

**Programme The House of Legal Psychology
Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Programme (EMJD-LP)**

The **EMJD-LP programme** is divided into six semesters. Each PhD student is supervised by two consortium members, one from the university that enrolls the student, and one of the other members. With the exception of the third semester, all semesters are spent at the first supervisor's university. Students spend the third semester at the second supervisor's institution. Each semester is composed of a theoretical and a skills component to ensure optimal completion of the different elements of the programme. These courses address the foundations of Legal Psychology from an experimental and comparative perspective. During semesters 1 and 3, emphasis is on teaching, both theoretical and practical, to extend the specific knowledge regarding the subject of the student's dissertation. These two semesters are also characterised by their practical aspects and their emphasis on training of critical skills for conducting research and writing scientific reports. During semester 5 it is compulsory to study the two courses offered by the other partner university. These courses are offered via distance education and a digital environment will be made available (see below). Although students work on their thesis throughout, the actual research activities are more prominent during the other semesters *i.e.* 2, 4, and 6. At the end of those semesters all students take part in the Annual Students Conference with pre-conference workshops that alternate location among the partner sites (detailed below). These conferences serve educational purposes and facilitate the integration of the students, academic staff and associated partners within the consortium. All courses are offered annually and the PhD student typically spends 2.5 years at the university of enrolment and six months (*i.e.*, the third semester) at the second supervisor's university conducting research and attending courses. An overview of the programme is given in Table 1.

Both the theoretical and practical components of the programme receive full recognition in the form of **ECTS credits** and both components are assessed separately through exams, presentations, research, attendance, and peer-reviewed publications. All assessments count fully towards the final degree. In each semester a total of 30 ECTS credits are acquired (180 ECTS over the three-year degree programme). Consistent with current practice at all three institutions, the consortium employs **problem-based learning** (PBL) as the main educational strategy. PBL ensures the ability to flexibly apply theoretical knowledge to concrete problems, and efficient collaboration and communications skills.

To enhance the collaboration and communication between students and staff within the consortium, the electronic learning environment of Maastricht University (EleUM) will be available for EMJD-LP students offering the possibility for online discussions and lectures via videoconferencing. This ensures all students can access and share the same learning materials.

TABLE : OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT DOCTORATE PROGRAMME

Semester 1	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	1) Psychology of Evidence: A European perspective (6 ECTS)	a) Scientific writing b) Methods of research (4 ECTS)	Maastricht (Country 1)	10
	2) Vulnerable suspects and reduced responsibility issues across Europe (6 ECTS)	c) Writing expert witness reports d) Statistics (4 ECTS)	Maastricht (Country 1)	10
Or	1) Detection of deception and polygraph applications in Europe (6 ECTS)	a) Scientific writing b) Methods of research (4 ECTS)	Portsmouth (Country 2)	10
	2) Memory: Recall and recognition in forensic contexts (6 ECTS)	c) Writing expert witness reports d) Statistics (4 ECTS)	Portsmouth (Country 2)	10
Or	1) Interviewing child witnesses and minimal ages of responsibility across EC countries (6 ECTS)	a) Scientific writing b) Methods of research (4 ECTS)	Gothenburg (Country 3)	10
	2) Interrogation, criminal intent, and counter-terrorism (6 ECTS)	c) Writing expert witness reports d) Statistics (4 ECTS)	Gothenburg (Country 3)	10
And	Parallel to courses: Writing review paper on PhD topic (10 ECTS)		Country of first supervisor	10

Semester 2	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	Writing research papers (16 ECTS)	Carrying out PhD research (10 ECTS)	Country of first supervisor	26
	Annual student conference and (2 ECTS)	Pre-conference workshops (2 ECTS)	Country rotating	4

Semester 3	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	1) Psychology of evidence: A European perspective (6 ECTS)	a) Presenting b) Legal English (4 ECTS)	Maastricht (Country 1)	10
	2) Vulnerable suspects and reduced responsibility issues across Europe (6 ECTS)	c) Expert witness testimony d) Advanced statistics (4 ECTS)	Maastricht (Country 1)	10
or	1) Detection of deception and polygraph applications in Europe (6 ECTS)	a) Presenting b) Legal English (4 ECTS)	Portsmouth (Country 2)	10
	2) Memory: Recall and recognition in forensic contexts (6 ECTS)	c) Expert witness testimony d) Advanced statistics (4 ECTS)	Portsmouth (Country 2)	10
or	1) Interviewing child witnesses and minimal ages of responsibility across EC countries (6 ECTS)	a) Presenting b) Legal English (4 ECTS)	Gothenburg (Country 3)	10
	2) Interrogation, criminal intent, and counter-terrorism (6 ECTS)	c) Expert Witness testimony d) Advanced statistics (4 ECTS)	Gothenburg (Country 3)	10
and	Parallel to courses: Carrying out PhD research (8 ECTS) and language course (2 ECTS)		Country of second supervisor	10

Semester 4	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	Writing research papers (8 ECTS)	Carrying out PhD research (18 ECTS)	Country of first supervisor	26
	Annual student conference and (2 ECTS)	Pre-conference workshops (2 ECTS)	Country rotating	4

Semester 5	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	Writing research papers (10 ECTS)	Carrying out PhD research (12 ECTS)	Country of first supervisor	22
	Distance learning of course 1 and 2 offered by other party university (8 ECTS)		Country of first supervisor	8

Semester 6	Theoretical	Practical	Country	ECTS
	Writing PhD thesis and research papers (18 ECTS)	Carrying out PhD research (8 ECTS)	Country of first supervisor	26
	Annual student conference and (2 ECTS)	Pre-conference workshops (2 ECTS)	Country rotating	4

Total credits	108	72		180
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During the first semester, each of the three universities offers two specific **theoretical courses**. Within these courses, students meet once a week for a three-hour session throughout the semester. Meetings are led by a leading scientist on the topic, and students are guided to work in teams. All courses are assessed on attendance, in-class presentations and an essay. A total of 6 ECTS credits can be acquired per course.

The specific courses in **Maastricht** are *Psychology of Evidence: A European perspective* and *Vulnerable Suspects and Reduced Responsibility Issues Across Europe*. The first course focuses on the most commonly used pieces of evidence, such as confessions, eyewitness accounts, DNA, and fingerprints, and addresses how they can form a reliable basis for a legal conviction. The basis of this course is the theory of anchored narratives, and European case law. The focus of the second course is forensic psychology, covering issues such as the proper diagnosis of perpetrator psychopathology and how to report on this diagnosis in a comprehensive way. Furthermore, the different approaches of European criminal law systems to criminal responsibility will be examined.

The first course given at **Portsmouth** is entitled “*Detection of deception and polygraph applications in Europe*”. Here, topics such as the best way to detect lies, polygraph applications, and future terrorist actions and lie detection, will be studied. The different legislations on lie detection in Europe will be considered and evaluated. The second course taught in Portsmouth (*Memory: Recall and recognition in forensic contexts*) addresses witness memory and memory errors - *i.e.*, false memories, confabulation, omissions, commissions - and the way they can be elicited in real life and in the laboratory. The course also focuses on the role of memory in court testimony.

Gothenburg presents their expertise in the courses *Interviewing child witnesses and minimal ages of responsibility* and *Interrogation, criminal intent, and counter-terrorism*. Developmental psychology plays a large role in the first course as it is important for considering interviewing techniques for use with children, and the question of legal responsibility in children. Differences between European countries with regard to minimal ages of criminal responsibility are also an important theme. The second course explores the interrogation of (terrorist) suspects and elaborates on how to uncover future criminal acts.

Alongside these theoretical courses, there are eight separate **practical courses** during the first and third semester. The goal of these courses is to gain skills in core scientific activities. For all three participating universities these practical courses are identical. Students attend one two-hour meeting per week, and work in groups. The first workshop addresses scientific writing (course a), covering the basics of writing an article, as well as the formal standards for summarizing, meta-analyzing, and referring to literature (*i.e.*, referencing). The second practical course (b) teaches the basic principles of conducting research. Specific attention is given to ethical issues in the testing of human participants so that students are fully prepared to submit their applications for ethical approval to university Ethics Review Boards prior to conducting research. Finally, the students receive training in writing expert witness reports (course c) and in statistical analyses (course d).

Throughout the third semester, whilst at the institute of the second supervisor, the practical courses continue. Specifically, students learn how to present research data and give lectures (course a), are trained in legal English (course b), learn how to present expert testimony in court (course c), and perform advanced statistical analyses (course d). Each practical is assessed on regular attendance and delivering assignments, such as presentations, short scientific writing tasks, and a legal case report. A total of 2 ECTS credits can be obtained for each course, resulting in 8 ECTS per semester for the four practical courses.

Furthermore, during the first semester students write a review paper on their **PhD thesis** topic under the guidance of their supervisors. This paper covers the core of their PhD thesis. A total of 10 ECTS credits can be acquired for this part of their study. During the third semester, students conduct research and collect data at the institute of the second supervisor. 8 ECTS credits can be acquired after collecting and analysing the required data, preparing a summary outlining key findings with a strategy for publication in a scientific journal. Besides doing research parallel to the courses, students are obligated to attend a language course during the third semester, and receive 2 ECTS for this course. At the end of the programme, students will

have collected sufficient data to prepare at least four manuscripts. Of these four manuscripts, two should be in press or published in peer-reviewed journals with the remainder to be submitted. When this is achieved, the students receive the ECTS credits.

The consortium will hold an **annual conference** at the end of the second, fourth and sixth semester that alternates location among the partner sites. The programme will include pre-conference workshops which cover issues such as data presentation, thesis writing, writing of research proposals, preparation of scientific reports, grant and fellowship applications. The conferences will consist of symposia in which the students present their work, either as finished studies, interim reports, or as plans for future studies. In addition to student participation, internationally renowned scientists, associated partners and third-party practitioners will be invited to deliver symposia or keynote lectures. Furthermore, students will organise discussion panels during the conference with other scientists and practitioners on topics related to Legal Psychology. Attending these conferences and pre-conference workshops is mandatory, and 4 ECTS credits will be obtained for attendance and participation.