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**ACADEMIC YEAR 2008 / 2009  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS**

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# **CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN LAW ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM**

**3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION**

**ORGANIZED BY**

**THE ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR LEGAL STUDIES  
ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE**

*A Network founded with the support  
of the Odysseus Programme of the European Commission  
and comprising academics of the following institutions:*

*Université Libre de Bruxelles, (B), Université catholique de Louvain (B), Universidade Autònoma de Lisboa (P),  
Universidade Nova de Lisboa (P), Universität Salzburg (A), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (NL), University of  
Bristol (UK), Universitaet Konstanz (D), Universitaet Göttingen (D), Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid  
(E), Università degli Studi di Milano (I), Université de Paris-Sud (F), Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour  
(F), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (NL), Aarhus Universitet (DK), Umeå Universitet (S), Lund Universitet (S), Åbo  
Akademi (FIN), University of Turku (FIN), Eötvös Loránd University (HU), University of Silesia (PL), Mykolas  
Romerio Universitetas (LH), Riga Graduate School of Law (LV), University of Ljubljana (SL)*

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## PRESENTATION

The Odysseus Network has decided to create a one year certificate in European Law on Immigration and Asylum. The aim of this programme is to provide its participants with an in-depth understanding of the legal rules on immigration and asylum adopted by the European Union. The courses will also have a comparative dimension and cover the internal laws of the Member States, in particular the way they transpose EU directives. This programme will be of interest to all persons who wish to acquire a special knowledge in immigration and asylum law, for instance civil servants, advocates or persons working for NGOs, and in particular researchers, PhD students and other students, who frequently confront the complex legal dimension of immigration and asylum in their work or studies. This programme is organised by the “Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe” founded in 1999 with the support of the Odysseus Programme of the European Commission and co-ordinated by the Institute for European Studies of Brussels University (ULB). The course provides the opportunity to live in a unique European environment, with instructors coming from academic institutions of many different Member States as well as from the EU institutions, and to take part in an intellectually stimulating experience as part of about 20 participants specialising in the area of immigration and asylum with different backgrounds from all over Europe. Professional networking within and outside this group will be encouraged by the organisers.

## TEACHING ORIENTATION

The programme is of a legal nature and courses will therefore be rather technical in orientation, but the programme has been designed to include some introductory legal courses in the first module in order to allow non-lawyers to follow it successfully. The classes offer theoretical, but also practical and research elements. Personal work, will be expected from participants. The classes will be conducted by academics among the best specialists of European and national immigration or asylum law coming from the universities co-operating in the Odysseus Network, which is represented in all the Member States of the European Union. Each participant will benefit from the support of a personal tutor appointed from among the members of the Network to guide him or her, in the drafting of the final essay. The latest developments of the European policy are integrated into the teaching, thanks in particular to the participation as lecturers of high-ranking officials from the European Commission, Council and Parliament. Each participant will receive an extensive and up-to-date documentation pack.

## PROGRAMME

COURSES	CALENDAR AND EUROPEAN CREDITS
<b>1<sup>st</sup> INTRODUCTORY MODULE (1<sup>st</sup> term from September till December)</b>	
1. Institutional framework and sources of European Immigration and Asylum Policy	4 weeks (6 ECTS)
2. Human rights implications for immigration and asylum	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
3. International immigration and refugee law	3 weeks (5 ECTS)
4. Free movement of European citizens	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
5. General introduction to EU Immigration and Asylum Policy and its recent developments	1 week of introduction (+ two weeks during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> module by EU practitioners) (2 ECTS)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SPECIALISED MODULE: IMMIGRATION (2<sup>nd</sup> term from January till March)</b>	
6. Visa policy and External border controls	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
7. Admission of third-country nationals	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
8. Status and integration of third-country nationals	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
9. Fight against illegal immigration and Return of third-country nationals	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
+ 1 week of conferences by EU practitioners (continuation of course 5)	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SPECIALISED MODULE: ASYLUM (3<sup>rd</sup> term from March till April)</b>	
10. Definition of persons who can be protected	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
11. Status of protected persons	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
12. Procedures for access to the status	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
+ 1 week of conferences by EU practitioners (continuation of course 5)	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> MODULE: RESEARCH (4<sup>th</sup> term from May till beginning of July)</b>	
13. Research and drafting of the final essay	8 weeks (20 ECTS)

## TEACHING STAFF

The programme is organised under the supervision of Professor Philippe De Bruycker from Brussels University. The training staff will be composed of mainly members of the Network coming from different EU Member States as well as of high-ranking officials from the European Commission, Council or Parliament.



## SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

This programme, which starts on 5 September 2008 and ends on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, is organised in 3 terms (see above). Courses amount in principle to a total of 12 hours spread over a two week period with 4 sessions of 3 hours. They will take place in the Institute for European Studies located on 39 Roosevelt Avenue, 1050 Brussels on the University campus in the heart of Brussels. The easiest way for participants to attend will be to arrive by train. The schedule of courses (6 to 9pm on Fridays and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays) enables participants to travel every week. Hotel accommodation near the campus for the overnight stay in Brussels can be booked by our secretariat at a reduced rate. The trainers will be accommodated in the same hotel to facilitate contacts. Participants who decide to live in Brussels for one year will be assisted in finding inexpensive accommodation.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Participants will be required to prepare a final essay of a maximum of 50 pages, which will be analytical rather than descriptive. The subjects participants select, with the agreement of their supervisor, will deal with European or comparative law. The possibility to spend the 4<sup>th</sup> term in a specialised research centre of the Universities co-operating in the Network will be offered to participants with a view to preparing their final essay. Participants will in principle need to fund their travel and accommodation expenses for that period, but will be integrated in a research team and benefit from office space and the supervision of one member of the Network when drafting their final essay. Interested persons will be able to obtain advice on undertaking a PhD at one of the universities participating in the Odysseus Network.

## ASSESSMENT

Separate examinations will be organised before the Christmas holiday period for the courses of the first module, but only a single examination will be held for the two specialised modules during the Odysseus “Summer School on Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy of the EU”, which takes place every year in Brussels during the first week of July. Participants will have to present their final essay before a jury composed of members of the Network. The best essay will be rewarded by an invitation to present it during the Summer School.

## LANGUAGE

Applicants must be fluent in English in order to follow the courses and take the oral examinations. The final essay can however be drafted in another official language of the European Union provided that one member of the Network is available to act as a supervisor and able to read this language.

## CERTIFICATE

Participants who have followed the programme assiduously throughout the academic year successfully passed all the examinations and presented their final essay will receive a University certificate specifying each of the courses followed. This certificate will be issued by the ULB and signed by the academic authorities.

## EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Students will have the opportunity to evaluate in writing the quality of the programme as well as the organisation of the certificate. The organisers commit themselves to take into account these evaluations and in particular to pass the results of the evaluations to the lecturers.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a University Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree of studies in Law, Political Science, European Studies or International Relations. Graduates of other disciplines (for example Sociology or Economics) will be considered depending on the content of the courses followed in order to meet the legal prerequisites required for the certificate. Applicants can also rely upon relevant professional experience (for example as a civil servant, NGO employee, etc.) which can be considered as equivalent to a Bachelor's degree.

## REGISTRATION AND FEES

The closing date for applications has been set for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 but later applications may be considered. Applicants are kindly requested to apply preferably by using the registration form available on our website.

The applicants will pay 500 euros to hand in their file on the same bank account as registration fees. The registration fee is 2,500 euros for students, 3,500 for PhD students or researchers remunerated by a salary or a grant and 5,000 for professionals. Persons choosing only one specialised module (immigration or asylum) will respectively pay 2,000, 3,000 or 4,000 euros. The fee covers all classes, coffee breaks, documentation, university facilities, including access to the private Odysseus library, with the exception of travel, accommodation and food expenses. Unfortunately, the Network is for the moment unable to provide financial support, but can assist accepted applicants by providing them with proof of acceptance or send reference letters to the institutions from which they request financial support. Participants are asked to pay the fee by bank transfer to account No. 001-2122389-08 of Fortis Bank, Pesage Branch, 16 avenue du Pesage, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, BIC code: GEBABEBB, IBAN: BE63001212238908, and refer to “Certificate 2008/09” and their name. At least half of the fee must be paid on 1 September 2008 and the remainder before the beginning of the examination period in December 2008. Applicants must keep in mind that the programme will only be organised if a group of 20 persons registers; otherwise, it will be cancelled for financial reasons. This will be the only case in which the organisers will reimburse fees.



***Odysseus Network***

*Academic network for legal studies on immigration and asylum in Europe*

**ULB**