

# Study Guide 2024-2025

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## **1. Democritus University of Thrace**

Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) was founded with Legislative Degree no 87 of 27<sup>th</sup> July 1973 and started operating during the academic year 1974-1975, upon admission of students in the Departments of Political Engineering at Xanthi and the Law Department at Komotini. The University has taken its name “Democritus” after the ancient Greek philosopher Democritus, who was born at the city of Avdera, at Xanthi region. The University’s administrative seat is at the city of Komotini, which is the capital of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Prefecture. Administrative services are available at all four cities / seats of the University.

Democritus University of Thrace has been, since its foundation, the first Greek regional University with multiple seats. This structure was preferred not only on educational grounds. Its function through multiple seats, at the cities of Xanthi, Komotini, Alexandroupolis and Orestiada initially, and then at Kavala and Drama, has been crucial for the substantive financial development of the region of Thrace, while it boosted educational and scientific activities. At the same time, it contributed significantly to the enhancement of the national and cultural idiosyncrasy of the region of Thrace, as well as in the upgrade of the living and social levels, a contribution which was directly and indirectly measured.

In a dynamic and changing environment, DUTH continues to aim at educational and scientific excellence, while it is built on the challenges and requisites of the future. It guides its scientific strategy based on innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, the new digital age, large-scale development as well as attracting funding from both domestic and foreign bodies. The imprint of DUTH today is given with its innovative postgraduate programs of international scope, but also with initiatives that allow it to transcend modern bureaucracy and geographical exclusion.

## **2. The Law School**

The Law School at Komotini is one of the foundational academic units of Democritus University of Thrace. It was found with presidential decree 374/22-6-1974 and functioned for the first time during the academic year 1974-1975 as a School. Afterwards, from 1982 onwards, it functioned as Law Department, while presidential decree 85/2013 developed the Department into an autonomous School with one department. From 2002 it has been moved to its own building, in the modern facilities of the Komotini Campus.

Today, it reaches fifty years of operation, it records a hardworking and dynamic course, through which the School of Law of DUTH successfully faced the challenges and won the bet of recognition at the Greek and international level.

With the quality teaching and research work of its scientific staff and the continuous development of its infrastructure, the Faculty of Law of DUTH developed according to European academic standards and gained prestige and international exposure, so that it is able to respond with particular success to the demand for academic excellence.

Open to the demands of modern times, the undergraduate study program follows current developments with the aim of providing high-level academic education. The postgraduate study programs offer scientific specialization in all branches of law, while they are constantly enriched with interdepartmental, interdisciplinary programs and international collaborations. The doctoral theses prepared, as well as the post-doctoral research carried out at the School of Law, are a valuable contribution to research, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Committed to the goal of providing high-quality teaching work by internationally renowned scientists with a significant presence both in research and in legal practice, the School of Law of DUTH is proud of the successful careers of thousands of its graduates.

### **3. Postgraduate Programme “LL.M. in International Studies”**

The Postgraduate Programme “LL.M. in International Studies” which is provided by the Law Department of the Law Faculty of Democritus University of Thrace, was created to cover in a unique way special issues which are relevant to a) Human Rights Protection and Humanitarian Law and b) Private International Law, International Transactions and International Arbitration. The above scientific subjects have acquired growing significance during the last years. However, their autonomous and combined teaching is not an option at the undergraduate level and for this reason it was deemed important to create this postgraduate programme.

The Law Department of the Law School of Democritus University of Thrace specializes traditionally in International Studies and has acquired the necessary credibility, from the organization, for almost twenty years, of postgraduate programmes which correspond to current academic challenges.

The Sector of International Studies is staffed by valued and internationally recognized academic staff, with a rich oeuvre in the academic subjects of the LL.M., operates two research laboratories, while it was awarded the Jean Monnet Chair by the European Commission and supports the participation of student groups in international competitions in which they have gained outstanding awards.

### **4. Coordinating Committee**

It consists of the Director of the LL.M. and four (4) members of the Teaching and Scientific Staff of the Department, who have a relevant scientific specialization with the one of the LL.M. and undertake teaching responsibilities in the LL.M. Members of the Coordinating Committee are appointed upon decision of the Department’s Assembly.

### **5. Object, Purpose and Learning Outcomes**

The Postgraduate Programme (LL.M.) of the Law School aims at promoting scientific knowledge specializing in International Studies. Moreover, it aims to develop scientific research in the field of Public International Law and Private International Law, taking into account the developmental needs of the state. To acquire the Masters Diploma one needs to successfully complete two studying semesters, as well as to write a master

thesis.

Preparing and writing a master thesis aims at the scientific deepening of postgraduate students in areas of special scientific interest.

In the “**Public International Law**” specialization students will be able to enrich their knowledge on issues regarding new approaches and current developments in humanitarian law and the international protection of human rights regime. Also, students become familiar with legal definitions.

In the “**Private International Law**” specialization students will become familiar with various topics related to European Private International Law, as well as the Law of Transactions and Arbitration. For successful completion of the postgraduate programme, students have to delve into many aspects of private international law.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students will be able to:

- Deeply comprehend issues pertaining to the international dimension of the legal profession.
- Address legal problems.
- Address ethical and legal dilemmas relating to issues of human rights, refugee law and criminal justice.
- Address legal problems on issues of European private international law and transactions.
- Comprehend and critically examine issues of public and private international law.
- Follow developments on dispute resolution and arbitration.
- Further develop knowledge and their professional skills.
- Develop critical and research skills.
- Take initiatives and demonstrate responsibility for single or team work on both theoretical and practical issues.

## **6. Postgraduate Title**

The Postgraduate Programme “LL.M. in International Studies” offers upon completion a Masters Diploma on the two following specializations:

1. PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
2. PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

## **7. Admission prerequisites and procedure**

The Postgraduate Programme accepts bachelor holders of Law Departments of Law Schools of Greece, as well as of recognized institutions from abroad, as provided by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

The LL.M. also accepts bachelor holders of other Departments with a relevant scientific object. In addition, the LL.M. accepts bachelor holders of the following Military Schools: Hellenic Army Academy, Hellenic Naval Academy, Hellenic Air Force Academy, and Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (Law and Economics Specialties).

The process of selection of postgraduate students consists of two stages:

First stage:

Submit an online application to the email address:

- a. Application to participate in the selection process for the postgraduate program (paper-electronic).
- b. A CV in English detailed on their studies, scientific and social activities.
- c. Undergraduate Degree Overall Grade and Undergraduate Detailed Score.
- d. General grade of Master's Degree in Law or a related subject and Analytical score of postgraduate studies (if available).
- e. Knowledge of the English language at proficient level. If the candidate's mother tongue is not English, knowledge at a proficient level should be demonstrated through internationally recognized exams (level C1) or a University degree after teaching entirely in the English language. (ii) Sufficient working knowledge of another foreign language or languages other than the mother tongue and English.
- f. Publications and any kind of scientific / research writing activity (if any).
- g. Two letters of recommendation in Greek or English.
- h. Statutory / Solemn Declaration of Law 1599/1986 signed by the pertinent authorities for the originality of their signature, where it will be declared by the candidate that the supporting documents presented and deposited in his file are true (only for Greek citizens) and a corresponding declaration for foreign students.

The exact procedure is described each year.

## 2. Second Stage

During the Second Stage the files of the candidates are examined and evaluated (scored). Incomplete files will not be considered. The maximum scoring of each folder is 100 points.

The scoring of each folder is broken down as follows:

- a. Undergraduate Degree Overall Grade and Undergraduate Analytical Grade (30 points)
- b. General grade of Master's degree in Law or related subject and Analytical score of postgraduate studies (20 points)
- c. Knowledge of the English language at a Proficient level (20 points)
- d. Publications and any kind of scientific/research writing activity (10 points)
- e. Letters of recommendation (20 points)

The selection process is carried out as follows:

- a) The Selection Committee initially draws up a complete list of those who have applied.
- b) Rejects candidates who do not meet the minimum formal criteria, as set by the Assembly of the Law Department.
- c) Ranks the candidates and makes the final selection, following an oral interview of each candidate. In the event of a tie for the last place in the table of successful candidates, all those with the same grade are entered as supernumeraries.
- d) Draws up the final selection board.

## **8. Duration of Studies**

The normal duration of study at LL.M. which leads to the receipt of the Master's Diploma lasts three (3) semesters. After the end of the summer semester, students prepare a Master's Thesis of at least 15,000 words with a maximum of 30,000 words, which they submit by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. It is possible for a very important reason to request, via written application, submitted to the Coordinating Committee of the LL.M. extension of submission of the master thesis, which cannot be beyond February 28<sup>th</sup> of the following calendar year. Each application for extension of the submission of the thesis is decided upon separately and on a case-by-case basis.

Studying in the program ends with the completion of the writing and public presentation of the master's thesis.

Postgraduate students are obliged to complete their postgraduate studies by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year after registration at the LL.M.

## **9. Fees**

Postgraduate students are required to pay tuition fees. The amount of tuition fees for the entire program is set at one thousand eight hundred euros (1,800 euros).

Fees are paid when students enroll in the Programme. Tuition fees are paid to the Special Research Funds Account (ELKE) of the University, who is responsible for their management. Postgraduate students who are Greek citizens and who meet the criteria of the applicable legislation are exempt from tuition fees.

## **10. Academic calendar**

The LL.M. starts during the winter semester of each academic year. The courses are organized in academic study semesters, each of which includes 13 weeks of teaching. All courses are re-examined during the September term.

### **Winter Semester**

Teaching period: from October to January, depending on the year

#### Public holidays

National Holiday: October 28

Polytechnio Day: November 17

Christmas holidays: from December 24 to January 6

Three Holy Hierarchs: January 30 (Religious-educational holiday)

### **Spring Semester**

Teaching period: from February to May of each year

Any course replacements: June of each year

Examination Period: June of each year

#### Public holidays

Clear Monday

National Holiday: March 25, 2024

Easter holidays

Labour Day

Holy Spirit

Official holiday for the city of Komotini

Student elections: The School remains closed on the day of their holding

## **11. Curriculum structure**

Studying at the LL.M. of the School of Law and obtaining the Master's Diploma is equal to 90 credits. In particular, the students' workload is valued at 10 credits per first and second semester course. The postgraduate thesis is valued with 30 credits. During the two semesters, a total of 6 compulsory courses are taught for obtaining the Master's Diploma. Course recognition is not possible.

### **«PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW» Specialization**

FIRST SEMESTER		SECOND SEMESTER	
COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS	COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
International Humanitarian Law I	10	International Humanitarian Law II	10
International Human Rights Protection	10	International Human Rights Protection II	10
Refugee Law	10	International Criminal Justice	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>
		THIRD SEMESTER	
		<b>MASTER THESIS</b>	30
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90</b>

### **«PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW» SPECIALIZATION**

FIRST SEMESTER		SECOND SEMESTER	
COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS	COMPULSORY COURSES	ECTS
European Private International Law I	10	European Private International Law II	10
Law of International Transactions I	10	Law of International Transactions II	10
International Commercial Arbitration	10	International Investment Arbitration	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>
		THIRD SEMESTER	
		<b>MASTER THESIS</b>	30
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90</b>

## **12. Courses' Teaching**

The LL.M. is conducted in a percentage of up to 80% with distance education methods in accordance with the provisions of the special regulation for the implementation of the institution's e-learning. The Law School has the appropriate infrastructure to support distance teaching as it has certified teleconference rooms and licenses to use appropriate teleconference software - distance learning. Also, the offices of all teachers are equipped with the appropriate material for conducting distance education (e.g.

computer, camera, microphone, speakers, et.c.).

The teaching in this LL.M. will be done with the methods of live teaching and hybrid modern teaching. The hybrid contemporary teaching will consist of the teaching which will be carried out at the same time remotely and in the physical presence of those students who wish to do so. The hybrid teaching will take place in the facilities of the Faculty of Law of DUTh. The exclusively live teaching amounts to 20% and the modern remote teaching (which will be conducted from a University amphitheatre and those students who wish to attend on a voluntary basis in physical presence) to a percentage of 80% of the scheduled teaching hours.

### **13. Assessment of educational process**

The evaluation of the lecturers by the post-graduate students is done regularly towards the end of the semester (8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> academic week) in an anonymous and electronic way through the relevant application of the University's Quality Assurance Unit (MO.DI.P. / DUTh) by completing a course evaluation questionnaire by students. Upon completion of the evaluation process, the P.S. of MO.DI.P. allows the members of OM.EA. the extraction of aggregated data per teacher and course. The evaluation of the teaching ability of faculty members is a key criterion for their election and development.

The evaluation of the teachers is particularly important, as it is possible to draw conclusions about the operation of the LL.M. and its improvement. The evaluation of teachers is an important parameter for their subsequent academic development.

### **14. Student Exams and Assessment**

There are two examination periods for each course. The first one follows the end of classes of each semester and lasts up to three weeks, and the second takes place within the month of September and also lasts up to three weeks. The student who failed or did not attend one or more courses of the first or second semester joins the second term. The exams can be written or oral exams, at the choice of the teacher. The examiner considers the presentations, research papers, exercises or other forms of participation of the students during the teaching. During the examinations, the integrity of the process is ensured. Grading is done on a scale of 1-10.

### **15. Master Thesis**

The master's thesis is assigned during the second semester of studies and is submitted no later than September 30 of the year in which the second semester is taught, and its oral presentation takes place until the end of the same year. The thesis must be prepared by the student and be the product of original scientific research. For this purpose, postgraduate students sign a declaration of non-infringement of intellectual property. The thesis is defended before a three-member committee. If the thesis is not submitted by the deadline or is not considered successful, the student will not be awarded the Master's Diploma. Once the thesis is approved by the examination committee, it is deposited electronically in a repository.

### **16. Grade classification**

The grading scale for all courses and the thesis ranges from 0 to 10. It is provided that



the student who received a grade of 5 or above, in all courses, has succeeded. To calculate the grade of the postgraduate diploma, the grade of each course and the thesis is multiplied by the corresponding number of credit units and the sum of the grades of each class is divided by the total number of credit units required to obtain the Master's Diploma. The grade is calculated to the second decimal hundredth. The master's degree is marked with "good" [for students with a grade point average of less than 6.5], "very good" [for students with a grade point average between 6.5 and 8.5] and "excellent" [for students who have an average score of 8.5 and above].

### **17. Access to further studies**

Obtaining the Master's Degree of the LL.M. "LL.M. in International Studies" gives access to doctoral studies.

### **18. Name catalogue of teaching staff – Communication details**

Communication with the teaching staff of the LL.M. is encouraged either through telephone, or through email. Communication between teaching staff and postgraduate students is necessary for full supervision of studies, solving questions, supervising tasks and exercises.

<b>Teaching Staff</b>	<b>Scientific Domain</b>	<b>Communication Details</b>
Antonopoulos Constantinos	Public International Law	Telephone: 2531039858 Email: <a href="mailto:kantonop@law.duth.gr">kantonop@law.duth.gr</a>
Pervou Ioanna	Public International Law	Telephone: 2531039516 Email: <a href="mailto:ipervou@law.duth.gr">ipervou@law.duth.gr</a>
Stamatiadis Dimitrios	Private International Law	Telephone: 2531039253 Email: <a href="mailto:stamd@hol.gr">stamd@hol.gr</a>
Tsavdaridis Antonios	Private International Law	Telephone: 2531039522 Email: <a href="mailto:ant_tsav@yahoo.gr">ant_tsav@yahoo.gr</a>
Tsevas Christos	Public International Law (Human Rights Law)	Telephone: 2531039516 Email: <a href="mailto:chtsevas@gmail.com">chtsevas@gmail.com</a>
Fylaktos Konstantinos	Private International Law	Telephone: 2531039516 Email: <a href="mailto:secr@law.duth.gr">secr@law.duth.gr</a>

### **19. Useful Information**

The Law School of Democritus University of Thrace is located at the following address

Democritus University of Thrace, Law Department Secretariat  
University Campus, 691 00 Komotini  
+30 25310-39848, 25310-39892, 25310-39894

secr@law.duth.gr  
www.law.duth.gr

Access to the university campus is possible by public transport (line 4 – University Campus) or by private vehicle. or the exact timetables of public transport routes, it is recommended to visit the relevant website <https://astikakomotinis.gr/grammi-4/>

## **20. Student services**

The students of the LL.M. can benefit from the structures and services of the University. DUTH has services both for the support of learning and academic activity (human resources, infrastructure, services, et.c.) and for the promotion of research, and these services are combined with specialized support and administrative staff.

### **- IT and communication services**

#### **Library**

To serve the purposes of education and research, a single, decentralized and independent Central Library Unit with the name “Library and Information Center of the University of Thrace” operates at Democritus University of Thrace. The Central Library (<https://lib.duth.gr/>) by decision of the Foundation’s administration is based in Komotini. Due to the geographical dispersion of the University in four cities of Thrace (Komotini, Xanthi, Alexandroupoli and Orestiada) the Central Library has developed, administratively, nine Libraries, among which is the Library of the School of Law, within school facilities.

– Through the website of the Central Library ([https://opac.seab.gr/search~S4\\*gre](https://opac.seab.gr/search~S4*gre)) each student can search for material (books, magazines, etc.) and be informed in which of the above libraries it is located in order to proceed with its borrowing.

#### Electronic Secretariat

Postgraduate students’ access to information regarding the status of their studies, course declarations, the grade in each course and any other application or granting of a certificate is for those LL.M.s that are computerized through the Electronic Secretariat called Universis (<https://students.duth.gr/>) which can be accessed with the student’s personal passwords.

#### Online course support (E-class)

The training is supported by an online e-class system <https://eclass.duth.gr/>. Each course has its own online classroom, where, among other things, course supervision material, announcements, bibliography and others are posted.

In the same system, there is a general bulletin board for educational matters and corresponding bulletin boards for each semester of studies. Postgraduate students are invited to follow the above notice boards.

The course and announcement websites are available to registered students and require passwords distributed after registration with the Department. To follow the activities of

each course, postgraduate students must log in to the online class system and register for the specific course.

#### Additional digital services

DUTh provides postgraduate students with the following Online Services:

Electronic account: After registration, postgraduate students receive access information to a personal electronic institutional account (username, password). The details of the personal account are strictly personal and give access to a personal e-mail box, while they are required for the processing of most services such as:

- issuance of an academic identity card
- access to the training support system
- access to the electronic library
- access to the electronic secretariat
- declaration of courses and other applications and certificates