

Call for Applications for a Research Degree Programme Fellowship

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LIABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS)

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) invites highly qualified and motivated individuals to apply for a Research Degree Programme Fellowship to conduct research on the legal framework for liability in the context of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS). This fellowship offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to the development of international maritime law in this rapidly evolving field.

The IMLI Research Degree programme is a prestigious and rigorous programme that leads to the degrees of Magister Juris (M.Jur.) in International Maritime Law and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in International Maritime Law. The programme is designed to foster intellectual breadth, refine critical thinking skills, and cultivate expertise in maritime matters.

Fellowship Highlights

- *Unique research opportunity:* Conduct in-depth research on the legal framework for liability in the context of MASS, a critical and emerging area of international maritime law.
- *World-class mentorship:* Work closely with renowned international maritime law experts.
- *Competitive financial support:* The chosen candidate may receive full or partial funding (see below section on fellowship cover).
- *Global network:* Join a vibrant community of international maritime law scholars and practitioners.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Research Degree Programme Fellowship, candidates must:

- Possess a first degree in law or a master's degree in a relevant field from a recognized university or other academic institution.
- Demonstrate a strong interest in MASS and a proven capacity to undertake legal research in the maritime field.
- Exhibit excellent writing and analytical skills, as evidenced by their academic record and research experience.
- Possess a high level of proficiency in the English language.

Fellowship Duration

According to IMLI Research Degree Programme Regulations, studies in the Research Degree programme, may be undertaken in not less than three and not more than five academic years. However, the Fellowship funding offered is strictly limited to three years.

The first stage of the Fellowship covers studies for the M.Jur. Degree, which shall not extend beyond a period of one academic year after enrolment. The candidate shall submit the M.Jur. dissertation not later than the end of the second calendar month following the end of the academic year.

The second stage of the Fellowship covers studies for the Ph.D. Degree, which shall extend over a period of not less than two and not more than four academic years after enrolment as a candidate for that Degree (as stated before, however, the Fellowship funding offered is strictly limited to three years, thus covering only two years of the Ph.D. stage of the programme). Admission to the Ph.D. stage of the Fellowship is subject to the candidate being awarded the M.Jur. Degree with a recommendation from the M.Jur. Examiners that the candidate be enrolled in the Ph.D. programme. Thereafter, the candidate is required to register with the Institute each year throughout the programme and such registration shall be allowed only on the submission of a satisfactory progress report from the candidate's Supervisor.

Research Proposal

Applicants must submit a well-drafted and comprehensive research proposal of not more than 1,000 words. This should precisely articulate the identified research problem, elucidate the primary research questions, define the research scope and methodology, present a feasible timeline with anticipated outcomes, and underscore the potential contribution to the international maritime law field, substantiated by a thorough literature review. Whilst the proposal should cover the whole period of studies, including the Ph.D. stage, candidates should emphasize what they intend to cover in the M.Jur. phase of the programme.

Fellowship Cover

Whilst traditionally, studies in IMLI's Research Degree programme may be conducted remotely, the Research Degree Programme Fellowship allows candidates the possibility of carrying out studies in situ, taking advantage of IMLI's extensive library resources and collaborating with resident staff and visiting fellows who are experts in their field. Accordingly, the Research Degree Programme Fellowship will cover the costs of tuition. Additionally, for a candidate carrying out studies in situ, the Fellowship may cover other expenses such as accommodation, stipend, health and life insurance and specifically determined field visits.

Expected Outcome

Within the first year of studies, the chosen candidate is expected to submit an M.Jur. dissertation of not less than twenty-five (25) thousand words on the legal framework for liability in the context of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS) containing original, detailed, and specialized research intended for inclusion in the relevant Ph.D. thesis.

Once registered for the Ph.D. stage of the programme, the chosen candidate is expected to submit a thesis of between eighty (80) and one hundred (100) thousand words containing original and significant contributions to knowledge on the legal framework for liability in the context of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS).

Application Procedure

To apply for the Research Degree Programme Fellowship, candidates must submit the following documents to IMLI by 29 March 2024:

- Completed Application Form
- Research proposal
- Copies of educational and professional experience certificates
- Two letters of recommendation
- Letter of motivation

Applications should be sent to the following e-mail address: officeofthedirector@imli.org. Please state “Application for the Research Degree Programme Fellowship” in the subject line.

Candidates may also send applications to:

Director

IMO International Maritime Law Institute

University of Malta Campus, Triq Roberto Ranieri Costaguti

Msida MSD 2080

Malta

Please do not send applications via multiple routes.

Deadline for Applications

Applications must reach the Institute by no later than 29 March 2024.

Selection Process

Evaluation of applications will be based, inter alia, in the following selection criteria:

- The quality and originality of the research proposal
- The candidate’s research potential and experience
- Relevant academic qualifications and publications
- Motivation and commitment to the field

Interviews

Whilst the Institute will acknowledge receipt of all applications, only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

Start Date

The selected candidate is expected to commence studies in the Research Degree Programme Fellowship in May 2024.

More Information

For more information about the Research Degree Programme Fellowship please contact:

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For more information about the Research Degree Programme, please visit the IMLI website:
<https://imli.org/>