

The Fifth Amendment of the Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University

RULES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE STATE RIGOROSUM EXAMINATION AT THE FACULTY OF LAW OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY*

Under sections 27 (1) (b) and 33 (2) (F) of Act No. 111/1998 Sb., to regulate higher education institutions and to change and amend other laws (“the Higher Education Act”), as amended, the Academic Senate of the Law Faculty of Charles University adopted these Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University as an internal regulation of the faculty:

Article 1

Introductory Provisions

- (1) These Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University¹ regulate the subject matter focus of the State Rigorosum Examination in the field of law, and determine, in compliance with Article 4 (13) of the Rigorosum Examination Code of Charles University, the details of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University (“the Faculty”).
- (2) The rules for filing applications for the State Rigorosum Examination, the course of the State Rigorosum Examination, and the rules for the publication of rigorosum theses are set out in the Rigorosum Examination Code of Charles University.

Article 2

State Rigorosum Examination

- (1) The State Rigorosum Examination may be taken at the faculty in the following subject areas:
 - a) European Law
 - b) Financial Law
 - c) Public International Law
 - d) Private International Law and International Trade Law
 - e) Civil Substantive Law
 - f) Civil Procedure
 - g) Business Law
 - h) Employment and Labour Law
 - i) Legal History
 - j) Law and Economics
 - k) Intellectual Property Law
 - l) Social Security Law
 - m) Environmental Law
 - n) Roman Law
 - o) Administrative Law
 - p) Theory of Law
 - q) Criminal Law

* Translator’s note: Words importing the masculine include the feminine, and unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.

¹ Article 4 (5) of the Constitution of the Faculty of Law of Charles University.

- r) Constitutional Law and Theory of State
 - s) Medical Law
- (2) A rigorosum thesis is to be written in one of the subject areas listed in paragraph 1. Should the rigorosum thesis cover issues pertaining to multiple subject areas, the subject area of the oral examination is to be decided by the Dean after receiving the opinion on the subject area concerned of the relevant heads of academic departments or heads of institutes.
 - (3) Upon the request of an applicant, which is a part of an application for the State Rigorosum Examination, the Dean appoints an academic who can act as a member of the board of examiners and who approved the name and basic outline of the rigorosum thesis (“the Appointed Academic”) to inform the applicant of the details of the organisation of and requirements for the State Rigorosum Examination, and to acquaint the applicant with the rules specified for the use of equipment and technologies necessary for preparation for the examination. Should such a request and such an approval not be a part of the application for the State Rigorosum Examination, the Dean proceeds in compliance with the Rigorosum Examination Code of Charles University.
 - (4) A change of subject area of the State Rigorosum Examination or a change of the name of a rigorosum thesis upon the request of an applicant is permissible during the period between the filing of an application and the submission of the rigorosum thesis.

Article 3

Rigorosum Thesis

- (1) The rigorosum thesis proves the capability of independent activity in the field of research and development, or other independent creative activity, and it must satisfy the conditions listed in Article 4 so that the State Rigorosum Examination can be organised.
- (2) The provisions of the Rules of Study at the Faculty of Law of Charles University regarding plagiarism with respect to diploma theses apply to rigorosum theses with the necessary modifications.

Article 4

Scope and Elements of a Rigorosum Thesis

- (1) The scope of the actual text of the rigorosum thesis including footnotes must be at least 108,000 characters including spaces, but no more than 216,000 characters including spaces. The scope can be expanded only upon approval of the Appointed Academic and the head of the academic department.
- (2) In addition to the actual text, the rigorosum thesis must contain:
 - a) A coverage page;
 - b) The title of the rigorosum thesis and its translation into English;
 - c) A statement in accordance with paragraph 3;
 - d) A statement concerning the number of characters of the actual text of the rigorosum thesis including footnotes;
 - e) Table of contents;
 - f) A list of references;
 - g) An abstract in Czech, English, and possibly in the language of the thesis; the scope of abstract is at least 1,800 characters including spaces;
 - h) At least three key words in Czech, English, and possibly in the language of the thesis.
- (3) The text of the statement is as follows: “I declare that I wrote the submitted rigorosum thesis independently and that all the sources were duly stated and that the identical thesis has not been used to attain another or the same degree.”

- (4) The last page of the rigorosum thesis must contain the title of the diploma thesis, the abstract, and key words in English.
- (5) The details of the thesis structure, sample cover page, and elements for citations are stipulated in a Dean's directive.

Article 5

Submission of a Rigorosum Thesis

- (1) The rigorosum thesis is submitted in electronic form in the relevant application of the Student Information System within a period determined in the Dean's directive.
- (2) An applicant must submit separately in electronic form the abstract of the rigorosum thesis in the Czech and English languages; this abstract must be identical in terms of content with the abstract included in the rigorosum thesis.
- (3) The rigorosum thesis submitted by the applicant for defence is made available to the public in the Student Information System no fewer than five days before the date of defence.

Article 6

Language of a Rigorosum Thesis

- (1) The rigorosum thesis is produced in the Czech language.
- (2) An applicant may produce the rigorosum thesis in another language, provided he has applied for it in his application for the State Rigorosum Examination and if the Appointed Academic, or a person approving the title and basic outline of the rigorosum thesis, has approved it.
- (3) The defence of a rigorosum thesis produced in another language is always held in the Czech language.

Article 7

Board of Examiners

- (1) Persons who can act as the chair or members of the board of examiners for the State Rigorosum Examination are appointed by the Dean from among full professors, adjunct professors, associate professors, and outstanding experts. Outstanding experts must be approved by the Research Board of the Faculty and unless they are members of the academic community of the Faculty, they must hold a scientific degree.
- (2) The board of examiners for the State Rigorosum Examination comprises three members.
- (3) The chair and members of the examination board for the State Rigorosum Examination are appointed by the Dean; the chair is appointed upon a nomination by the head of the relevant academic unit while the members are appointed upon nomination by the chair after they have been discussed the head of the relevant department.

Article 8

External Examiner's Report and Opinion

- (1) The external examiner, who can only be a person qualified to sit of the Board of Examiners, is appointed by the chair of the board. The chair of the board will ask the Appointed Academic, if one has been appointed, to produce an opinion.
- (2) The external examiner will prepare a report in which he will either recommend or not recommend the rigorosum thesis for defence. The defence of the rigorosum thesis takes place even if the external examiner has not recommended it for defence. The Appointed Academic will prepare an opinion whether the intended topic of the rigorosum thesis has been adequately dealt with. Both the report and opinion must be submitted so that the period under paragraph 3 can be complied with.
- (3) The examiner's report and opinion must be delivered to the applicant at least two weeks before the scheduled date of defence of the rigorosum thesis; the period can be shortened if the

applicant consents thereto.

Article 8a

Course of the State Rigorous Examination

- (1) The course and announcement of the results of the State Rigorous Examination are public.
- (2) The external examiner or the Appointed Academic may be present at the State Rigorous Examination despite not being members of the board of examiners for the State Rigorous Examination.
- (3) A record of the State Rigorous Examination will be taken which will briefly describe the course of the State Rigorous Examination including the questions asked and the overall assessment of the candidate; the record is to be signed by at least one member of the board of examiners.

Article 9

Register of Rigorous Theses

- (1) A register of assigned, submitted, and defended rigorous theses is maintained in the Student Information System. The register also includes the date of the submission of the external examiner's report or possibly the opinion of the Appointed Academic.
- (2) The rigorous thesis in electronic form is stored in a designated database via the Student Information System.

Article 10

Issuance of Diploma

Upon the successful passing of the State Rigorous Examination in the field of law, Charles University will issue a diploma to the applicant stating the academic degree "Doctor of Laws" (abbreviated as "JUDr." before the name) in compliance with the internal regulation of the University.²

Article 11

Transitional Provisions

- (1) These Rules apply to applicants who submitted their applications for the State Rigorous Examination before the effective date of these Rules. However, they will take the State Rigorous Examination in the subject area assigned before the effective date of these Rules.
- (2) Advisors appointed before the effective date of these Rules become Appointed Academics on the effective date of these Rules.

Article 12

Final Provisions

- (1) The Rigorous Examination Code of the Faculty of Law approved by the Academic Senate of the Faculty on 25 November 1999, as amended and approved by the Senate of the Faculty, is hereby repealed.
- (2) These Rules were approved by the Academic Senate of the Faculty on 25 May 2017.
- (3) These Rules come into force on the date of approval by the Academic Senate of Charles University.³
- (4) These Rules become effective on the date of approval by the Academic Senate of Charles University.

² The Matriculation and Graduation Code of Charles University.

³ The Academic Senate of Charles University approved these Rules on 2 June 2017.

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Transitional Provisions of Amendments

The First Amendment of 15 June 2018 (effective as of 1 October 2018)

Article II

Transitional Provision

The Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University as effective from the effective date of this Amendment apply to applicants who submitted their application for the State Rigorosum Examination before the effective date of this Amendment of these Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University.

The Second Amendment of 21 June 2019 (effective as of 1 October 2019)

Article II

Transitional Provision

Applicants who submitted their application for the State Rigorosum Examination before the effective date of this Amendment will take the State Rigorosum Examination in the subject area assigned before the effective date of these Rules.

The Third Amendment of 28 May 2021 (effective as of 1 June 2021)

Article II

Transitional Provisions

- (1) Articles 2 (3), 6 (2), and 4 of the Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination apply to applications submitted before the effective date of this Amendment in the wording effective prior to the effective date of this Amendment.
- (2) Articles 5 (2) and (3), 7 (3), and 8 (1) and (2) of the Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination apply to rigorosum theses submitted before the effective date of this Amendment in the wording effective prior to the effective date of this Amendment.

The Fifth Amendment of 21 June 2024 (effective as of 1 October 2024)

Article II

Transitional Provisions

Article 4 (1) of the Rules for the Organisation of the State Rigorosum Examination at the Faculty of Law of Charles University herein in the wording effective as of the day of effect of the amendment of the Rules regarding the maximum scope of the rigorosum thesis is to apply to theses submitted after 1 January 2025.