quality PhD dissertations influencing basic research at the faculty and beyond.

In addition, we would like your report to provide a qualitative assessment of the Faculty of Law as a whole in relation to its strategic targets. The committee assesses the strategy that the research unit intends to pursue in the years ahead and the extent to which it will be capable of meeting its targets in research and society during this period based on available resources and competencies. The committee is also invited to make recommendations concerning these two subjects. Finally, the committee is asked to make a reflection on matters of research integrity and diversity as defined in section 2 of the JUREVAL protocol.

## **Documentation**

The necessary documentation will be made available by the JUREVAL secretariat at NIFU chaired by Research professor Vera Schwach (vera.schwach@nifu.no)

The documents will include at least the following:

- report with standardised analyses and indicators provided by the Research Council of Norway
- self-assessment based on a template provided by the JUREVAL secretariat at NIFU
- Report from the national committee for research line pilots (commissioned by the Research Council of Norway). The Faculty of Law, UiB, participated in the pilot together with veterinary medicine, NMBU; Psychology, UiT; Engineering, NTNU; and Informatics, UiO. The integrated research-based master has since become a permanent study programme at the Faculty of Law, UiB.

## **Interviews with representatives from the evaluated units**

Interviews with the Faculty of Law, UiB will be organised by the evaluation secretariat at NIFU. Such interviews may be organised as a site visit, in another specified location in Norway or as a video conference



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## **Statement of impartiality and confidence**

The assessment should be performed in accordance with the *Regulations on Impartiality and Confidence in the Research Council of Norway*. A statement of the impartiality of the committee members has been recorded by the Research Council of Norway as a part of the appointment process. The impartiality and confidence of committee members should be confirmed when evaluation data from the Faculty of Law is made available to the committee and before any assessments are being made based on these data. RCN should be notified if questions of impartiality are raised by committee members during the evaluation process.

## **Assessment report**

We ask you to report your findings in an assessment report drawn up in accordance with a format specified in the attached template. The committee may suggest minor adjustments to this format at its first meeting 23 September. A draft report should be sent to the the Faculty of Law and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) by 15. September 2021. The Faculty of Law will check the report for factual inaccuracies; if such inaccuracies are detected, they will be reported to the committee and to RCN no later than two weeks after reception of the draft report. After you have made the amendments judged necessary, a corrected version of the assessment report should be sent to the board of the Faculty of Law, UiB and the RCN no later than two weeks after all feedback on inaccuracies are received from the Faculty of Law.

Finally, the assessment committee is asked to provide an assessment of Norwegian legal research at the national level in a separate report paying specific attention to:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the discipline in an international context;
- General resource situation regarding funding, personnel and infrastructure;
- PhD-training, recruitment, mobility and diversity;
- Research cooperation nationally and internationally;
- Alignment of research capacity and educational activities
- Societal impact and the functions of the disciplines in society.

This national level assessment should be presented to the evaluated units and RCN within 15 September 2021.