



University of Tartu

EMA Director (acting)

René Värk, *dr iur*, Associate Professor of International Law

Fields of competence: public international law, use of force, international humanitarian law (law of armed conflict), international criminal law

Other Academics Involved in EMA 2017/2018

Merilin Kiviorg, PhD, Senior Researcher of International Law

Katre Luhamaa, PhD, Lecturer in European Law and in International Law

The University and the City

Tartu is the second-largest city in Estonia and it has been voted the most pleasant Estonian city to live in. It is a green city dominated by historic university buildings and students who are increasingly coming from all over the world.

The University of Tartu is among the oldest in the region – it was established in 1632 by the Swedish King Gustavus II Adolphus. The School of Law is among the oldest faculties and a vast majority of legal professionals in Estonia are its graduates. The university belongs to the top 2% of world's best universities according to recent rankings (it is placed 4th in the Emerging Europe and Central Asia list)

If one university in the world would have to be mentioned that played the crucial role in the Western interaction with Russia, it would have to be Tartu (historically also known as Dorpat). Since the 19th century, scholars from Tartu have specialised in the Western study of Russia. Today, the university has an interdisciplinary research centre called CEURUS (Centre for EU-Russia Studies) and the School of Law has the Master's Programme in International Law and Human Rights with a special emphasis on the Russia-related issues. A number of E.MA students who have chosen the University of Tartu for their second semester have taken up Russian language studies to understand better the Russia-related issues.

Most students find Tartu a fun place to live and study in. It has active student life and good facilities for international students.

Second Semester Courses

Courses available for EpMA students (including ECTS):

Law and Practice of the United Nations (6 ECTS)

International Humanitarian Law (6 ECTS)

Comparative Human Rights (3 ECTS)

Additionally, there are various political sciences and international relations courses provided by the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies.

Deadline for enrolment in the courses: Foreign and exchange students can enrol in the courses at the beginning of semester.

Thesis

Research areas: law applicable in armed conflicts; law, religion and security; child's rights

Thesis supervision:

Websites:

www.ut.ee/en

www.ol.ut.ee/en

Department:

School of Law

Contact persons:

René Värk, *dr iur*

Acting EMA Director

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René Värk is interested in the legal regulation of armed conflicts, including international humanitarian law (law of armed conflict), human rights law and international criminal law.

Merilin Kiviorg is specialised in the interplay between law, religion and security

Katre Luhamaa is willing to supervise theses covering different aspects child's rights.

If necessary, we involve appropriate supervisors from the field of political sciences and international relations

Recommended research topics:

Some potential research topics based on the speciality of our supervisors:

- Appropriate relationship for international humanitarian law (law of armed conflict) and human rights in modern armed conflicts
- Membership in organised armed groups as direct participation in hostilities
- Religious Freedom and Security (How far can the state go in restricting religious freedom for the sake of public safety and rights and freedoms of others, for the sake of national security? Are we witnessing securitisation of religious freedom?)
- Freedom of Expression versus Freedom of Religion (How to balance these two very fundamental human rights? Does the context matter where the balancing is happening? What effect can this balancing have on the functioning of democracy?)
- Human Rights and Fight with Religious Extremism (What is religious extremism? Does it differ from any other fundamentalist/extremist stance? Have States abused religious extremism slogans for circumscribing human rights (e.g. in countries of former USSR, incl. Russia)?)

Library

The university has a big central library with large collections from different fields, including law, political sciences and international relations. The School of Law has its own library with a collection specialised in international law and human rights law. Students have access to major electronic academic databases with articles and books, e.g. HeinOnline, Cambridge Journals, Oxford Journals.

Contacts with NGOs, IGOs, and Civil Society

There are number of different organisations and institutions whose agenda relates to human rights, democratisation and development of civil society, e.g. Estonian Institute of Human Rights, Open Estonia Foundation, International Organization for Migration, Office of the Chancellor of Justice (Ombudsman).

Administration and Logistics

Information concerning visa arrangements: The Study Abroad Centre (www.ut.ee/en/kontakt/rahvusvahelise-opirande-keskus), in particular Ms Kristine Truija (kristine.truija@ut.ee) assists foreign and exchange students with different issues.

IT and logistics: Wireless internet is readily available on the campus and almost anywhere in Tartu. The *masterini* are provided with their own workplaces at the facilities of the Department of Public Law.