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LLM399 Master's Thesis – Instruks for veiledning, sensur og gjennomføring av justerende muntlig

SU vedtok i sak 42/25 endringer i emnebeskrivelsen for LLM399 Master's Thesis, gjeldende fra våren 2026. Den reviderte emnebeskrivelsen viser til følgende instruks:

- Instructions for Conducting and Assessing the Adjusting Oral Exam in LLM399 Master's Thesis
- Instructions for Supervision in LLM399 Master's Thesis
- Instructions for Assessing the Written Assignment in JUS399 Master's Thesis

Forslag til instruks ligger vedlagt.

Masteroppgaveemnet i LLM-programmet skal så langt det lar seg gjøre ta utgangspunkt i og harmonisere med JUS392 Masteroppgave. Forslagene til disse instruksene bygger derfor på den engelske oversettelsen av tilsvarende instruks vedtatt for JUS392, med tilpasninger for LLM399 Master's Thesis.

Instruksene ble lagt frem for studieutvalget 19. november 2025. SU uttaler:

Studieutvalget oppfordrer fakultetsstyret til å vedta instruksene for LLM399 Master's Thesis, med virkning fra våren 2026.

Ettersom instruksene er styrende dokumenter som regulerer vurderingspraksis og kvalitetssikring i LLM-programmet, legges instruksene nå frem for styret.

Dekan og fakultetsdirektørs merknader:

Dekan og fakultetsdirektør finner de fremlagte forslagene til Instruks for veiledning, sensur og gjennomføring av justerende muntlig godt begrunnet og slutter seg til disse ved å fremme følgende

forslag til vedtak:

Fakultetsstyret vedtar instruksene for LLM399 Master's Thesis, med virkning fra våren 2026.

Studieutvalget får fullmakt til å gjøre fremtidige justeringer i instruksene.

Sigrid Eskeland Schütz
dekan

Øystein L. Iversen
fakultetsdirektør

26.11.2025
NIKA/MAMØ

Instructions for Conducting and Assessing the Adjusting Oral Examination in LLM399 Master's Thesis

In the course [LLM399 Master's Thesis](#) (30 ECTS), the final grade is determined based on the written thesis and an adjusting oral examination. The oral exam is described under "Assessment Methods" in the course description. These instructions provide supplementary guidance for conducting the oral exam and determining the final grade.

The primary purpose of the oral examination is to confirm the final grade in borderline cases and to verify that the impression given by the written thesis regarding the student's independent work is accurate.

Preliminary Grade and Oral Exam Preparation

Within four weeks after the submission deadline, examiners must agree on a preliminary grade and register it in Inspira. After agreeing on the preliminary grade, examiners should plan the oral exam, including the questions to be asked. Both examiners must attend the oral exam, but they may agree that one will take the lead in conducting the questioning.

Time for Conducting the Oral Exam and Deadlines

After registering the preliminary grade, one of the examiners schedules a secure digital meeting in Teams or Zoom and invites the co-examiner and the student. The invitation and meeting link must be sent to the student by email, with the co-examiner copied, using the template provided by the faculty. The invitation must be sent no later than two working days before the oral exam.

The deadline for registering the final grade (protocol deadline) is six weeks after the submission deadline.

The oral exam must take place within the last three weeks before this deadline. For a thesis submitted in the autumn semester, the oral exam should not be held earlier than week 2.

The oral exam should normally be scheduled during regular working hours (08:00–16:00). Examiners may schedule exams between 16:00–20:00 on weekdays but must inform the student that they have the right to request an appointment within regular hours. Students may not decline a scheduled time within regular hours unless they can provide documentation for a valid reason for absence.

If the thesis was submitted as a group project, the invitation and meeting link must be sent to both students simultaneously.

If the student fails to attend the oral exam, the study administration must be notified immediately. The student is responsible for contacting the administration and providing documentation for valid absence. In all cases, a new exam time must be arranged with the examiners. If the absence is not

considered valid, the grade cannot be finalized. As stated under “Forms of Assessment” in the course description, no final grade can be awarded without completion of the oral examination.

Duration

As a general rule, the oral examination shall last up to 30 minutes, or up to 45 minutes if the thesis has been submitted as group work. In the case of group work, the examiners shall ensure that the time is distributed approximately equally between the two students

Conducting the Oral Exam

Both examiners and student(s) must have their cameras on throughout the exam. The session must not be recorded.

Before starting, the examiners must verify the student’s identity using their student ID. The faculty will provide the student’s ID number in advance.

The exam begins with a short presentation by the student (maximum five minutes) covering the main research question, why they chose the topic, and their most important findings. For group submissions, the presentation may last up to 10 minutes, divided between the students.

Questioning should be based on the submitted thesis and the course learning outcomes. Students may be asked about the research question(s), related issues within the same or connected fields, and relevant methodological considerations. The oral exam is not a test of general knowledge in the subject area. Students may also be asked about their approach to source searches and to reflect on their work process. The oral exam may additionally be used to confirm that the thesis is independent work and follows the principles of academic integrity, including questions about the use of others’ work and any use of AI tools.

Grade Assessment and explanation of grade

After the oral exam, the student leaves the digital meeting while the examiners agree on the final grade (which may be adjusted by one grade up or down) and the main points of the explanation of grade.

The assessment should be based on the course learning outcomes. Of particular relevance is the student’s ability to “give an oral presentation of the main research question(s) and findings in the thesis, and participate in an academic discussion about these and related issues,” as well as their ability to “communicate extensive independent work in a clear and precise manner.” Examiners should emphasize the student’s capacity for independent reflection, especially regarding methodological issues. Adherence to the time limit for the initial presentation may also be considered.

The student is then invited back into the digital meeting where the student is informed about the result, and provided an explanation of the grade based on the overall assessment of the thesis and oral exam. Both examiners must be present, though one may lead the conversation. The student is not entitled to request further explanation of the grade.

Examiners may not use AI tools in connection with grading master's theses, including drafting feedback.

If examiners cannot agree on a final grade, they must immediately notify llm@uib.no. A third examiner will then be appointed.

If examiners suspect academic misconduct, as defined in §§ 4-1 and 4-2 of the Supplementary Rules for Studies at the Faculty of Law, they must immediately report this to llm@uib.no.

Instructions for Supervision in LLM399 Master's Thesis (30 ECTS)

[LLM399 Master's Thesis](#) is the thesis component of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Programme in EU and EEA Law.

The course requires students to submit a written thesis., as detailed in the course description under "Assessment Methods".

The Master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.

The indicative word limit is 12,000 words. A thesis of more than 15,000 words will not be assessed. Footnotes and endnotes are included in the word limit. Foreword/preface, front page, table of contents, registers, bibliography, and appendices are not included in the word limit. A thesis which is rejected as a result of exceeding the word limit must be reworked and submitted in a later semester. No additional individual supervision is provided for such reworking.

30 ECTS credits correspond to a full semester. Converted into hours, 30 ECTS should entail 750–900 hours of work for students.

The supervisor must become well acquainted with the course description, particularly the sections "Teaching and Learning Methods" and "Compulsory Teaching Activities". These specify that the allocated supervision hours include time spent reading and approving the project proposal, reviewing drafts, preparing comments, telephone contact, correspondence, and meetings with the student(s).

The supervisor must also become well acquainted with the learning objectives and help the student understand how the thesis can demonstrate achievement of these objectives.

Some students may require a brief initial meeting before submitting the project description. Supervisors are encouraged to accommodate such requests and may ask the student to send a project outline in advance of the meeting.

Shortly after the project description is approved, the supervisor and student must hold a start-up meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to support the student's progress and agree on a timeline leading up to the submission deadline.

If there is a need to narrow or adjust the research question(s) addressed in the thesis, the supervisor should raise this during the start-up meeting. The supervisor may advise on what best supports the demonstration of learning outcomes and what can realistically be addressed within the word limit and submission deadline. However, the supervisor should aim to inspire the student to formulate research questions that they find academically interesting and manageable. The goal is for the student to take as much ownership of the thesis as possible.

Supervisors must be aware that text generated by AI tools is not considered the student's own work, cf. [Supplementary Regulations for Studies at the Faculty of Law](#) § 4-1. If such text constitutes "a non-negligible part of the total work", the requirement for independence is not met, cf. § 4-1 no. 2. Use of AI-generated text without disclosure is considered cheating, cf. § 4-1 no. 1.

If the supervisor receives text from the student that appears wholly or partly AI-generated, the issue must be discussed with the student and the content of § 4-1 emphasised. Submission of AI-generated text to the supervisor may also result in the supervision requirement not being approved, see the guidelines for enforcing the supervision requirement.

The supervisor is not responsible for the final result; students' academic abilities vary, and this will naturally be reflected in their theses. The supervisor's role is to help the student perform to the best of their ability.

If the supervisor wishes to use AI tools to assist with the student's texts, the student must be informed. If such use risks infringing the student's copyright, informed prior consent is required. The supervisor must only use secure AI tools.

All student projects involving personal data must be registered in [UiB's project overview RETTE](#) (only in Norwegian), cf. the Guidelines for Ensuring Research Ethics and Data Protection in Master's Projects at the Faculty of Law.

The supervisor must also familiarise themselves with:

- Instructions for Assessment of the Written Thesis in LLM399 Master's Thesis
- [Requirements for Written Work in the Master's Programme in Law at UiB \(only in Norwegian\)](#)
- [UiB: Academic Integrity and Cheating](#)
- [Ethical Guidelines for the Relationship Between Supervisor and Student or Candidate at the University of Bergen](#)

Guidelines for Assessment of Written Thesis in LLM399 Master's Thesis

[LLM399 Master's Thesis](#) is the thesis component of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) Programme in EU and EEA Law.

The course requires students to submit a written thesis as detailed under “Forms of Assessment” in the course description.

This guideline applies to the assessment of the written thesis and the determination of the preliminary grade. A separate guideline governs the conduct and assessment of the oral adjustment examination (effective from the spring semester of 2026).

The LLM399 thesis carries 30 ECTS credits, in accordance with §6 of the Master's Degree Regulations. The indicative word limit is 12,000 words. A thesis of more than 15,000 words will not be assessed. Footnotes and endnotes are included in the word limit. Foreword/preface, front page, table of contents, registers, bibliography, and appendices are not included in the word limit. 30 ECTS credits correspond to a full semester, equating to approximately 750–900 hours of student work.

The thesis is assessed by two examiners. The supervisor must not act as an examiner.

The overarching aim of the thesis is to train students in independently analysing a self-chosen legal issue in line with academic standards. There is no fixed format or template; students have considerable freedom in approach and structure. The key criterion is whether, and to what extent, the thesis demonstrates achievement of the learning outcomes.

To receive a passing grade (E or better), the student must demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate a legal issue suitable for academic analysis, and to resolve it in a professionally sound manner. Additionally, the student must show solid substantive knowledge of the chosen topic or relevant parts thereof.

Criteria for Preliminary Grade Determination

Assessment must be closely tied to the learning outcomes and based on qualitative grading descriptions and the following guidelines:

- The suitability of the chosen issue(s) for legal analysis, including whether the issue is unresolved, its coverage in the literature, and whether AI tools could offer an adequate solution.
- Ability to distinguish between issues, understand their interrelations, and place them in a broader academic context.
- Ability to discuss issues in a professionally sound and judicious manner, using available sources in line with recognised methodological principles. This includes identifying what is

essential versus irrelevant, distinguishing between certainty and uncertainty, and appropriately structuring the thesis.

- Greater emphasis is placed on methodology and source use than on substantive content.
- Text quality, including precise formulation of issues, arguments, and conclusions, and a clear and purposeful structure throughout.
- Accuracy, verifiability, and consistency in referencing. Various citation styles are acceptable if they meet these standards, but consistency is expected.
- Independent thinking and academic creativity are rewarded, provided the approach or analysis is professionally sound.
- Recognition is given for identifying academic or methodological connections not directly evident in the literature or other sources.
- Consideration of legal policy dimensions is rewarded, provided the student also demonstrates understanding of the distinction between legal sources and policy considerations.
- Explicit and well-founded delimitations are accepted and not penalised.

Examiners must not use AI tools in connection with thesis assessment. This includes drafting feedback or identifying AI-generated content.

Within four weeks of the submission deadline, examiners must agree on a preliminary grade and register it in Inspira.

If examiners cannot agree on a preliminary grade, they must immediately notify llm@uib.no. A third examiner will then be appointed.

If examiners suspect academic misconduct, as defined in §§ 4-1 and 4-2 of the Supplementary Rules for Studies at the Faculty of Law, they must immediately report this to llm@uib.no.