

## **Combined Strategy Document for the LLMs and HUMR**

### **1) Identification of relevant stakeholders and their need for competence as well as potential role in relation to teaching, funding projects, etc.**

The LLM and HUMR/MPhil programs have different stakeholders and varying degrees of interaction with them:

For the ICTL LLM programme, the stakeholders are very heterogeneous. They include tech firms, including large existing ones (like Telenor and Schibsted), start-ups (both legal tech and tech generally), law firms and public sector (particularly data protection authority). Many of their students are international, so there is global diversity. Relevant experts are already involved in teaching. The funding teaching by organisations is not an aim, at this point, but research financing is needed. One of the ICTL graduates is now teaching Intellectual Property Law at BI, a course that was recently cut from the LLM. The courses on Privacy, ICT, etc. are extremely popular, ranging from 160-300 students. It is notable that ICT is an obligatory course at the University of Copenhagen. This field is strategically important and should be prioritized by the Faculty, as it is reliant on two professors who are both partially financed by external projects. Further cuts to the program will diminish its quality

The PIL Program's most relevant stakeholders are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Defence. It receives 500 applications for 22 spots. The first two have reviewed the LLM. They called for a new class on Law of the Sea, and were dismayed when the Faculty cut it. UD has 38 lawyers and is hiring. Their expertise is treaty law, law of the sea, and trade law. They would like us to strengthen our teaching in these areas in order to be able to hire Norwegian graduates with the relevant competence. UD has been asked them to support our Telders Moot Court team. The PIL program also seeks to improve our interaction with NGOs, such as Flyktningehjelpen, in terms of inviting them to give guest lectures and grant internships to our students. In terms of funding, we seek file applications of support to projects, such as the Moot Court team.

The HUMR/MPhil program is financed by the Ministry of Education. Initially it had 20 study places, and in 2017 another 10 study places were added, for a total of 30 study places. The program educates human rights professionals for the central and local governments, as well as for private and public national and international human rights and humanitarian organizations. In the last years, the program has attracted a large number of Norwegian and Nordic students. Through its Human Rights in Practice course, that facilitates internships, the Master program is connected to a range of humanitarian and other non-governmental organizations in Oslo and abroad. Master students have participated in the ELSA Human Rights Moot Court as well as in the Jean Pictet Moot court competition. The program has been a resource to the NCHR International Department for their human rights education activities abroad.

The Maritime LLM's stakeholders are law firms and insurance companies. They are well informed and contribute to teaching, including hosting seminars. Their goal is to train Norwegian students in Maritime Law for pursuit of careers in the field.

## **2) Better marketing of our programs nationally and internationally, as well as improving contact with Alumni.**

We recommend improving advertisement to Norwegian students that they can graduate with a Masters and LLM by adding 6 months, taking English electives, and write the thesis on an LLM topic in English. All law students at the UiO should be informed that they can do a LLM as part of their law studies. We request that this be made clearer on the website to have a diagram showing students how they can pursue a dual degree as part of the MR. We request to have some marketing events.

The Human Rights MPhil receives approximately on average 500 applications for 30 places each year. On average of those enrolled in the Master program half are Norwegian students. Despite the large number of applicants, HUMR still needs adequate marketing among both 'home' and overseas students. Their concern is how to attract more MiR students in some of the HUMR-related courses? Equally, how can the international Master programmes be used to further raise the global profile of our Law Faculty? How can we improve diversity?

Overall, the demand for the ICT & PIL LLM and HUMR is high and it can select good students. That said, they could be marketed better on two levels:

Internally

- Especially HUMR can be marketed more visibly in order to attract more MIR students to its courses; and also because HUMR is a multidisciplinary programme it could be marketed more actively to students at UiO more generally.

Internationally:

- Understand better how students find out about our programme. There is a need to improve the websites of the programs.

## **3) Improving Alumni Relations**

We request the Faculty administration to create an alumni database which we can use for networking, branding, and internship possibilities. The HUMR program indicates that the alumni network can be more structured – through Facebook, or LinkedIn, or some other social media. The HUMR program has an informal alumni on Facebook, established in late 2015 (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1621543224763293/about/>). -- Can a joint initiative across programmes be made, which can facilitate communication, as well as keeping track of the career developments of our alumni? Facebook would be more suitable concerning the social part, whereas LinkedIn might be very good for keeping track of the alumni's progress in the job market.

## **4) We seek to identify areas of potential collaboration.**

We can envisage some joint areas for future course development, though that would need to be discussed in more detail and in cooperation with each programme. Some of these potential areas for cooperation (though there may be additional ones), in terms of joint course development include:

-**Transnational Internet Governance and Regulation** (could be extended based on existing Internet Governance course), will fit into PIL programme.

- **Human Rights and new technologies (Internet)**

- **Legal risk management** (could bridge between perspectives in Maritime Law and ICTL perspectives)

Possible synergies between HUMR and PIL, and other programmes: the course HUMR5140 (Human Rights in International and National Law) has a number of overlaps; and dissertation training could be opened up for international students (and /or methods); our methods course will also offer seminar – specialization options e.g for those especially interested in qualitative methods and how to do interviews etc that could be opened for others.

**Disaster Law**, which would combine experts on liability and Insurance with experts on oil spills, climate change, and forced migration which would combine Maritime Law, PIL, and SMR.

SMR has responsibility for leading the Human Rights course in the UiO International Summer School held at Blindern each year and in drawing on Faculty-wide staff for teaching is ongoing collaboration.

It is strategic to seek to develop EVU courses (further education courses) – and this is not only creating further educational relevance of the programmes, but can also income generating. NCHR, for example, has the following: an annual intensive human rights course for professionals (organized by the NCHR international department and funded through MFA support); annual teaching of Angolan civil servants and civil society (project-based, in cooperation with the Oslo Governance Group); and another course is currently being proposed on Business and Human Rights – the latter would be fee paying. A major challenge at NHCR is that some of the academic staff contribute to international department related teaching activities – without getting any recognition in the ‘undervisningsbanken’. This issue was raised with the Faculty during the last deanship period (2019) and is pending consideration with the new deanship. Any proposed courses would need to secure some recognition in the undervisningsbanken.

#### **5) We would like to improve career advice and collaborate more with the Career Services office, the stakeholders, and the alumni**

The Career Services Office is excellent and we would like to schedule all of our students for meetings there. We seek to contact the stakeholders and alumni with a specific request for internships and career mentoring.

ICTL: A traineeship programme would be useful, but so far we have not been able to prioritise this.

The Human Rights Master program seeks to further develop its internship programme – which is highly attractive for students – we have now secured funds from DIKU to send two students each year to South African human rights organisations 2020-2022; and this possibility complements the bigger range of options (approximately 20-25 internship possibilities per year) that we now have for HUMR 4504/Human Rights in Practice.

The Maritime LLM is oriented towards private law so their students are aware of job opportunities within law firms and marine insurance.

**6) We are interested in updating our teaching methods, and are curious as to which methods do we want to collaborate with CELL?**

Increased focus on experiential learning is relevant for ICTL LLM.

CELL is developing a skills ladder for the MIR programme. In parallel, we should create a skills ladder for the international Master programs. Skills include advocacy and writing skills, as well as digital skills. These should be systematically developed throughout the programmes. There is some prior experience with participating in international moot courts and a specific course which relates to developing some of these legal skills, namely JUS5912 – Legal writing and oral advocacy in international law. CELL could assist with developing teaching and training materials for some of these skill-developing activities.

The Human Rights MPhil suggests that there are several areas where HUMR reforms could be linked with CELL activities: for example, a variety of teaching activities could be developed further to supplement also the ‘home exam’ x 5000 word assessment and towards different models of assessment – group work; practical exercises; research project writing; press releases; funding proposals etc etc. CELL might also be considered for developing a human rights and law clinic – providing both practical skills, internship options but linked to a teaching programme (such as HUMR 4504)? Similarly, could CELL fund Moot court activity in a more structured way than the hitherto ad hoc one?

The Counter Terrorism class had ca. 75 6000 word essays. They showed that the students had problems identifying a research question, pursuing independent analysis, conducting correct citation, or relating the discussion back to the questions. There is a need to improve the research and writing skills of the students before 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They should have 1500 and 3000 word essay assignments in classes every semester. CELL should be approached to design a program.

- 7) Need for a Common study room for the LLMs and MPhil. The Masters students need to write their thesis and do not have a common reading room. This would help improve the identity of the programs. Is it possible to use a room within DB, now that the library has moved to DJ?

**8) Future Challenges:**

As a result of the cuts, PIL Masters has ended its previous specializations and will commence a new multidisciplinary specialization in combination with the Centre on Gender Studies. The specialization will bring together various electives under the umbrella of Gender, Peace, and International Law Studies. We hope that this new marketing approach will be successful.

HUMR future challenges: in terms of: a) recruitment of new academic staff and PhDs (which for HUMR is a ‘special’ case in that we have a multidisciplinary program (law, political/social sciences and philosophy) and staff cannot always easily contribute to the regular law programme at UiO) b) Furthermore, NCHR has generated considerable overheads

due to the UD agreement, now renewed for two more years (2020-2021) - which over several years has covered the costs of three (and now 2, since one retirement in 2019) academic positions to date. Moreover, the HUMR program generates a significant amount of ECTS every semester. While the Faculty has adopted 10% cuts on teaching resources, it is important to safeguard the individual identity of each Master programme. It is important to emphasise that although our programmes are relatively small, the quality of each programme will be difficult to maintain, for example, if there is any planned reduction of Programme leader hours.

We would appreciate a close dialogue with the Faculty to find adequate ways and means to improve the quality of our educational programs across the board and use the potential synergies among them.