BBE bachelor's thesis Supervision Guideline – summer semester 2024

ICT/IP-Law Group (Prof. Philipp Homar)

1. General Remarks

BBE students are required to write a bachelor's thesis worth 10 ECTS credits, which corresponds to a workload of roughly 250 working hours or approximately 30 working days. The ICT/IP-Law Group supervises bachelor's theses in the **following research areas**:

- ICT/IP-Law
- Competition Law
- Company Law

BBE Bachelor's theses **must** be written in English.

2. Formal application prerequisites

- Students must have successfully completed the courses of the Introductory and Orientation Phase and the courses in the area of Academic Skills.
- Students must have successfully completed the following courses:
  - o Governance and Legal Environment
  - o Law, Economics, and Business

3. Allocation of supervision

3.1 Research topic

Students are required to choose a topic within the research areas mentioned above. In the bachelor's theses, students must examine a legal topic that raises current and relevant research questions. The topic may be based on a case of the European Court of Justice or of the EUIPO, decided within the past three calendar years. The treatment of the case must go beyond rephrasing the court's arguments. Students may also choose one specific aspect of the topics published on the ICT/IP-Law group's website two weeks prior to the beginning of the application period.

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3.2 Application

Applicants are required to submit an application via E-Mail to iplaw@wu.ac.at within the application period. Please note that the thesis has to be developed according to a strict time table once the application is accepted (see below).

The following documents must be submitted together with the application:

- CV
- Transcript of all grades
- A brief schedule and work plan (approx. 2 pages)
    - Short summary of the legal topic
    - Identification of relevant research questions
    - Personal motivation

3.3 Preliminary Selection

If the number of applicants is very high, the written applications will be subject to a preliminary selection. Hence, the quality of the dispositions is an important factor.

3.4 Short meeting prior to the allocation

Applicants with a convincing bachelor's thesis project will be invited to a short meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the research topic and research plan based on a brief presentation of the topic (approx. 5-7 minutes); slides are not required.

After the meeting, applicants will be informed whether the ICT/IP-Law Group will supervise the bachelor's thesis. Successful applicants are requested to sign a Bachelor's Thesis Agreement.

4. Supervisors

WU academic staff members with a PhD or doctoral degree are qualified to grade bachelor's theses, regardless of whether they are teaching any courses in the respective semester:

- Univ.-Prof. MMag. Dr. Philipp Homar
- Dr. Philipp Fidler, MSc

In most cases, an additional research staff member will be assigned as well for supervision purposes.

5. Bachelor's thesis

5.1 Structure

A BBE bachelor's thesis should include the following elements:

- Cover page
- Table of contents
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Body of thesis (depends on the area of research chosen)
- Discussion
- Reference list
- Appendices (optional)

The bachelor's thesis should consist of **approx. 100.000 characters** (including blanks and footnotes; excluding ToC, Reference list and Appendices). Furthermore, candidates are required to use **appropriate legal, gender-sensitive language** and **citation styles**.

5.2 Supervision during the writing process

Candidates will be invited to a supervision meeting and are required to submit a sample chapter within a given period. Please note that the sample chapter is mandatory and should meet the (language and citation) standards mentioned above. During the review of the sample chapter, candidates will be invited to an additional supervision meeting to discuss further steps.

At least one month prior to the end of your supervision period, candidates have the opportunity to submit a preliminary final draft of the bachelor's thesis for review. Please note that multiple reviews are not possible since the bachelor's thesis must be prepared **independently**.

Upon completion of the final version, candidates are requested to send it to the supervisor in PDF-format. After approval, candidates may upload their theses to Learn@WU for plagiarism testing.

6. Grading criteria

6.1 General
- **Form-related evaluation criteria**
    - Completeness of the submitted thesis (cover page, table of contents, references section, if applicable, list of abbreviations, tables and figures, annex)
    - Clear thesis structure (overall structure, chapter structure)
    - Correct language use and orthography
    - Correct use of sources (it must be possible to find and check the referenced sources)

- o Correct citations
- **Content-related evaluation criteria**
  - o Independent work (content taken from other sources is clearly separated from the student's own argument)
  - o Fulfilling objectives (successfully answered research question)
  - o Clear arguments, logical structure (logical and coherent)
  - o Use of technical terms and literature
  - o Quality of empirical study, if the thesis is based on an empirical study

6.2 Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when texts, contents or ideas are copied and displayed as one's own. This comprises in particular, but not exclusively, the use of text paragraphs, theories, hypotheses, findings and data, and translations thereof if such sources are not specifically mentioned and marked as such.

7. Time table

Jan 22nd – Feb 16th 2024	Application period
- Febr 23rd 2024	Preliminary selection and invitation to short meeting
Mar 8th 2024	Short meeting; allocation of supervision; signing of the Supervision Agreement
- Apr 29th 2024	Submission of your sample chapter
- Aug 31st 2024	Voluntary submission of your final draft for review
- Sept 30th 2024	Submission of your final version via E-Mail to your supervisor; Upload to Learn@WU

Please note that this time table is binding for all applicants. Should you fail to keep to schedule, your supervision will be revoked.

The **grading** will be done by the ICT/IP-Law Group within one month upon submission.