Erasmus
School of
Law

# LL.M. International Business Law

2027-2028

Get the tools
to do business
internationally

Erasmus University Rotterdam

# “International business law has constantly been developing, and still is.”

Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele, professor of Commercial Law

## What does this LL.M. programme have to offer you?

- Benefit from an exclusive focus on transnational commercial law: from law regarding the sale and distribution of goods or services to payment and security mechanisms, insurance law and intellectual property rights;
- Due to its position in Rotterdam, hub of international trade, this LL.M. offers you many opportunities for exploring how businesses work in practice by combining academic theory with on-site workshops;
- You are educated by excellent teaching staff. They have both a solid (international) academic background as well as a wealth of experience from commercial and legal practice.

The specialization International Business Law distinguishes itself from other LL.M. programmes in business or trade law by its exclusive focus on the private commercial law perspective. Company law as well as regulatory and public law aspects are in principle left aside. Rather than focussing on 1 exclusive field of law, it provides you a range of transnational legal insights on commercial contracts, IP law, insurance law, trade finance & banking law and carriage of goods. It tells you (i) how you can sell and transport goods & services, (ii) how you can finance a business and (iii) how business’ risks can be allocated and insured.

Throughout the master programme multiple aspects of international business law are considered from a comparative law perspective. Particular attention is paid to differences in approach and outcome between civil law jurisdictions and common law jurisdictions and by reference to the relevant standards in international business law.

### Career perspective

As a graduate, you will have in-depth and comparative law knowledge of the legal aspects surrounding an international commercial transaction. Graduates will find job opportunities as in-house lawyers at companies that are internationally active, trading houses, banks or insurance companies. They will be attractive candidates for commercial law firms and for any authority or government body that deals with international trade and commerce.

Positions of our graduates:

- Lawyer or attorney in the legal practice;
- Business lawyer or legal adviser at (international) companies, trading houses, banks or insurance companies;
- Civil servant, for example at the European Commission;
- Academic teacher or researcher.

### Admission requirements

Bachelor law degree + English language proficiency

Bachelor degree University College (legal track) + English language proficiency

**eur.nl/en/esl/master/international-business-law/admission**

### Curriculum International Business Law

| Block | Course | EC |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Research and Writing Skills (International Business Law) | 12 |
| 2 | Commercial Contracts | 5 |
| | Intellectual Property Law | 5 |
| 3 | Trade Finance & Banking Law | 10 |
| 4 | Elective | 5 |
| | Insurance Law | 5 |
| 5 | Carriage of Goods | 5 |
| | Master Thesis International Business Law | 13 |

**eur.nl/en/esl/master/international-business-law/programme-overview**

“As a PhD candidate at Erasmus School of Law I worked on a book project about the identity of the carrier. After graduating in 1998 I was asked to stay, but I wanted to gain experience in legal practice first. Thus I became an attorney – and later a partner - at Van Traa. But Erasmus School of Law asked me to come back. After a period of combining academia and legal practice, I became a full professor in 2007.”

## “The biggest current developments are globalisation and sustainable supply chains.”

Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele

“The courses are about trade finance and banking law, insurance law, commercial contracts, international property rights and transport law. International business law has constantly been developing, and still is. Not many people realise that before 1950 nobody had seen a container. Originally invented by the Americans for a military purpose, containers changed the transport world completely. The invention meant that more and more goods that where produced on one side of the world, were transported under single contract to the other side. We now take this door-to-door transportation as normal but in fact it is still quite special. The biggest current developments are globalisation, creating sustainable supply chains and the digitisation of the provision of services. In the coming decades, robotisation and automation of means of transport and our way of contracting (e.g. smart contracts and contractual due diligence requirements) will increase on a large scale. This offers more efficiency and a better safety, but will have implications for the legal side as well.”

EU
50%
50%
non-EU

39
students
started in 2026

Apply before
**1 July 2027**

Start
**September 2027**

## Questions?

Do not hesitate to contact the master coordinator, Petra van der Kooij, via **mastercl@law.eur.nl.**

Questions about admission?

- For Dutch students, please contact Eddie van Roon via **masterinstroom@law.eur.nl**;
- For international students, please contact André van der Schee via **informationdesk.llm@law.eur.nl**.

**eur.nl/en/esl/master/international-business-law**

**euresl** **erasmuslawschool**

**erasmus-school-of-law**

**Cover** Guido Pijper