

The Goals and Objectives of the Caucasus School of Law in its Primary Role of Educating Students

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Caucasus School of Law (CSL) offers a high quality education, based on a western model, which is well adapted to the specific needs of Georgia.

The aim of the Caucasus School of Law is:

- to compose the proper conditions for realization of the personal potential;
- to provide bachelor's, Masters and doctoral level education;
- to implement additional educational programs in jurisprudence;
- to be at center of continuous education in the field of jurisprudence;
- to provide preparation and training of researchers and educational personnel.

Foreign partners and others who have contact with Caucasus School of Law have recognized that our training programs are not just simple intellectual exercises, but ones that provide various alternatives in jurisprudence. Caucasus School of Law has been functioning since September 2005. In the first academic year of Bachelor's Program (LL.B.) 31 students were enrolled. We currently have 252 undergraduate students, 185 graduate students, and a number of students in certificate programs. The school curriculum, modules, syllabi and grading system coincide with the requirements established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). For the September of 2009 Caucasus School of Law offers the new LL.B program with new opportunities:

- LL.B degree in optimal time;
- Major and Minor specialization;
- Registration regime;
- Maximal academic relaxation for students;
- Support of students career development.

The LL.B. program is bilingual. Undergraduate students will be required to take the TOEFL test and graduate students will be required to take the LSAT. The academic calendar of CSL consists of 36 academic weeks per year divided into three, 12-week trimesters. CSL has a quality assurance department by which students' and professors' ratings are defined. The educational process is frequently monitored by foreign experts.

CSL's motto is "The law is strict, but it is the law," (Dura Lex, Sed Lex!)

Teaching and studying at Caucasus School of Law is challenging, a fact students learn during their first days at CSL. The labor market in Georgia is selective and highly competitive. Evidence of the quality of a CSL education is evident in the fact that the majority of our undergraduate and graduate students are currently employed in law firms and international organizations prior to graduation.

Professors are selected through open competition, and thus, we can ensure the professors' extensive legal experience and high level of professionalism. Extracurricularly, students broaden their educational horizons in master classes, simulations, workshops and student government. Should students need additional assistance, a tutor is provided for each academic group. Caucasus School of Law also provides incentives for those students and professors who are involved in research activities. The credits gathered on the bases of the research activities are reflected in Diploma Appendix. Students of Caucasus School of Law are successful participants of the Georgian and international Olympiads in the mock trial competitions. The student government organization, CSL-U, is planning to join a major European international student organization (ESIB).

International partners of the school of law are: Georgia State University (USA), University of Chester (UK), Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia), European Public Law Center (Greece), and the European Consortium for Political Research (UK), CILS (Center of International Legal Studies). On May 29-30, 2008 the meeting of the General Assembly of the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) was held in Montreal (Canada). According to the decision of the General Assembly the Caucasus School of Law has been admitted as a plenipotentiary member of the mentioned Association. The goal of the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) is to advance the legal education and research on a continuous basis by exploring the experience of different cultures and societies throughout the world. From March 1, 2008, Caucasus School of Law became a member of the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA), which will meaningfully contribute to the school's cooperation with leading European law schools and to CSL's acquisition of European accreditation.

Georgian students entering the LL.B. program of Caucasus School of Law are required to participate in the Unified National Exams. For the first time, in 2008, 25 students were admitted to the Joint Georgian-European LL.B. Program. They will complete a portion of their studies in Greece. The program is implemented by the European Public Law Center (EPLC) together with Caucasus University. The EPLC (<http://www.eplo.gr>) is recognized worldwide as a leader in this field and is financed by European Union. It has representative offices in many countries,

and its academy unites more than 50 universities. This joint program is long-term and will continue for years to come. The curriculum and programs are prepared by international experts in law. Since 2008 the program of Juridical Practice started functioning. It was prepared by the nongovernmental organization "Article 42 of the Constitution" and by the Caucasus University. Arrangements planned within the program are oriented to develop practical skills of students. This program will be the best chance for them to estimate own possibilities for planning future career. In the nearest future Caucasus School of Law will start British- Georgian program. The new undergraduate program is divided into two stages. The first two academic years will take place in Caucasus School of Law. During this stage students will focus on Georgian legal systems. Students will complete there next two years of studies in England. They will live and study at the Chester University. The studying program will be oriented on the legislation of England. Upon successful completion of the British-Georgian LL.B program, students will receive two bachelor's degrees, granted by the Caucasus and Chester Universities.

The Caucasus School of Law provides second level education in following basic branches of law:

- Private law;
- Public Law;
- Criminal Law;
- International Law

The scheme of Master programs is based on the model of Master programs of the Scandinavian Countries, though it is well adapted to the Georgian legal reality. Defined programs represent the compilation of new graduate programs with advanced vision. The structure and content of the new educational product offered by the Caucasus School of Law foresees the following basic principles:

- The high quality of specialization;
- Few courses;
- Practice-oriented learning;
- The experienced academic staff;
- Program Mobility;
- The redistribution of the curriculum from 1,5 up to 5 years;
- Support of students career development.

The result of the renewed Master programs should be: The professional who has the theoretical education adapted to the legal practice

Curriculum

Curriculum of each program consists of three different courses:

A: Compulsory Courses;

B: Elective Courses that are compulsory for other Master Programs;

C: Elective Courses that are not Compulsory for any Master Programs e.g. specialization tracks;

D: Alternative Credits

Compulsory Courses

Each Master program according to its peculiarity consists of 6-7 compulsory courses. Compulsory courses are characterized by higher quality of specialization and particular academic pressure. Compulsory courses of each Master program (Block A) are elective for other (B Block) Master programs.

Classification of Elective Courses

Elective courses (B and C Block) are divided into relevant and non relevant courses. Elective course is relevant if it is tightly connected to Master program and together with compulsory courses it serves to the advancement of the program chosen by Master student. Elective course is non-relevant if it is not logically connected to Master program curriculum and Master student only chooses it because of his/her own interest. Master credit is the whole complex of credits of compulsory courses and elective relevant course. Elective non-relevant course credits are not added to Master credit, although are reflected in the diploma appendix.

Alternative Credits

Master student can gather additional Master credits by publishing scientific-research article in the relevant field of their Master program, taking part in scientific conference and a moot court process, also during the educational practice in the framework of Caucasus University. From the other Master programs offered by the Caucasus School of Law differs the "International Business Law" with its extraordinary scheme and content. Today, business and law are so closely connected that the market demands legal specialists who can work with foreign and domestic businesses. In law schools in the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France, the Master. Program in international business law is the most popular. According to statistics, international business law specialists are considered to be the highest paid lawyers in the United States, European Union and Former Soviet Union. The Masters program in international business law was developed according to similar programs in leading foreign universities. Specifically, American teaching methods are applied in this program. Graduate students must take a minimum of two courses per semester. Students pay based on the number of subjects taken. Depending on an individual's course load, students will complete the program in two to five years.

Many of CSL professors are working as legal professionals in leading organizations in Georgia. Another advantage for students is that CSL regularly hosts guest professors from countries such as the United States and Germany.

From September 2009 double degree Masters program will be available at Caucasus School of Law. As a result of taking this program student will be granted Masters degree by the Caucasus University and Tallinn University of Technology, consequently the Master will be entitled to get diploma of two Universities. The program is two years long. First year students are required to take compulsory courses of the Masters program of their choice (6 or 7 courses), and the next year they will continue learning at Tallinn University to take selective courses of the Masters program.

From September 2009 first time in Caucasus School of Law a new PhD program will be launched. The program is based on the experience of American universities, in particular, it's structure and layout is worked out on Rutgers University (The School of Criminal Justice, Newark, New Jersey) basis. PhD program aims to prepare scientific and pedagogical-scientific cadres of the highest qualification for science, education, management, law enforcement system, business and other fields. The program is made of academic and scientific components. The academic part of PhD program is focused on advanced learning of methodological and theoretical basics of jurisprudence in accordance of scientific specialization, as well as on training postgraduates' skills of independent scientific research and scientific-pedagogical activities. The Scientific part of PhD program aims to work out skills of transferring received results of research in scientific thesis and representing scientific product publicly, before the specialists.