



Doctoral Candidate Information

Preamble

This document sets out the relationship between the Consortium *European Doctorate in Law and Economics (EDLE)* (hereafter 'the Consortium', 'the Programme') and its Doctoral Candidates. Members ('the Partners Universities') of the Consortium are:

- Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy;
- Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany;
- University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel;
- Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The EDLE Coordination Board is composed of four Directors, one from each of the Partner Universities and meets at least twice a year (in October/November and February of each year). The Coordination Board appoints a Chairperson ('Managing Director') from one of its members. Re-election is possible.

At least twice a year, two representatives of each cohort of Doctoral Candidates are invited to participate in a Board Meeting and advance suggestions, complaints, and proposals for the improvement of the programme.

The Consortium is represented by the Managing Director.

This document provides the framework through which the Consortium and its Doctoral Candidates can work together to create a positive environment for learning and academic achievement.

1. Scope of the document

This document sets out the admission criteria, the length, location and extent of the Programme, the tuition fees, the academic calendar, the nature of exams and the grading system used as well as the degrees awarded and the graduation ceremony. The following documents provide the legal frame applicable at the partner universities. They are available on the EDLE website (for exceptions see below) and they are equally binding on both parties:

- EDLE Programme Regulations;
- Doctoral Regulations of the Partner Universities;
- Integrity Code Erasmus University Rotterdam; as well as
- any additional document(s) referred to in this document.

2. Programme Aim

The goal of the European Doctorate in Law and Economics (EDLE) is to form a new class of outstanding, highly skilled Doctoral Candidates, able to contribute to the international academic and policy debate.

Through EDLE they receive the knowledge and skills to successfully pursue their careers in national and international organizations (private and public), promoting efficient laws and regulations and fostering economic progress. More research-oriented candidates will be able to pursue an academic career. Successful EDLE candidates are expected to extend the frontier of knowledge and to publish their research in international journals.

At the end of the programme, candidates will meet the following objectives:

- i) contribute original research, which merits publication in international field journals and extends the frontier of knowledge;

- ii) show a systematic understanding of the economic analysis of law and familiarity with the international literature on their field of specialization (e.g. competition law, corporate governance, etc.);
- iii) have a good knowledge of the European legal system, in particular with reference to their field of specialization;
- iv) understand the economic consequences of regulatory diversity and the introduction of harmonized legal rules.

They will acquire the following skills:

- i) analytical skills (modelling and strategic analysis) required to understand the incentive structure, the benefits and the costs of alternative legal provisions;
- ii) mastery of the quantitative methods (statistics/econometrics);
- iii) the ability to understand legal concepts and work with legal sources;
- iv) the ability to pursue research with scholarly integrity;
- v) the ability to perform critical analysis of new and complex ideas, and to contribute to the current policy debate;
- vi) the ability to communicate effectively the results of their research and analysis.

Moreover, candidates will:

- i) be strongly internationally oriented: they will be familiar with the culture and the legal system of several European countries;
- ii) have developed relational skills; they will have interacted and worked together with people and faculty of many different countries;
- iii) have developed a strong sense of autonomy: they have organized their lives in at least three different countries, they have learned to work on tight deadlines; and they have produced original and innovative ideas.
- iv) have developed an open-minded attitude: they are skilled in trans-disciplinary analysis (being familiar with both economic and legal methodology), they are used to a problem-solving approach.

3. Programme Length and Location

EDLE is a fully integrated doctoral programme. Candidates start together the programme in Bologna, move together to Hamburg and then Rotterdam, attend the same courses (with some differentiation depending on their academic background), and feel part of a unique community. They take different paths only at the beginning of the second semester of the second year, when they move to one of the partner universities in order to receive specialized supervision.

The programme presents a combination of course work and research. Taught courses require a certain amount of work, conventionally measured in ECTS credits.

In the first year, the mandatory course work entails lectures for **270 hours** and **34 credits**. The list of the courses attended and the grades are recorded in the candidate's career file.

The curriculum of the programme is devised to provide advanced and challenging education both to lawyers and economists. Candidates will be able to choose between basic and advanced courses depending on their educational background.

In the first year, candidates with a legal background will be offered the possibility to attend introductory courses in Maths, Game theory, and Statistics. Candidates with a background in economics will be offered the possibility to attend advanced courses in Microeconomics, Econometrics, and Financial Economics. All candidates must take a course either in Statistics or Econometrics (30 hours, 4 ECTS). They also have to take the following dedicated courses, covering the core topics of the programme:

1. European Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights, 30 hours, 4 ECTS;
2. Game Theory and the Law, 30 hours, 4 ECTS;
3. Modelling European Private Law, 30 hours, 4 ECTS;
4. Experimental Economics, 30 hours, 4 ECTS;
5. Law Enforcement and Behavioural Economics, 30 hours, 4 ECTS.

Mandatory activities in Bologna account for 150 hours of lectures and 20 ECTS.

The EDLEs can, on a voluntary basis, take all courses offered by the School of Economics.

All courses require class work and participation, with assignments and presentations, and a final test. Candidates also attend law and economics seminars, which count towards their curricula, held by international scholars.

In March all first-year candidates present in Bologna their final research proposal that includes a clearly defined research issue, research question, chosen methodology and a literature survey.

During the second semester of the first year, the doctoral candidates stay in Hamburg, where they attend an Introductory course in empirical legal studies/econometrics. In the month June/July they will participate in the Summer School in Law and Economics, which is a six-week intensive lecture series held by internationally renowned scholars. Doctoral candidates will participate in an Introductory course on the German Legal System (15 hours, 2 ECTS) and at least three seminars offered by the Summer School programme (60 hours, 6 ECTS).

The Summer School complements the basic training of EDLE candidates. Topics represent research challenges of fundamental or current interest in the field of Law and Economics. Within this Summer School, EDLE candidates have the opportunity to build-up an international research network with leading scholars.

During the Summer School in Hamburg all first-year candidates give a presentation on their introduction chapter (introduction, problem definition, research question, limitations, methodology, scientific and societal relevance, preliminary bibliography), including a summary of each planned content chapter and time schedule.

Overall, the activities in Hamburg account for 75 hours of lectures and 8 ECTS credits.

During the first semester of the second year, from September to March, candidates attend the cycle of seminars scheduled at the Rotterdam Institute of Law and Economics (RILE). The format of these seminars includes a presentation of one or two candidates of their work in progress, (written) peer feedback and the discussion of a senior staff member of the faculty/institute/department, preferably (where possible) a leading researcher in the field.

At the end of the first semester of the second year, candidates will move to one of the participating universities, depending on the field of specialization.

In the third year, candidates will have to present twice their work at a collective workshop, organized at or by one of the partner universities, with the standard format (presentation + discussion by a senior staff member). In November in Bologna and in March at the Joint Seminar, organized by Rotterdam.

In all partner universities, attendance of courses and dedicated activities is mandatory. Any absence needs to be properly motivated and approved by the local supervisor.

4. EDLE Academic Calendar

Time	Location	Programme
September 1 st year	Bologna	Arrival in Bologna and preparatory courses on a voluntary base
Upon arrival		The candidate is assigned a (provisional) supervisor who will help to identify a suitable thesis topic
October – March 1 st year	Bologna	Research + taught courses
By December at the latest		The candidate has decided the thesis topic and is assigned two supervisors
November 1 st year	Bologna	Workshop on Writing a PhD / presentation skills
November 1 st year	Bologna	Introduction meeting with partner universities & Attending 3 rd year seminar
<i>March 1st year</i>	Bologna	<i>Presentation final research proposal that includes a clearly defined research issue, research question, chosen methodology and a literature survey</i>
April – July 1 st year	Hamburg	Research + EDLE Empirical course + Summer School
<i>June / July 1st year</i>	Hamburg	<i>Presentation introduction chapter (introduction, problem definition, research question, limitations, methodology,</i>

		<i>scientific and societal relevance, preliminary bibliography) + summary of each planned content chapter and time schedule</i>
September – March 2 nd year	Rotterdam	Research + EDLE Empirical course + Academic writing course + topical workshops + EDLE/BACT and other relevant seminars
<i>October / December 2nd year</i>	Rotterdam	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter</i>
<i>January / March 2nd year</i>	Rotterdam	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter</i>
March 2 nd year		Attending joint seminar (Maastricht/Rotterdam/Paris)
From April 2 nd year onwards	Home university	Research + presentation of research results
<i>November 3rd year</i>	Bologna	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter at 3rd year seminar</i>
<i>November 3rd year</i>	Bologna	<i>Information session on defence procedure</i>
<i>March 3rd year</i>		<i>Presentation (new) content chapter at joint seminar (Maastricht/Rotterdam/Paris)</i>
<i>From October 3rd year onwards</i>	Rotterdam	Defending thesis in Rotterdam

First year programme breaks: Winter break from Saturday before Christmas – end first week of January and Summer break during the month of August.

5. Thesis

Each candidate is constantly advised by at least two supervisors. One is the main supervisor, who is in charge of advising on all aspects of the candidate's education. The second supervisor is normally a professor of the institute currently hosting the candidate. All supervisors report to the Coordination Board every six months. Associate Members can provide additional advice.

Admission to the second and third year of the programme is decided by the Coordination Board on the basis of the interim reports of the supervisors, the quality of the chapter(s) submitted every year, and the results of the exams of the taught courses (marked with pass or fail). The (local) supervisor is expected to be in contact with the candidate on a regular basis. When hosted in a different institution, candidates send a monthly report to their supervisors.

In the first semester of the second and third year, candidates have to present their work in dedicated workshops. In this occasion, peer academics and the senior discussant can provide

feedback to the candidate and to the Coordination Board about the actual quality of the supervision.

The timeline for EDLE candidates regarding thesis research is as follows.

Time	Task
Upon arrival	The candidate is assigned a (provisional) supervisor who will help to identify a suitable thesis topic
by December 1 st year at the latest	The candidate has decided the thesis topic and is assigned at least two supervisors
March 1 st year	The candidate presents a final research proposal (a clear definition of the research issue, the methodology to be used and a literature survey)
June 1 st year	The candidate presents first introductory chapter containing problem definition, research questions, methodology adopted, literature list, table of contents, summary of planned chapters and time schedule
First semester 2 nd year	The candidate presents his/her work in dedicated seminars (two content chapters)
June 2 nd year	The candidate submits two full chapters of the thesis
First semester 3 rd year	The candidate presents his/her work in dedicated workshops in front of senior staff members
June 3 rd year	The candidate submits a first draft of the thesis
when ready	The candidate submits the final draft of the thesis
Upon approval by the Coordination Board and Defence Committee (starting from October 3 rd year *)	The candidate defends the thesis and obtains the EDLE doctoral degree

(*) Bologna regulations require a minimum of three years of PhD study.

Candidates who do not make satisfactory progress with their thesis or who fail to pass the required exams can be forced to leave the programme at any time. The decision is made by the Coordination Board after a first warning has proven to be ineffective.

6. Degree

Candidates who meet the conditions set by the programme and successfully defend their thesis are awarded the EDLE doctoral degree. Candidates can submit their thesis after three academic years. The defence takes place at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Candidates will obtain a doctoral degree from the Universities of Bologna, Hamburg, Erasmus University Rotterdam and (if applicable) Haifa. With respect to the requirements of the defence, the local regulations apply.

7. Participation in Quality assurance

- 1) Candidates fill in feed-back evaluation forms for all the teaching activities, concerning the quality of courses and seminars, lecturers, as well as infrastructure and organization. These course evaluation forms are taken into careful consideration by the Coordination Board, which engages every year in curriculum improvement (February meeting);
- 2) The members of the Coordination Board meet at least twice a year (in October and February of each year). On both occasions, two representatives of each cohort of Doctoral Candidates are invited to participate and to advance suggestions, complaints, and proposals.

8. Doctoral Candidate's Obligations

- 1) Doctoral Candidates are required to comply with the obligations established in this document and the documents it refers to. The hosting Partner Universities may require compliance with additional regulations, which are equally binding as long as they are communicated to the candidate timely.

- 2) Doctoral Candidates are required to attend lectures, courses, tutorials, seminars, examinations and other assessments, and any other activities that form part of the Programme, except in case of absence for documented medical reasons, mutually agreed absences or other exceptional circumstances. In addition, Doctoral Candidates shall refrain from fraud, in whatever form, during their study, exams and thesis writing.
- 3) Doctoral Candidates are expected to communicate their email account to each Partner University where they study and to check that account regularly, as the Partner Universities use email as a main source of communication. When the Consortium or a Partner University provides a specific email account to the Doctoral Candidates, Doctoral Candidates shall regularly check that account as well.
- 4) Candidates are required to have an accident and civic liability insurance. Candidates are responsible for their own medical insurance.
- 5) Twice a year, students are required to fill and submit a progress report describing their work, activities and future planning.
- 6) During the 2nd year EDLE seminars in Rotterdam the students are required to submit (written) peer feedback on the work of their fellow students.

9. Tuition Fees and Scholarships

Participation fees. The participation fee for Doctoral Candidates amounts to € 3600 per year, independently of the country of origin. This fee is waived to candidates with scholarships granted by the Italian Minister of Education or by the Partners (i.e. the Universities of Rotterdam, Haifa and Hamburg).

10. Gender balance and special needs

The Coordination Board makes sure that no form of discrimination takes place, with reference to gender, age, ethnic, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, social or economic condition, or nationality.

EDLE collects no data on religious beliefs. However, in setting the timetable for important activities (exams, seminars, and workshops) the Coordination Board will try to avoid overlapping with important festivities of the presumed religion of the candidates. In any case, candidates have the right to raise the issue and request a variation in the timetable.

Victims of discrimination can submit their complaints to the local Coordinator, to the Chairperson of the Coordination Board, or to the candidate representatives, who will report this at the Board meeting. Partner universities also have Ombudspersons, who can hear complaints and take action.

Regarding candidates with disabilities: most university buildings in Bologna, Haifa, Hamburg and Rotterdam are wheelchair accessible and have reserved parking areas. To help disabled and dyslexic candidates, Bologna offers also special services, from the predisposition of the appropriate logistical conditions for learning, to guidance at the end of the course to help candidates integrate into the job market. Special tutors for visually or auditorily impaired candidates are available. All partner universities can provide offices with wheelchair access to disabled Doctoral Candidates. Libraries offer research utilities to assist visually handicapped candidates. Specialized counselling services are provided by the University of Hamburg and by candidates' representatives. Rotterdam University provides assistance and special facilities for visually or auditorily impaired candidates.

11. Contact Persons/Problem Solving

- 1) In the event of any individual problems relating to the Programme, Doctoral Candidates should first contact the local Coordinator. If the problem cannot be solved satisfactorily, the Doctoral Candidate can contact the Chairperson of the Coordination Board. The Chairperson solves the problem in coordination with all parties involved and informs the Board in the next available meeting.
- 2) In case of problems relating to the Programme that involve more Doctoral Candidates, the two Doctoral Candidate representatives may contact the local Coordinator or the Chairman of the Coordination Board. The Chairperson solves the problem in

coordination with all parties involved and informs the Board in the next available meeting.

12. Visa and Accommodation

Doctoral Candidates will be informed by the partner universities well in advance about the procedure regarding visa, residence permit and accommodation and the necessary documents to submit.

13. General

This document was last updated on 15 December 2016.