

EDENet Graduate School





Erasmus+

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EDELNet Partner Universities



FernUniversität in Hagen



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Impressum

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Introduction

Since 2014 the Faculty of Law of FernUniversität in Hagen has been working on the development of an international doctorate programme to give its students the opportunity to actively participate in a transnational community of researchers and benefit from the experience of international scientific and intercultural exchange. In this endeavour, the Faculty of Law of FernUniversität has joined forces with the Law Schools of Dutch Open Universiteit and Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia from Spain to create a Europe-wide, high-quality doctorate programme in law, which has been awarded with Erasmus+(KA2) funding by the European Union. This cooperation is further strengthened by the ad hoc collaboration with other universities, such as the British Open University and the Italian Università di Bologna.

As a result of this effort, we are delighted to inform you that the EDELNet Graduate School will open in 2016. From this year, many of our online courses as well as the bi-national supervision system, the guest lecture and the seminar series as well as the annual face-to-face winter programme are available for you.

The EDELNet Graduate School is anchored in the “Structured Doctorate Programme” (§ 17 Promotionsordnung) of the Faculty of Law and is, thus, a supplement to the traditional individual doctorate system of FernUniversität. The Graduate School is designed to help you in the path towards the completion of your dissertation, offering you the necessary support to plan, implement and disseminate internationally your doctorate research. In addition, it offers you full recognition and transnational official certification of all the courses and activities in which you wish to participate. By joining the EDELNet Graduate School, you officially become a Junior Fellow of the programme, with access to all its contents and advantages.

I. Enrollment

You can join the EDELNet Graduate School by contacting the coordinator of the programme, Dr. Juan J. Garcia Blesa at juan.garciablesa@fernuni-hagen.de. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Once you are enrolled, you will be asked to register on the platform of the programme and to send us a short description of your research plans. You will be provided with a specific research outline form for this purpose. Subsequently, you will be invited to take our e-courses on research ethics (10-15 hrs.) and advanced legal English (10-15 hrs.)

Once these steps are completed, the main part of the programme is open for you to participate at your convenience. Thanks to the EU-Erasmus+ funding, the enrollment and participation in the programme activities will be free of charge for the doctorate students of FernUniversität in Hagen.

II. The Programme

The programme of the EDELNet Graduate School consists of a number of courses and activities that essentially aim to equip our Junior Fellows with the key research competences and skills necessary to both complete their dissertations and have successful international academic careers. Accordingly, together with a number of high quality online courses, seminars and guest lectures, we offer a series of international face-to-face activities, international networking, bi-national supervision, and support for research stints at any of our partner universities.

Although you are free to choose what activities you want to participate in, and shape your own path through the programme, we have designed a standard sequence for our programme activities and courses that you can easily follow. You are also encouraged to contact the programme coordinator for advice on how to plan your participation in the different activities of the programme during your doctorate studies.

1. Core Subjects

Our programme concentrates on the methodological competences necessary to perform high-quality research. This allows students to choose their research topics among a wider range of areas of law while remaining part of a common international network. The core subjects of the programme are presented to the participants in the form of the following online modules:

Doctoral Legal Research	Interdisciplinary research methods		
1. Main Jurisprudential Approaches	1. Socio-legal research	Research methods in international law	Research methods in EU Law
2. Analysis of legal argumentation	2. Critical legal studies		
3. Comparative methods of legal research	3. Law and economics		
4. Historical methods of legal research	4. Law, morality and intercultural communication		

2. Annual Winter Programme

All EDELNet Junior Fellows will have the opportunity to attend a face-to-face intensive study programme where they will participate in a variety of seminars, present their projects and get feedback from professors and peers. These activities encompass, for instance, face-to-face training in legal research methods, advanced legal English, intercultural communication, public presentation and debate, academic ethics, and research project management skills. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the EU-Erasmus+ funding scheme.

3. Skills

The EDELNet Graduate Programme is also underpinned by the learning of skills key to researchers in the current cross-cultural, knowledge-based society and economy. The programme, therefore, includes specific, practice-oriented training activities in order to provide our Junior Fellows with these skills. Our skills training modules include:

Research Project Management	Advanced Legal English	Intercultural Communication	Academic Attitude and Ethics
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4. Bi-national Supervision

The bi-national supervision system gives our Junior Fellows the opportunity to receive co-supervision from professors working at any of our partner universities. This is not meant to replace your main supervisor, but to be an enriching addition to the input you receive during the programme and to your international network. Co-supervision by a foreign professor can provide your dissertation with an edge on the scientific arena and offer you improved access to international channels of publication and dissemination. In addition, participation in the bi-national supervision system can grant you a special mention in the diploma supplement that our Junior Fellows receive on completion of the programme.

5. Seminars and Guest Lectures

The programme will lend support from a series of online guest lectures and additional seminars on specific topics taught by international experts. The guest lectures and seminar series are conceived to supply our graduate community with advanced input on a variety of subjects. These activities will be announced every semester on the website of the Graduate School. Should you have any preferences or wishes concerning the topics to be discussed in the seminar series, you are encouraged to contact the Graduate School coordinator.

III. Further Support

A central goal of the programme is to offer our Junior Fellows access to an international network of academics and practitioners who will accompany and support their work and careers both during and after their doctorate studies. For this purpose, the EDELNet Graduate Programme will encourage and support doctorate students to participate in:

- Continued support through the EDELNet online platform (consultations, forum, blog)
- Stints of research at the partner universities
- Publication strategy support
- Alumni group and the possibility of further involvement after completion of the programme

IV. Qualifications

Participants in the EDELNet Graduate Programme will see their training officially recognised in the form of:

- Tri-national certificates for participation in face-to-face activities and virtual courses, seminars and lectures
- Possibility to opt for a Special International Mention in addition to their diploma for completing the programme

V. Contact

If you are interested in our programme, please contact the coordinator of the programme for further details

Dr. Juan J. Garcia Blesa
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