

## Dear applicant of the Master's in Law and Technology,

Thank you very much for your interest in taking part in our Master's program.

Before you can move on to the next step in the application process, you are requested to read this document carefully.

### 1) Proficiency in English

This is an international Master in Law and all courses are taught in English. Assignments, presentations, papers, exams and the Master thesis must be written in academic English. We expect students to write in proper English and to meet the requirement of academic writing. In our program, we do not offer English language support and so we strongly advise addressing potential language concerns before starting your studies. If you have never written a thesis or a paper in English before, it would also be wise for you to take a course before starting our program to improve your writing skills. There will not be enough time for you to do so during the program, especially not if you intend to graduate within a year. Experience tells us that even if it is enough to have a 6.5 IELTS overall to be admitted to the program, it is generally insufficient to pass all the exams, and surely not to get good grades for them or for your thesis. So, if your level of English is insufficient, it is highly unlikely you will be able to graduate the L&T program.

### 2) Master thesis as overarching test of knowledge, skills and character

To be awarded an L&T Master degree you need 60 ECTS. Out of these, 12 are awarded for the Master Thesis alone. The Master thesis is a substantial piece of work (10,000 to 12,500 words), written in English on a topic that is under the scope of the L&T program.

2a) The Master thesis is a very important part of your education and it takes a lot of time and effort to finish. We have designed a system thanks to which students are able to write their thesis alongside courses and exams and finish it in time. For this reason, a course "Researching Law & Technology" is developed that starts at the very beginning of the program. This means that you will have only a few weeks to decide on your thesis topic (proposal), and at a time in which you have not followed most of the courses. We therefore advise you to already start looking at what is in the news that combines new technologies and their entrenched legal issues (e.g. Cambridge Analytica and Facebook case, Net neutrality, neuro-technologies, new surveillance techniques used by secret agencies in your country, cybercrimes being perpetrated in your country, etc.) and already start to think about ideas for a research proposal now. To find a potential topic for your master's thesis, you could look at the description of our courses to spot the related lecturers/researchers and download their articles in the SSRN database ([ssrn.com](https://ssrn.com)) or explore journals such as scripted ([script-ed.org](https://script-ed.org)) or simply follow the tech news each day, for example via the tech section of the New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/section/technology>) or the Tech section of CNN (<https://edition.cnn.com/business/tech>) or BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology>) or any other local newspaper's tech section you prefer.

2b) The course Researching Law & Technology is a mandatory course of 6 ECTS. This course guides the students in writing their thesis proposal for the Master thesis. Both attending the lectures and passing the assignments are compulsory and only after passing the course, a student can start to write the Master thesis. If a student does not pass the course, he needs to take the course again the next semester. The course is taught in the first block of both the fall and the spring semester.

3) Europe has been worldwide at the forefront of the development of technology regulation, both in law and doctrine. Hence, although international in its outlook, the L&T master is European in its essence. It is of utmost importance that every student has a basic knowledge of EU law. So, if you do not have that yet, we recommend that you read an introductory book in EU law, for example the freely available book by the European Commission available here:

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5d4f8cde-de25-11e7-a506-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

4) There is a huge demand from the job market for tech-lawyers and we want to provide Master graduates who are ready for the market. Students who come to join us must be aware that they are expected to dedicate 40 hours per week to their studies. There are periods in the year that are more demanding than others, when thesis deadlines, assignments and exams overlap and require extraordinary time management skills, as well as the ability to multitask and work under pressure. These abilities are requested from you by your future employers, so think of your Master year as a training for your next working experience.

5) The law faculty has adopted a new education structure. The academic year is now divided into 4 blocks each of which has (roughly) 7 weeks of education and two weeks dedicated to exams. We aim to teach all the courses in one specific block. This system is designed to more evenly spread the workload of the students, it also requires them to be more consistent in their studies. For instance, your first exams take place after only 7 weeks from the beginning of your master. We strongly advise our prospective students to think smart and plan ahead what courses they want to follow, not only on the basis of their favourite subjects, but also on the basis of the program schedule. Our program consists of about 13 courses that are all extremely interesting and appealing, but to graduate you only need to pass the 2 mandatory courses (both 6 ECTS), the master thesis (12 ECTS) and 6 elective courses (6 x 6 ECTS = 36 ECTS). If you wish to finish the Master in one year, we strongly recommend that you not take too many electives, else you will not be able to cope with the amount of work. After graduation you will receive two knowledge vouchers, offering you the opportunity to freely participate in two courses after graduation.

6) For certain advanced courses, you are required to have completed the intermediate course. Examples of such advanced courses are Advanced Topics in Intellectual Property Law, Capita Selecta Privacy & Data Protection and Competition Law & Tech. Industries. For those courses, students need to complete the intermediate courses European Intellectual Property Law & Technology, Privacy and Data Protection and Regulating Competition. This means you need to follow the course and sit for the exam, but you do not necessarily have to pass it.

Make sure to consider this when selecting your courses and devising your study plan(ning). Based on experience, we also advise against taking more than three courses per block. Please also consider the additional workload of the Master's Thesis (Course).

7) In the last couple of years, the number of students participating in the L&T master has substantially increased. This means that you should not expect small-scale classes of about 20 people, more likely are classes of 60-120 students (depending on the elective or mandatory nature of the courses).

Furthermore, a question we are frequently asked revolves around scholarships. Unfortunately, no scholarships are provided by our department, nor can we provide you with assistance in trying for scholarships elsewhere. So if you wish to apply for one, please make sure to explore external options available to you timely.

Lastly, we require you to submit a motivational letter (one A4 page) which will be assessed on the following basis: Level of English; prior knowledge of EU law; your motivation for joining the program; the workload requirements and; your thesis (potential topics that you wish to research). See for more information about the motivational letter our website:

<https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/nl/onderwijs/masteropleidingen/law-and-technology/application>

***This motivational letter helps you assess for yourself whether the Law and Technology Master is a good fit for you and whether you will be able to meet the requirements to complete the Master program. This letter will also form part of your student record.***

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Best,

Colette Cuijpers, Lucas Jones, Paul Halliday, Shakya Wickramanayake and Femke Abousalama (The Law and Technology Education Team).

