

# Master's programme (one year) in International Operational Law



Swedish  
Defence  
University

# Master's programme (one year) in International Operational Law, 60 ECTS

**This programme is suitable for those wanting to immerse themselves in the specific field of international law that regulates the actions of armed forces and other actors in armed conflict and crises. Among other things, you will study the law of armed conflicts, human rights and the legal framework for peace operations.**

The programme is an international, practice-informed Master's programme for those who hold a law degree or bachelor's degree in law specialising in International Law, or an equivalent Swedish or foreign degree. The programme leads to the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.), (60 credits) in International Operational Law. All courses are given in English..

## **Future career opportunities**

The programme prepares you for a career in the armed forces, government agencies or ministries with a focus on foreign policy, crisis management, security and defence, international or national humanitarian or crisis management organizations, and civil society organizations.

The programme also gives you an opportunity to specialise before applying for doctoral studies in law.

## **About the programme**

The Master's programme in International Operational Law gives you as a student a highly specialised, practice-informed education in the international law that governs armed conflict and other crises.

The programme focuses on studying the legal room for manoeuvre for states and other actors in the areas of crisis management, defence and security. The programme covers the entire spectrum from peace to crisis and armed conflict – from an international legal perspective.

You will have the opportunity to study, for example:

- The right of states to use force against other states or against non-state actors.
- The rules of international law applicable to non-state actors in armed conflicts.
- How violations of international law, such as war crimes, are regulated and enforced by domestic and international courts.
- How cyber operations and hybrid warfare are regulated.
- Which laws govern the way countries deal with, and can support each other in the event of major crises and natural disasters such as storms, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.
- How human rights can be affected in the event of crisis or armed conflict through limitations and state of emergency regimes.

The programme is practice-informed and contains a high degree of application elements, such as different types of exer-

cises and gaming, as well as Socratic course components in order to create an educational environment that is characterised by a high degree of active participation in the programme. Courses are taught in a combination of physical in-class teaching and distance-learning.

Your teachers will be internationally acknowledged and highly specialised academics and practitioners who link the programme to both current international research and experience drawn from work in international organisations, the armed forces and in international contexts.

The teaching staff and the student group are also characterised by a high degree of internationalisation with links to relevant national and international government agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

All in all, this creates a dynamic, stimulating educational environment in which students and teachers work closely together.





# Outline of the programme

Degree: Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Operational Law, 60 ECTS

- The Law Governing the Use of Force
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Human Rights in Crisis and Armed Conflict
- The Law of International Responsibility
- The Law of Peace Operations
- International Criminal Law

## AUTUMN SEMESTER

Advanced Law of Armed Conflict 5 ECTS	International Law and the Use of Force 5 ECTS
Human Rights in Crisis and Conflict 5 ECTS	International Operational Law and Peace Operations 5 ECTS
International Criminal Law 5 ECTS	International Operational Law – Capita Selecta 5 ECTS

## SPRING SEMESTER

Elective courses 7,5 ECTS	International Operational Law – Master's Thesis 15 ECTS
Elective courses 7,5 ECTS	

### Examples of elective courses:

- International Operational Law and Operational Planning
- International Disaster Law
- International Operational Law on Hybrid Warfare and Terrorism
- War, Law and Emerging Technology

*Students may also be eligible to take elective courses from any other Master's programme offered at the Swedish Defence University.*



# A university specialised in defence, crisis management and security

The Swedish Defence University conducts education and research oriented towards making the world a safer place. Here, as a student, you will be able to develop in an academic environment where military and civil aspects of defence, crisis management and security come together. An environment where career and study go hand in hand.

With 1,000 military and civilian students, we are a small, specialist university. We cover the following subjects: International Law, Systems Science for Defence and Security, War Studies, Leadership, Command and Control Science, Military History and Political Science.

The university is situated in Stockholm.

# ‘Today’s uncertain world requires an understanding of international legal frameworks’

In an ever-more digitalised and globalised world, understanding international law is becoming increasingly important, regardless of whether you work for a state or for an international organisation.

“There will always be an international context. Whether it’s joint military operations with other countries in a domestic setting or in connection with UN peacekeeping operations,” says Professor of International Law Jann Kleffner, who has developed the new master’s programme together with his colleagues at the Centre for International and Operational Law at the Swedish Defence University.

“Today, it’s almost impossible to work with defence and security issues or crisis management without having an international perspective.”

The master’s programme is aimed at those who already have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent in law and are interested in a practice-informed education specialising in how international law regulates armed conflicts and other crises.

“This is a unique programme in that we study issues related to security, defence, and crisis management from an international legal perspective with an operational focus in depth,” explains Kleffner.

“We include a lot of practical elements such as applexes, gaming and exercises. Many other



*Jann Kleffner,  
Professor of  
International Law*

universities that offer similar programmes are purely academic and don’t approach the law from an operational perspective. But we do.”

## International research and field experience

The programme connects current international research with field experience from international organisations and the Armed Forces. The instructors are highly specialised academics and practitioners who are internationally recognised in their respective fields.

The Swedish Defence University’s study

environment differs from other higher education institutions. Students have a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, but assemble around the specialised field of defence, crisis management and security. This creates a meeting place that benefits all involved.

“We have many military students as well as many civilian students, so we can really connect these two worlds,” says Kleffner.

## Work as a legal adviser or legal specialist

When it comes to potential career paths after completing the new master’s programme, the choices are many.

“You can become a legal adviser with the Armed Forces or an international organisation like the UN. But we also provide a foundation for working at humanitarian, human rights or crisis management organisations,” Kleffner explains. “You will also be very well equipped to work as a legal specialist at the political strategic level, such as in government offices, or at public authorities.”

“In many ways, we live in a more uncertain world today surrounded by many kinds of crises and threats: from pandemics and natural disasters to antagonistic intelligence operations and warfare. And in such a world, the need for understanding the legal framework that governs these situations is greater than ever.”

# We welcome your application!

You can apply to our master programmes **October–January**.

For more information about The Swedish Defence University and our programmes, please visit [www.fhs.se](http://www.fhs.se)

## General entry requirements

- Swedish Degree of Master of Laws (juristexamen) or Degree of Bachelor of Science in Law with Specialisation in International Law, or equivalent.
- English equivalent to English B/English 6.