UCLouvain

ldrhd2150

2025

Legal research methodology

2.00 credits	12.0 h	Q1

This learning unit is not open to incoming exchange students!

Teacher(s)	Mertens Romain ;Vanvrekom Sébastien ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Passive knowledge of English and Dutch is required. It is imperative that the entire Bachelor's course in Legal Methodology be fully acquired and mastered.
Main themes	The aim of this course is twofold: 1. The first is to perfect the basics of legal research methodology. Building on the achievements of the Legal Methodology Seminar given in Bac1, students will be encouraged to grasp, develop and master more research tools. The aim is to enable students to integrate the research approaches and methods specific to legal science, so that they can successfully complete their end-of-study work. 2. The second objective is to teach students the methods and specific features of drafting legal texts (from all sources).
Learning outcomes	
Evaluation methods	Assessment will take the form of an oral examination.
Teaching methods	The course is made up of different sessions and is given in a lecture-style format. The themes and questions described will be addressed successively during the sessions, which are also intended to be interactive. Each session will present and deal with a particular theme, if necessary in the form of questions and answers based on case studies and practical examples. IT tools will also be used. The first sessions will focus on research tools and methods, before moving on to specific writing issues.
Content	In order to achieve the above objectives, the following themes and questions will be addressed: - How to formulate an original and relevant research question? - How to choose a research methodology suited to the research question, and how to apply it scientifically and rigorously? - How to carry out an exhaustive documentary search, including sources of international and foreign law, using the relevant databases? - How to process and understand the mass of sources? - How to write a solid argument, following a well-structured plan, in order to answer your research question as convincingly as possible? - How to write references that meet the requirements of legal methodology, including international and foreign sources, or sources from disciplines other than law? - How to compile a complex bibliography, involving a large number of references and a wide variety of sources. - How to grasp, master and use new tools such as artificial intelligence in legal writing.
Faculty or entity in charge	DRT

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Law (shift schedule)	DRLN2M	2		