Erasmus
School of
Law

LL.M. Maritime and Transport Law

2027-2028

Become an international shipping and transport expert

Erasmus University Rotterdam

“If you are enthusiastic about the fields of maritime and transport law, there is no better option.”

Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele, professor of Commercial Law

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

- The LL.M. programme Maritime and Transport Law gives you a unique opportunity to obtain the legal know-how, the skills and practical experience needed for a career in maritime and transport law;
- You are educated by excellent teaching staff. They have both a solid academic background as well as a wealth of experience from legal practice and the maritime and transport industry;
- Your study location is a stone’s throw away from the largest port of Europe. You will visit companies to see how things work in practice.

The comprehensive programme Maritime and Transport Law provides you with thorough, in-depth knowledge of the dynamic world of maritime and transport law. The Erasmus University is located in Rotterdam. Rotterdam contains by far the largest seaport of Europe and is thus one of the largest logistical and industrial hubs of the world. Studying at Erasmus School of Law, means studying where the action is!

Career perspective

With a LL.M. in Maritime and Transport Law you will be able to pursue career opportunities in the legal profession as an attorney active in litigation, arbitration and contract-drafting, as an in-house counsel in the legal department of banks and businesses in the maritime and transport industry, as a claims handler, broker or underwriter in the insurance industry, in advisory positions to government agencies and port authorities and in academia.

Positions of our graduates:

- Business lawyer at world leading organisations in the oil or gas industry;
- Lawyer or attorney in the legal practise;
- Academic teacher and researcher.

Admission requirements

Bachelor law degree + English language proficiency

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

eur.nl/en/esl/master/maritime-transport-law/admission

Curriculum Maritime and Transport Law

Block	Course	EC
1	Research and Writing Skills (Maritime and Transport Law)	12
2	Law of the Sea	5
	Transport Law	5
3	Maritime Casualties	10
4	Charter Parties & Bills of Lading	5
	Elective	5
5	Marine Insurance	5
	Master Thesis Maritime and Transport Law	13

eur.nl/en/esl/master/maritime-transport-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 University asked me to come back. After a period of combining academia and legal practice, I became a full professor in 2007.”

“You will not only obtain the legal know-how, but the skills and some practical experience as well.”

Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele

“If you are enthusiastic about the fields of maritime and transport law, there is no better option. In this field Erasmus University is the leading university in Holland. The whole programme is focused on what is relevant to basically the maritime world. You will not only obtain the legal know-how, but the skills and some practical experience as well.”

“There are courses about carriage of goods, or charter parties. In other words: about the contractual sides of maritime and transport law. How to draw up the contractual documents used in the operation of ships and the carriage of goods by sea? Also interesting is the course about incidents and accidents in the transportation. What if an oil tanker sinks? What if a container with cargo explodes in the middle of the ocean and the ship needs to be saved from that? Then there are the courses Law of the sea, on the public law side, and Marine Insurance, about keeping the financial risks under control. Subjects are considered from a comparative law perspective. Many alumni have found jobs in the maritime industry. Most of them are working for underwriters, because a lot of the work is actually done by them. You might become a lawyer, a business lawyer, or maybe join us academics.”

EU
75%
25%
non-EU

54
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**.

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