



**RIGA  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF  
LAW**

## Course Outline

Course number	RMC102				
Course title	Legal Research				
Credit points	3 ECTS				
Total hours	75				
Contact hours	24				
Independent studies	51				
Course Level	Masters				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Dr Mark Leiser	PhD, LLB	Visiting Professor

### COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Dr Mark Leiser	PhD	Visiting Professor

### COURSE ABSTRACT

This advanced-level course on legal research and writing is intended for master-level students. Students will revise the leading legal research approaches during the course and discuss methodological challenges. The course introduces the key elements of writing legal research papers and prepares students for writing their master's thesis.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course has the following main objectives:

### Knowledge:

1. Students have learned the formal requirements for writing a master's thesis at RGSL.
2. Students are aware of the main approaches to legal research and understand their key issues.
3. Students know the most critical issues related to comparative, interdisciplinary, and empirical legal research. Students have knowledge and understanding of doctrinal legal research, which complies with the level of master studies.

### Skills:

1. Students should have improved legal research skills.
2. Students should have improved argumentation skills.
3. Students should have improved writing and presentation skills.

### Competences:

1. Students can formulate a topic for a research paper, set one or more research questions, and explain and justify their formulated topic and research question.
2. Students can find academic sources which are relevant to their chosen research topic, and students are able to organize these sources in a list of bibliographies.
3. Students can design a plan for their master's thesis. Students can explain and discuss the intended methodology for their research.
4. Students can explain the most critical issues related to the main approaches to legal research and discuss challenges related to these approaches.

## GRADING CRITERIA

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Class Quizzes	50%
Student Projects	50%