

A Description of the Law Curricula in the Iranian Colleges of Law

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I Introduction

Prior to the 1979 revolution the legal system in Iran had developed on a secular basis, although it included traces of religious rules and principles. Since 1979, there have been fundamental changes in the legal system as it has developed on the basis of religious thought.¹ Many laws were changed or amended following the revolution and some of the laws were abolished because they were not consistent with religious rules and principles (*Shari'a*). The Iranian Assembly of the Representatives passed new laws, which are invalid if they are contrary to the *Iranian Constitution* or religious principles of Islam. These changes have had a significant impact on legal education in Iran.

The changes in the foundations of the Iranian legal system following the 1979 revolution, necessitated changes in the law curricula. Some subjects were deleted and new subjects (mostly religious-based) were added. Certain subjects in the curricula were modified and other subjects remained essentially unchanged. The changes have been more pronounced in the LLB program (Bachelor of Laws) than in certain LLM or PhD programs (such as LLM and PhD studies in international law or in human rights).² This paper describes the existing structure and

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¹ Although the content of Iranian law is probably largely based on Islamic law, the Civil Law system has had, and continues to have, an influence on the Iranian legal system. The procedural laws in Iran largely originate from the Civil Law system. This is particularly due to the influence of the French legal system in the 20th century.

² There are also some postgraduate law programs that are mainly based on religious studies.

content of undergraduate and postgraduate legal education in Iran and offers some suggestions for improvement.

II The Prescription of Law Curricula

The Supreme Council for University Course Management presently determines all matters relating to the content, duration and structure of undergraduate and postgraduate law degrees. The Council is part of the Ministry of Sciences, Research and Technology. This function is fulfilled by the Supreme Council's Department of Humanities (especially its Law Committee). Under recent reforms the universities are being given more independence to plan their own curricula and degrees. Accordingly, there may be changes in law curricula and law degrees in the future. Among the possible changes are: combination of some subjects, reduction or increase in credit points allocated to some subjects, and development of applied subjects with a more practical focus.

III Structure of the Iranian Colleges of Law

Undergraduate and postgraduate law degrees in Iran are offered by faculties or departments of law within various universities. Such faculties and departments are referred to collectively as 'colleges of law'. A faculty consists of various departments specialising in distinct areas of law and is characterised by extensive educational and research activities. A department of law is part of a faculty which is not a faculty of law, but whose academic activities include teaching and research in law. In general, legal education becomes part of a university's educational system with the establishment of a department of law. In the course of time, this department may extend to form an independent unit within the institution in the form of a faculty. This process of transition usually takes some time and takes place through: development of academic staff, introduction of new subjects and degrees in law, and an increase in the number of students (both undergraduate and postgraduate).

As noted above, each faculty of law has its own specialised departments. These departments usually consist of a department of civil law, a department of criminal law, and a department of public and international law. Other departments may develop according to the legal expertise available. All of these departments are involved in teaching law subjects for both undergraduate and postgraduate programs within their area of expertise. Accordingly, in addition to their research commitments the academic members of the departments are responsible for teaching the subjects of the law curriculum that fall within their area of competence.³ For example, the Department of Public Law and International Law at Shiraz University is responsible for subjects such

as Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Public International Law and Private International Law.

IV Academic Semesters and Credit Points

Each academic year is divided into two semesters. Except in special circumstances, there is no summer session for law subjects. Notwithstanding, law students can complete general subjects during the summer session as part of their LLB program.⁴ First semester runs from Mid-September to Mid-January (Autumn Session). Second semester runs from February to Mid-July (Spring Session).⁵ Each of these two semesters consists of sixteen weeks for teaching plus one or two weeks for exams.⁶

Law students are advised to take subjects in the order which has been designed by their respective faculty or department of law for each semester. (The subjects which LLB students are expected to complete in each particular semester are shown in Table 5 in the Annexes.) Students may however take subjects outside of the designated sequence if permission is obtained from their academic advisors to do so. Students are required to have passed any stipulated pre-requisite subjects before enrolling in a given subject.

With respect to the credit point weightings for law subjects, the Iranian colleges of law apply the standard which has been adopted by the Law Committee of the Iranian Supreme Council University Course Management. The LLB subjects are allotted various credit point values based on the content of the subject, the amount of teaching involved, and the significance of the subject. The credit points for the LLB subjects vary from one to three credit points. As far as the duration of teaching is concerned, each credit point is defined as a period of 45 minutes. Accordingly, a law subject with the value of one credit point is taught for 45 minutes per week and a subject with two credit points' value is taught for 90 minutes per week. A subject with three credit points is usually taught in two separate classes of 90 and 45 minutes in order to maintain the quality of teaching and learning.

³ Where there is no full time academic to teach a certain law subject, the faculty or department may use an academic from another university or may use a part time law teacher to teach the subject. This usually happens where there is no particular department responsible for teaching the law subject concerned.

⁴ These general subjects are principally offered by the subject-related faculties (normally the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities).

⁵ The Summer session (usually for general subjects) starts in Mid-July and ends in Mid-September. There is also a Persian new year holiday for about 2 weeks in the second month of the second semester (from 21 March to 2 April).

⁶ The law exams are conducted in the Faculty of Law. Students are required to be present at the exam sessions and to answer the exam questions in the time limit provided. The exam sessions are supervised by the relevant academic and administrative staff. Exams are designed to evaluate students' understanding of the law subjects and to assess their skills and abilities.

V Undergraduate Studies at the Iranian Colleges of Law

Most of the subjects studied by LLB students over the four year duration of the degree are compulsory, although a number of optional subjects are included. The compulsory subjects are broken down into three categories: general subjects⁷ (10 subjects totalling 20 credit points), basic subjects⁸ (8 subjects totalling 15 credit points), and principal (core) subjects⁹ (46 subjects totalling 94 credit points). All LLB students must pass the compulsory subjects along with optional (elective) subjects totalling 6 credit points.

Table 1: The LLB Subjects and Their Constitutive Percentage of the Total Credit Points

Group of Subjects	Credit Points	Percentage of the Total Credit Points
General Subjects	20	14.8%
Basic Subjects	15	11.2%
Principal (Core) Subjects	94	69.6%
Optional (Elective) Subjects	6	4.4%
Total:	135	100%

In total, students are required to take and pass 70 subjects totalling 135 credit points in order to qualify for the Bachelor of Laws.¹⁰ As indicated by the number and variety of subjects, it takes much energy and dedication to obtain an LLB in Iran.

⁷ General subjects are the subjects which are not legal subjects in nature. They are designed to improve general knowledge of the LLB students in such areas as languages, religious education, and physical training. These subjects may assist students in different ways to have basic knowledge of some law-related subjects and to be physically and mentally prepared for further studies in the following years. For the list of general subjects, see Section A of Table 4 in the Annexes.

⁸ Basic subjects are those which give basic information and knowledge to students for better understanding of more specialised subjects in the semesters ahead. These subjects also supplement the legal subjects as part of the LLB program. For the list of basic subjects, see Section B of Table 4 in the Annexes.

⁹ Principal or core subjects are the essential subjects of LLB program. As shown in Table 1, these subjects form the largest proportion of subjects undertaken during the LLB (69.6%). For the list of core subjects, see Section C of Table 4 in the Annexes.

¹⁰ The number of subjects may reduce to 69 if the student takes an optional subject worth two credit points as part of their six credit points of optional subjects. See Section D of Table 4 in Annexes (Optional Subjects). Since students are required to pass six credit points of optional subjects, they can either take six subjects worth one credit point each or five subjects worth one credit point plus one subject worth two credit points.

The LLB students begin studying the general subjects in the first year and also undertake basic studies on legal principles and concepts. (See Table 5 in the Annexes.) After completing their first year, students begin undertaking principal (core) subjects. In addition, students are permitted to take optional subjects from the start of their third semester of study (as shown in Table 5.3 in the Annexes).

Some of the LLB subjects at the Iranian colleges of law can also be classified as either substantive law subjects¹¹ or procedural law subjects.¹² The LLB program includes some subjects which indicate the effect of the religion and religious rules in legal studies and in shaping the current legal system in Iran. These subjects include, but not limited to: Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (4 Units), Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (2 Units), and Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (2 Units).

There are a number of law subjects which are taught in a series of units, with each unit dedicated to a particular aspect of the subject. Examples of these units and their subject matters are presented below:

- (i) Civil Law: There are eight units for the study of civil law. In these units topics such as the law of private rights, law of property, law of contracts, family law, and law of succession are discussed and analysed.
- (ii) Commercial Law: This subject is offered in four units which include discussion of issues such as distinction between business and non-business people, conditions for conducting a commercial activity running a business, various commercial dealings, various companies and their characteristics and functions, and commercial documents (like cheques and bills of exchange).¹³
- (iii) Public Criminal Law: Public Criminal Law is taught in three units and the topics which are discussed in this subject include definition of crime, elements of crime, division and classification of crimes.
- (iv) Private Criminal Law: Private Criminal Law is offered in three units through which topics such as crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against public security and national interests are examined.
- (v) Public International Law: Public International Law is offered in two units. In the first unit, students learn about the international legal system, subjects of international law and its sources. In the second unit, many specialised fields of international law are taught to students,

¹¹ These subjects include: Constitutional Law (2 Units), Civil Law (8 Units), Administrative Law (2 Units), Commercial Law (4 Units), Public Criminal Law (3 Units), Private Criminal Law (3 Units), Public International Law (2 Units), and Private International Law (2 Units).

¹² These subjects are mainly composed of Civil Procedural Law (3 Units), and Criminal Procedural Law (2 Units).

¹³ E-commerce is a new topic in Iran and the law of e-commerce has not yet become an effective part of syllabuses of the Units of Commercial Law. This is mainly due to the lack of sufficient legal provisions and technical facilities to protect business conducted via the Internet.

from the international law of the sea to the international law of pacific settlement of disputes.

- (vi) Private International Law: This subject is taught in two units. In the first unit discussions include nationality, place of residence and the legal status of aliens (foreign nationals). In the second unit issues such as conflict of laws, enforcement of competent law, personal affairs, property, documents and contracts are discussed.
- (vii) Research Project: Research Project is also offered in two units. The purpose of these two units are to teach students how to do a research work in the area of law. In the first unit students learn: (a) how to use research resources, (b) how to collect information, (c) how to write a research work, (d) how to analyse legal issues and how to use critical thinking, and (e) how to prepare the final research report. In the second unit, each student will select a particular topic in any field of law after consulting with one of the academic staff and produce a written work. This work will be then assessed and marked by two academic staff. Normally the second unit of Research Project will be undertaken as the last subject prior to graduation. It should be added that there is no honours degree available in the Iranian colleges of law. In certain countries (such as Australia) LLB students may qualify for an LLB degree with honours if they successfully complete a minor research work at the end of their studies. Although LLB students in Iran must complete two units of the Research Project subject and are required to submit a written work, their degree is not considered as an honours degree.

VI Areas for Improvement in Undergraduate Law Programs

Developments in information technology and the heightened pace of globalisation have made it necessary for Iranian law students to acquire two significant skills — computer skills and foreign language skills (English and French in particular). The LLB curriculum in Iran includes subjects related to these skills but the author's experience suggests that law students do not develop these skills to a sufficient degree. In the author's view, the Iranian colleges of law should provide more training in computer skills and English and French language skills. As far as Internet-based information is concerned, these two skills are interrelated. The Internet provides a great opportunity to have access to a wide range of legal information, including documents and articles. Most of this information is in English or French. Accordingly, it is necessary for the Iranian law student to have a good understanding of these languages in order to be able to benefit from the material available on the Internet for their legal research and studies.

The range of degrees in law available through Iranian colleges of

law could be expanded. At present, the option of a combined (double) degree is not available to LLB students. Combined degrees could be developed by the Iranian colleges of law in collaboration with other non-law colleges. Accordingly, it is suggested that these colleges work together on the possibility of developing such degrees. For this purpose, the Iranian colleges of law can benefit from the experiences of other countries (such as Australia) whose universities have long been offering combined degrees for LLB students. Degrees with which LLB students might combine their law degree could include: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom), Bachelor of Computer Science (BComSc), Bachelor of Creative Arts (BCA), Bachelor of Engineering (BE), Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (BInfTech), Bachelor of Mathematics (BMath), and Bachelor of Science (BSc). The establishment of such combined degrees would improve the qualifications of Iranian law graduates and increase their chances of finding employment.

Another shortcoming of the Iranian legal education system is the lack of sufficient practical legal training provided during LLB studies. There is an opportunity for LLM students to complete a subject called Practical Judicial Training, but this is only an optional subject with a value of one credit point.¹⁴ It is necessary that the Iranian colleges of law develop and extend the practical aspects of legal education.

The learning process at the Iranian colleges of law should also be improved by the application of critical thinking method and analytical skills in all law subjects and law-related subjects. The development of critical thinking and analytical skills is essential for equipping law students for professional life or the continuation of legal studies at the postgraduate level.

VII Postgraduate Studies at the Iranian Colleges of Law

The Iranian Colleges of Law have a long history of providing postgraduate programs. In the past few years, the colleges have been working on the extension and development of LLM and PhD programs. Demand from law and non-law graduates to undertake postgraduate studies in law is high. Admission to postgraduate law studies is competitive.

The following LLM specialisations are currently available: International Law, Public Law, Civil (Private) Law, Criminal Law, and Human Rights. All LLM degrees are completed by a combination of coursework and research. At present, it is not possible to undertake the LLM degree either

¹⁴ Only one legal institution in Iran — the Faculty of Juridical Sciences and Administrative Services (associated with the Iranian Ministry of Justice) — provides the opportunity for students to undergo practical legal training. Students of Juridical Sciences begin their practical legal learning after their second year of studies. These students attend all types of courts (including civil and criminal courts) and legal centres under supervision to obtain necessary experience and required practical skill.

by coursework or by research exclusively. Establishment of such options would provide students with the opportunity to undertake a LLM degree that suits their ability and needs.

Under the study program designed by the Iranian Supreme Council for University Course Management (Department of Humanities, Law Committee), all LLM degrees currently comprise 32 credit points and include both compulsory and optional (elective) subjects (the allocation of credit points between compulsory and optional subjects is indicated in Table 2 below). The credit point value of individual LLM subjects varies from one to four credit points.¹⁵ The duration of the LLM degree is 2-3 years. The LLM subjects and their contents have been designed in accordance with the chosen area of specialisation. The LLM degree provides an opportunity for students to develop and strengthen their knowledge and research skills in the relevant specialisation. In addition, candidates must complete the LLM before applying for a PhD degree in law.¹⁶

Table 2: The Credit Point Allocation between Compulsory and Optional Subjects in the LLM Programs at the Iranian Colleges of Law^{*}

LLM Program (Total Credit Points: 32 Credit Points)	Compulsory Subjects (Credit Points)	Optional Subjects (Credit Points)
International Law	23	9
Public Law	25	7
Civil (Private) Law	25	7
Criminal Law	24	8
Human Rights	28	4

After completion of their subjects LLM students are required to submit and defend a thesis.¹⁷ Students are required to seek approval from the relevant department before starting work on the thesis. Students are required to submit a completed thesis proposal form to the relevant department of law. The form contains various sections, including the title of thesis, the purposes of the research, the background to the research, the most

¹⁵ The only subject which has a value of four credit points is the thesis which is completed as the last component of the LLM degree.

¹⁶ It may also be a requirement that the candidate should hold a LLM degree in the area of specialisation relevant to the PhD degree. For example, it is a requirement that candidates for a PhD in International Law to hold a LLM in International Law.

For the list of subjects and the number of subjects which should be completed by LLM students see Table 6 (LLM in International Law), Table 7 (Public Law), Table 8 (Civil (Private) Law), Table 9 (Criminal Law), and Table 10 (Human Rights) in the Annexes.

¹⁷ The research activities of LLM students are not limited to preparation of a thesis. They are required to present a seminar and written work for all or many of the subjects undertaken during the LLM degree.

important issues and questions involved, the hypotheses of the thesis, the methodology, and bibliography. Each thesis proposal is examined and discussed in the related law department with the prospective supervisor. If the thesis proposal requires modification, it is returned to the student for modification under supervision of the prospective supervisor. The newly developed thesis proposal will then be looked at by the department's members again and will be approved if the recommended changes have been made to the proposal. If the proposal is considered to be acceptable, the department permits the student to start working on the thesis under the supervision of an academic supervisor. There is no particular limitation on the size of the thesis; the emphasis is on the quality of the work.

Until recently, students who did not hold a Bachelor of Laws were not admitted to the LLM program. A new policy has been adopted under which graduates of non-law degrees are permitted to compete with law graduates for entrance into LLM studies. However, if non-law students are successful in the entrance exam, they are required to complete additional subjects as pre-requisites to their LLM studies. The additional pre-requisites provide non-law students with basic information about legal principles and concepts. A list of the pre-requisite subjects for non-law students in three LLM programs (Public Law, Civil (Private) Law, and International Law) is provided in Table 3 below.

Efforts have been made in the past few years to introduce and develop PhD programs in law in Iran. Until recently, it was necessary to undertake studies overseas to obtain a doctorate in law.¹⁸ It was just a few years ago that the first doctoral degrees in law were offered in Iran. One of the first PhD degrees to be offered was the PhD in International Law.¹⁹ This PhD program is completed by a combination of coursework and research.²⁰ The curriculum of this doctoral degree is set out in Table 11 in the Annexes. As Table 11 indicates, PhD candidates in international law are required to complete compulsory and optional subjects. There are seven compulsory subjects (including thesis) and six optional subjects. In order to ensure that they have the competence to hold a PhD degree, candidates are required to pass a comprehensive exam after completing their compulsory and optional subjects and prior to undertaking their thesis.

¹⁸ It is the policy of the Iranian universities to give priority to the recruitment of academic staff who have a PhD in their area of expertise. At the time when there were no PhD programs available at the Iranian colleges of law, the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology provided a number of PhD scholarships to undertake doctoral studies overseas in order to meet the needs of the Iranian universities for academic staff with doctoral degrees. The author has been one of those who completed their PhD in accordance with this policy. He received his PhD in Law from the Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong (Australia) in September 1998.

¹⁹ At the time of writing this paper, information about the PhD in International Law was the only information available to the author with respect to the structure and content of PhD degrees in law at the Iranian colleges of law.

²⁰ In the author's view, PhD programs in law should also be available exclusively by coursework or exclusively by research in order to offer candidates a PhD program which best suits their needs.

Table 3: Additional Subject Requirements for Non-Law Graduates enrolling in LLM Programs

Master of Laws in Public Law (LLM in Public Law)	Master of Laws in Civil (Private) Law (LLM in Civil Law)	Master of Laws in International Law (LLM in International Law)
1. Introduction to the Science of Law (2 Credit Points)	1. Introduction to the Science of Law (2 Credit Points)	1. Introduction to the Science of Law (2 Credit Points)
2. Civil Law (1) (1 Credit Point)	2. Civil Law (1) (1 Credit Point)	2. Civil Law (3) (3 Credit Points)
3. Civil Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	3. Civil Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	3. Civil Law (4) (2 Credit Points)
4. Civil Law (4) (2 Credit Points)	4. Civil Law (3) (3 Credit Points)	4. Public International Law (1) (2 Credit Points)
5. Public International Law (1) (2 Credit Points)	5. Civil Law (4) (2 Credit Points)	5. Public International Law (2) (2 Credit Points)
6. Public International Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	6. Private International Law (1) (2 Credit Points)	6. Private International Law (1) (2 Credit Points)
7. Constitutional Law (1) (2 Credit Points)	7. Private International Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	7. Private International Law (2) (2 Credit Points)
10. Constitutional Law (2) (3 Credit Points)	8. Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (1) (2 Credit Points)	8. Constitutional Law (1) (2 Credit Points)
11. Administrative Law (1) (2 Credit Points)	9. Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (1) (2 Credit Points)	9. Constitutional Law (2) (3 Credit Points)
12. Administrative Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	10. Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (1) (2 Credit Points)	10. Law of International Organisations (2 Credit Points)
13. Public Finance (2 Credit Points)	11. Commercial Law (1) (1 Credit Point)	
14. Law of International Organisations (2 Credit Points)	12. Commercial Law (2) (2 Credit Points)	
Total: 14 Subjects and 24 Credit Points	Total: 12 Subjects and 23 Credit Points	Total: 10 Subjects and 22 Credit Points

At present only a few colleges in Tehran offer PhD degrees in law. The Faculty of Law, Shiraz University, is one of many colleges that do not yet offer a PhD program. In addition to its LLB degree, the Faculty of Law at Shiraz University offers the LLM in three areas of specialty (International Law, Public Law, and Civil (Private) Law). The Faculty has the potential to offer PhD degrees in a number of areas. In order for such programs to be established, necessary research materials (primary and secondary resources) would need to be obtained and facilities made available.

VIII Conclusion

The current system of legal education in Iran reflects the religious nature of its legal system. Importance has been afforded to the creation of a legal education system based on the national legal system. However, a sound understanding of other legal systems, and most importantly the international legal system, is considered to be an important aspect of legal education. Thus the legal education program in Iran has been designed to cover the realities and nature of Iranian society and its legal system, as well as provide opportunities for learning about other legal systems, including the system of international law. This paper has documented the structure and content of undergraduate and postgraduate law degrees currently offered.

Further modification of the legal education system should be undertaken to ensure the production of high quality law graduates in Iran. It has been suggested that appropriate improvements would include an increased emphasis on learning computer skills and foreign language skills, incorporation of critical thinking and analysis into the teaching process, strengthening practical legal training alongside the theoretical aspects of legal education, expanding the diversity of degrees offered, and allowing for LLM and PhD programs to be undertaken exclusively by research or coursework.

Annexes

Table 4: Subjects of Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB) at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Normal Duration: 8 Semesters, Total Credit Points: 135)

A – General Subjects (Total Credit Points: 20)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Persian Language	3
2.	Islamic Education (1)	2
3.	Islamic Education (2)	2
4.	Islamic Morality	2
5.	Islamic Revolution	2
6.	Islamic Texts	2
7.	The History of Islam	2
8.	Foreign Language*	3
9.	Physical Training (1)	1
10.	Physical Training (2)	1

B - Basic Subjects (Total Credit Points: 15)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)	Pre-requisite Subject
1.	Introduction to the Science of Law	2	
2.	Public Criminal Law (1)	3	Introduction to the Science of Law
3.	Constitutional Law (1)	2	
4.	Civil Law (1)	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
5.	Bases of the Economic Science	2	
6.	Arabic Language*	1	
7.	Public Finance	2	
8.	Bases of Sociology	2	

* Those Students who have obtained less than 50% of the total score in the English or Arabic Language tests in the university entrance exams are required to take and pass the following pre-requisite subjects respectively: Pre-Uni English Language (3 Credit Points) and Pre-Uni Arabic Language (2 Credit Points).

C - Principal (Core) Subjects (Total Credit Points: 94)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)	Pre-requisite Subject
1.	Constitutional Law (2)	3	Constitutional Law (1)
2.	Public Criminal Law (2)	2	Public Criminal Law (1)
3.	Public Criminal Law (3)	2	Public Criminal Law (2)
4.	Public International Law (1)	2	Introduction to the Science of Law
5.	Public International Law (2)	2	Public International Law (1)
6.	Law of International Organisations	2	Public International Law (1)
7.	Administrative Law (1)	2	Constitutional Law (1)
8.	Administrative Law (2)	2	Administrative Law (2)
9.	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2	Arabic Language
10.	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	2	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (1)
11.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2	Arabic Language
12.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	2	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (1)
13.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (3)	2	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (2)
14.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (4)	2	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (3)
15.	Commercial Law (1)	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
16.	Commercial Law (2)	2	Commercial Law (1)
17.	Commercial Law (3)	2	Commercial Law (2)
18.	Commercial Law (4)	2	Commercial Law (3)
19.	Civil Law (2)	2	Civil Law (1)
20.	Civil Law (3)	3	Civil Law (2)
21.	Civil Law (4)	2	Civil Law (3)
22.	Civil Law (5)	3	Civil Law (3)
23.	Civil Law (6)	3	Civil Law (4)
24.	Civil Law (7)	3	Civil Law (6)
25.	Civil Law (8)	3	Civil Law (6)
26.	Civil Procedural Law (1)	2	Introduction to the Science of Law
27.	Civil Procedural Law (2)	2	Civil Procedural Law (1)
28.	Civil Procedural Law (3)	2	Civil Procedural Law (2)
29.	Legal Texts in English (1)	2	Civil Law (2)

30.	Legal Texts in English (2)	2	Legal Texts in English (1)
31.	Criminal Procedural Law (1)	2	Public Criminal Law (3)
32.	Criminal Procedural Law (2)	1	Criminal Procedural Law (1)
33.	Research Project (1)	1	Civil Law (3)
34.	Research Project (2)	1	Research Project (1)
35.	Private International Law (1)	2	Public International Law (2)
36.	Private International Law(2)	2	Private International Law (1)
37.	Criminology	2	Public Criminal Law (3)
38.	Private Criminal Law (1)	3	Public Criminal Law (3)
39.	Private Criminal Law (2)	2	Private Criminal Law (1)
40.	Private Criminal Law (3)	2	Private Criminal Law (2)
41.	Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (3)
42.	Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	1	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (4)
43.	Comparative Law	2	Civil Law (3)
44.	Evidence	2	Civil Law (6)
45.	Labour Law	2	Public Criminal Law (2)
46.	Forensic Law	2	Public Criminal Law (3)

D - Optional Subjects (Total Credit Points: 6)*

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)	Pre-requisite Subject
1.	Computer Skills	2	
2.	Practical Judicial Training	1	Civil Law (3)
3.	Law of Records (Land and Property)	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
4.	The Study of Children's Crimes	1	Public Criminal Law (2)
5.	Scientific Police	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
6.	The Law of the Sea	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
7.	International Arbitration	1	Public International Law (2)
8.	Religious Precepts	1	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (2)
9.	Law of Social Security	1	Introduction to the Science of Law
10.	Judicial Practice	1	Introduction to the Science of Law

*Among the total of 11 credit points for optional subjects, students are required to take and pass 6 credit points.

Table 5: Subjects Designed to Be Taken by Students for Each Semester at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Bachelor of Laws — LLB, Total Credit Points: 135)

5.1. First Semester (Total Credit Points: 16)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Introduction to the Science of Law	2
2.	Constitutional Law (1)	2
3.	Arabic Language	1
4.	Bases of the Economic Science	2
5.	Bases of Sociology	2
6.	Foreign Language	3
7.	Persian Language	3
8.	Physical Training (1)	1

5.2. Second Semester (Total Credit Points: 18)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Civil Law (1)	1
2.	Constitutional Law (2)	3
3.	Public Criminal Law (1)	3
4.	Public International Law (1)	2
5.	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2
6.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2
7.	Islamic Education (1)	2
8.	Physical Training (2)	1
9.	Islamic Morality	2

5.3. Third Semester (Total Credit Points: 18)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Civil Law (2)	2
2.	Public Criminal Law (2)	2
3.	Public International Law (2)	2
4.	Administrative Law (1)	2
5.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	2
6.	Principles of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	2
7.	Commercial Law (1)	1

8.	Islamic Texts	2
9.	Islamic Education (1)	2
10.	Optional Subject	1

5.4. Fourth Semester (Total Credit Points: 18)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Civil Law (3)	3
2.	Public Criminal Law (3)	2
3.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (3)	2
4.	Commercial Law (2)	2
5.	Administrative Law (2)	2
6.	Public Finance	2
7.	Civil Procedural Law (1)	2
8.	The History of Islam	2
9.	Optional Subject	1

5.5. Fifth Semester (Total Credit Points: 19)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Civil Law (4)	2
2.	Civil Law (4)	3
3.	Commercial Law (3)	2
4.	Texts of Religious Jurisprudence (4)	2
5.	Civil Procedural Law (2)	2
6.	Private Criminal Law (1)	3
7.	Islamic Revolution	2
8.	Legal Texts in English (1)	2
9.	Optional Subject	1

5.6. Sixth Semester (Total Credit Points: 19)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Civil Law (6)	3
2.	Private Criminal Law (2)	2
3.	Commercial Law (4)	2

4.	Civil Procedural Law (3)	2
5.	Labour Law	2
6.	Research Project (1)	1
7.	Criminal Procedural Law (1)	2
8.	Private International Law (1)	2
9.	Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (1)	2
10.	Optional Subject	1

5.7. Seventh Semester (Total Credit Points: 16)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Legal Texts in English (2)	2
2.	Civil Law (7)	3
3.	Civil Law (8)	3
4.	Criminal Procedural Law (2)	1
5.	Private Criminal Law (3)	2
6.	Private International Law (2)	2
7.	Rules of Religious Jurisprudence (2)	1
8.	Research Project (2)	1
9.	Optional Subject	1

5.8. Eighth Semester (Total Credit Points: 11)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Forensic Law	2
2.	Comparative Law	2
3.	Criminology	2
4.	Evidence	2
5.	Law of International Organisations	2
6.	Optional Subject	1

Table 6: Subjects of Master's Degree in International Law (LLM in International Law) at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Duration: 2-3 Years, Total Credit Points: 32*)

A - Compulsory Subjects (23 Credit Points)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Law of Treaties	2
2.	International Responsibility	2
3.	Law of the Sea (International Law of the Sea)	2
4.	International Economic Law	2
5.	Islamic International Law	2
6.	International Organisations	2
7.	Legal Methods of International Dispute Settlement	2
8.	Private International Law	2
9.	Specialised Legal Texts (1) [English]	1
10.	Specialised Legal Texts (2) [English]	1
11.	Seminar	1
12.	Thesis	4

B - Optional Subjects (9 Credit Points)**

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Law of Armed Conflicts	2
2.	Diplomatic and Consular Law	1
3.	(The Law of) Regional Organisations	2
4.	International Labour Law	2
5.	Detailed Examination of Certain Issues of International Law	2
6.	International Trade Law	2
7.	Formation and Succession of States in International Law	1
8.	History of the Evolution of International Law	1
9.	International Law of Air Space and Outer Space	2
10.	International Criminal Law	2
11.	International Law of Collective Communications	1
12.	International Development Law	1
13.	Civil Responsibility	2
14.	Maritime Law	1

15.	Different Theories in International Relations	1
16.	International Environmental Law	1

* LLM students at the Shiraz University should also take and pass 6 credit points of English Language Course in their first semester.

** Students should take and pass 9 credit points from optional subjects.

Table 7: Subjects of Master's Degree in Public Law (LLM in Public Law) at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Duration: 2-3 Years, Total Credit Points: 32*)

A - Compulsory Subjects (25 Credit Points)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	Basis of Public Law	2
2.	Public Law in Islam	2
3.	Public International Law	3
4.	Comparative Constitutional Law	3
5.	Iranian Administrative Law	2
6.	Comparative Administrative Law	2
7.	Specialised Legal Texts (1) [English]	1
8.	Specialised Legal Texts (2) [English]	1
9.	Labour Law	2
10.	Financial Law	2
11.	Seminar	1
12.	Thesis	4

B - Optional Subjects (7 Credit Points)**

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	Islamic International Law	2
2.	Law of International Dispute Settlement	2
3.	International Law of Treaties	2
4.	Law of Natural Resources	1
5.	Administrative (Official) Contracts	1
6.	Public Freedoms	1
7.	Law of Armed Conflicts	2
8.	Urban and Rural Law	1
9.	Systems of Election	2
10.	History of the Iranian Public Law	2

11. History of the Evolution of Public Law in the World	2
12. Comparative Labour Law	2
13. Constitutional Laws of Islamic Countries	2
14. Sociology of Public Law	2
15. Environmental Law	1
16. Law of Social Security	1

* LLM students at the Shiraz University should also take and pass 6 credit points of English Language Course in their first semester.

** Students should take and pass 7 credit points from optional subjects.

Table 8: Subjects of Master's Degree in Private(Civil) Law (LLM in Private (Civil) Law) at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Duration: 2-3 Years, Total Credit Points: 32*)

A - Compulsory Subjects (25 Credit Points)

Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1. Civil Law(1)	2
2. Civil Law (2)	2
3. Religious (Islamic) Jurisprudence Texts	3
4. Principles of Religious Jurisprudence	3
5. Rules of Religious Jurisprudence	2
6. Specialised Legal Texts(1) [English]	1
7. Specialised Legal Texts (2) [English]	1
8. Trade Law	2
9. International Arbitration	2
10. Private International Law	2
11. Seminar	1
12. Thesis	4

B - Optional Subjects (7 Credit Points)**

Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1. Maritime Law	1
2. Comparative Islamic Law	2
3. Civil Liability	2
4. Enforcement of Awards and Official Documents	2
5. International Trade Law	2

6.	Comparative Trade Law	2
7.	Religious Precepts	1
8.	History of Law	1
9.	Civil Procedural Law	2
10.	Comparative Civil Law	2
11.	Science of Religious Reasoning	1
12.	Philosophy of Law	1

* LLM students at the Shiraz University should also take and pass 6 credit points of English Language Course in their first semester.

** Students should take and pass 7 credit points from optional subjects.

Table 9: Subjects of Master's Degree in Criminal Law (LLM in Criminal Law) at the Iranian Colleges of Law. (Duration: 2-3 Years, Total Credit Points: 32*)

A - Compulsory Subjects (24 Credit Points)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Legal Texts	2
2.	International Criminal Law	2
3.	Criminal Texts of Religious Jurisprudence	3
4.	Private Criminal Law (1)	2
5.	Private Criminal Law (2)	2
6.	Criminal Procedural Law	2
7.	Forensic Law	2
8.	Criminology	2
9.	Criminal Sociology	2
10.	Seminar	1
11.	Thesis	4

B - Optional Subjects (8 Credit Points)**

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Religious Precepts	1
2.	Scientific Police and Scientific Detection of Crimes	2
3.	Economic-Criminal Law	2
4.	History of Evolutions of Criminal Law	2
5.	Comparative Private Criminal Law	2
6.	Criminal Psychology	1

7.	Science of Religious Reasoning	1
8.	History of Criminal Law	2
9.	Comparative Islamic Law	2
10.	Civil Liability	2
11.	Public Criminal Law (2)	1
12.	Criminal Psychiatry	2
13.	Private Criminal Law (2)	2
14.	Philosophy of Law	2

* LLM students at the Shiraz University should also take and pass 6 credit points of English Language Course in their first semester. At present the LLM in Criminal Law is not available at the Faculty of Law, Shiraz University but this Faculty is intending to offer this degree in the near future. This degree is available in a number Colleges of Law in Tehran

** Students should take and pass 8 credit points from optional courses.

Table 10: Subjects of Master's Degree in Human Rights (LLM in Human Rights) at the Iranian Colleges of Law (Duration: 2-3 Years, Total Credit Points: 32*)

A - Compulsory Subjects (28 Credit Points)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Analysis of the Philosophical Bases of Human Rights	2
2.	Civil and Political Rights	2
3.	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2
4.	Law of Solidarity	2
5.	State and Human Rights	2
6.	International Bodies and Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights	2
7.	Regional Bodies and Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights	2
8.	Human Rights from Islamic Perspective	2
9.	International System of Human Rights in Iran	2
10.	Human Rights Education	1
11.	Humanitarian Law and International Responsibility of Individuals for the Violation of Human Rights	2
12.	Legal Texts in Foreign Language	2
13.	Seminar	1
14.	Thesis	4

B - Optional Subjects (4 Credit Points)**

	Name of the Subject	Credit Point(s)
1.	Humanistic Bases of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity	2
2.	Women's Rights	1
3.	Rights of Child	1
4.	Labour Rights	1
5.	The Right of Self-Determination and Rights of Nations	1
6.	Fair Trial and Judicial Management	2
7.	Non-Governmental Organisations and Protection of Human Rights	1
8.	Refugee's Rights	1
9.	Freedom of Speech, of Assembly, and of Association	1
10.	Protection of Minorities' Rights	1

* LLM students at the Shiraz University should also take and pass 6 credit points of English Language Course in their first semester. At present the LLM in Human Rights is not available at the Faculty of Law, Shiraz University. This degree may be available in the near future at this Faculty. This degree is currently available in a number of Colleges of Law in Tehran.

** Students should take and pass 4 credit points from optional courses.

Table 11: Subjects of PhD Degree in International Law at the Iranian Colleges of Law (Duration: 4-5 Years, Total Credit Points: 36) *

A. Compulsory Subjects (24 Credit Points, Including Thesis)

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	Research in International Texts and Documents	2
2.	Analysis of Judgements and Decisions of International Court and Analysis of Awards of International Arbitral Tribunals	2
3.	Analysis and Examination of Philosophical Schools in the Public International Law	2
4.	Analysis of the International Practice of States and of Current International Events	2
5.	International Law of Human Rights	2
6.	Advanced Legal Texts	2
7.	Thesis	12

B. Optional Subjects (12 Credit Points)**

Group A:

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	International Environmental Law	2
2.	International Law of the Sea	2
3.	International Law of Air Space and Outer Space	2
4.	International Economic Law	2

Group B:

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	Law of Armed Conflicts	2
2.	International Responsibility	2
3.	Judicial Settlement of International Disputes	2
4.	International Criminal Law	2

Group C:

	Name of the Subject	Credit Points
1.	Subjects of International Law: States	2
2.	Subjects of International Law: Governmental Organisations	2
3.	Non-Governmental Organisations	2
4.	Transnational Companies and International Law	2

* Students can take minimum of 6 credit points and maximum of 10 credit points in each semester. They should pass a comprehensive exam of the total subjects taken and if they succeed in the exam, they can write and defend their thesis as the last part of their doctoral degree requirements. The minimum period required for the degree is 4 years and the maximum period is 5 years.

** Students should take six subjects (12 credit points) from two groups among the above three groups for optional subjects. Each group includes 4 subjects and 8 credit points in total.