



# EXECUTIVE MASTER IN EUROPEAN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM LAW

**Application  
form  
opens on  
the 16<sup>th</sup>  
February**

- The unique program for in-depth knowledge of EU Migration & Asylum Law
- Professors best specialists from many EU Member States
- Online interactive courses within small group
- Schedule tailored for professionals

**Academic year 2026-2027**

# EXECUTIVE MASTER IN EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM LAW

- A program to acquire an in-depth knowledge of EU migration and asylum law, including the latest and most controversial developments like the new Pact on Migration and Asylum and return policy
- An **online program** including three gatherings in Brussels (only in-person attendance) with professors and experts
- A program using as a companion the **Odysseus Research Handbook**
- A legally oriented program but also accessible to non-jurists
- Accessible to students but also professionals with courses given on Friday evenings & Saturday mornings
- Professors from all Member States among the best specialists in the area, including practitioners from the European Commission and EU agencies

## IN A NUTSHELL

- A small group with interactive courses
- Courses updated with the latest developments of EU Migration and Asylum Policy
- The right place to build a professional network
- 3 modules: Introduction, Migration (including visas & borders) and Asylum
- Courses including theoretical and practical elements
- Learning how to write a post to be published on the Odysseus Network's blog
- Traineeship & research opportunities
- Participants to the master have the opportunity to attend for free the Odysseus Summer School before starting the academic year

# PRESENTATION

The aim of the program is to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the legal rules on migration and asylum adopted by the EU. It is of interest to all persons who wish to acquire such special knowledge, for instance EU or national civil servants, lawyers or judges, workers from international organisations and NGOs, researchers and PhD students who frequently confront the complex legal dimension of migration and asylum in their work. The program is organised by the Odysseus Academic Network for Legal Studies on Migration and Asylum in Europe, one of the leading research and training organisation in EU migration and asylum law founded in 1999 with the financial support of the European Commission.

The program offers the opportunity to live a unique EU bubble with professors coming from several Member States, as well as speakers from EU institutions. It offers an intellectually stimulating experience as part of a group of ten to fifteen participants specialising in migration and asylum with different backgrounds and coming from all over Europe.

On completing the Master's program, our graduates can value on the labour market the technical knowledge that they have acquired in migration and asylum law. They work for European institutions and agencies, international organisations and NGOs, migration law firms and national ministers for home affairs. The Executive Master has also enabled our graduates to reorient their careers towards migration and asylum.

Welcome on board!

Prof. Philippe De Bruycker



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "De Bruycker".

# WELCOME BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

IP/06/653

Brussels, 19 May 2006

## **The European Commission welcomes the creation of a “Certificate on European Law on Immigration and Asylum”**

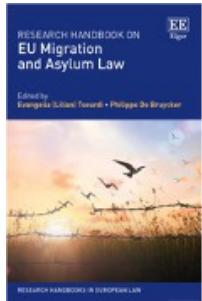
*The European Commission welcomes the announcement of the creation of a “Certificate on European Law on Immigration and Asylum” by the Odysseus Academic Network. The Commission considers the creation of this one year programme of training as an interesting contribution of the academic community to the development of a common policy on immigration and asylum. There is indeed a growing need for specific training on those issues in the Member States and offering training opportunities is also a significant element of capacity building for third countries cooperating with the EU to improve immigration and asylum management.*

Vice-President Franco Frattini, Commissioner responsible for Freedom, Security and Justice noted: “The course provides the opportunity to live in a unique European environment, with instructors coming from academic institutions in many different Member States as well as from the EU institutions, and to take part in an intellectually stimulating experience as part of a group of 30-40 participants specialising in the area of immigration and asylum with different backgrounds from all over Europe. I look forward to handing out the first certificate to the students in July 2007”

The programme which is the first of this kind, will offer its participant a deep understanding of the developing European Law on Immigration and Asylum from a theoretical as well as practical point of view. It is made of one introductory module followed by two specialised modules on immigration and asylum and a research paper.

The “Odysseus Network” is the Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe” created in 1999 with the financial support of the European Commission. The courses will start in September 2006 in Brussels and are given in English. All information is available on the website  
<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus>

# TEACHING ORIENTATION AND METHODOLOGY



**The program is of a legal nature and very demanding. Courses will be rather technical in orientation**, but the introductory module allows non-jurists to follow it successfully by acquiring knowledge on the EU institutional framework, the interaction between human rights and migration & asylum law, the roots of EU law in international migration & asylum law, the freedom of movement of EU citizens by comparison with third-country nationals and the law of the external relations of the EU.

Participants will benefit from the companion Odysseus Research Handbook on EU migration and asylum law that provides a comprehensive overview of the basics for all subjects of the courses.

**On top of the Executive Master, the fees cover access to the Odysseus Summer School, taking place every year in Brussels as well as online during the two first weeks of the month of July, to give participants the opportunity to acquire the necessary basic knowledge before starting the Executive Master.** The classes offer theoretical but also practical elements concerning the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights. Personal reading is expected from the participants.

**The very latest developments of EU policy are integrated into the teaching in particular through the participation as lecturers of high-ranking officials from the European Commission and EU agencies.** Participants will follow the day-to-day developments of the EU policy by receiving information from the Odysseus team. The classes will be conducted by academics among the best specialists of EU migration and asylum law. Three specific gatherings including professors and experts from EU institutions are organised in Brussels throughout the year to give participants the opportunity to meet and exchange in person. Specific issues will be discussed during these meetings to improve the understanding of participants and illustrate the courses.

**Attendance at online classes is mandatory** to ensure interactivity between participants and professors. The coordinator will monitor participants' presence and those who are frequently absent without any reason of force majeure will not be allowed to present the exams. **Class recordings** are provided to support the learning process, but they are not a substitute for attending the live sessions.



A short training will be provided on how to use the Teams platform. Participants only need to have a good internet connection and a computer with a camera. The participants will have access to an online platform providing an extensive and up to date documentation.

# FULL PROGRAM

<b>INTRODUCTORY MODULE (1<sup>st</sup> term: from September to December)</b>	
1. General EU law applied to Migration and Asylum (institutional framework and sources)	4 weeks (6 ECTS)
2. Human rights implications including jurisdiction	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
3. International migration law	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
4. International refugee law	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
5. Free movement of EU citizens	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
6. External dimension of EU migration and asylum law	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
Gathering in Brussels about recent developments in EU migration and asylum law	1 week (2 ECTS)
<b>Online exam session</b>	2 weeks
<b>SPECIALISED MODULE: MIGRATION (2<sup>nd</sup> term: January and February)</b>	
7. Schengen	1 week (2 ECTS)
8. Visa	1 week (2 ECTS)
9. External Borders	1 week (2 ECTS)
10. Family Reunification	1 week (2 ECTS)
11. Labour Migration	1 week (2 ECTS)
12. Status & integration of third-country nationals	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
13. Return, including detention	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
14. EU Databases & Artificial Intelligence	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
Gathering in Brussels about recent developments in EU migration law and policy	1 week (2 ECTS)
<b>Online exam session</b>	1 week
<b>SPECIALISED MODULE: ASYLUM (3<sup>rd</sup> term: March and April)</b>	
15. Definition of protected persons (refugee status, subsidiary protection and temporary protection)	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
16. Status of protected persons	1 week (2 ECTS)
17. Governance of EU Asylum Policy	1 week (2 ECTS)
18. Asylum procedures	1 week (2 ECTS)
19. Dublin system & solidarity	2 weeks (3 ECTS)
Gathering in Brussels about recent developments in EU asylum law and policy	1 week (2 ECTS)
<b>Online exam session</b>	1 week
<b>RESEARCH MODULE (4<sup>th</sup> term: From May to July)</b>	
Research and drafting of the blog post	3 weeks (20 ECTS)
<b>Final exam online</b>	During the first two weeks of July

# TEACHING STAFF & SUPPORT

The program is organised under the supervision of Prof. Philippe De Bruycker, coordinator of the Odysseus Academic Network. Professors involved in the Executive Master are chosen among the persons listed below.

Denmark 	Prof. Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN, University of Aarhus	Belgium 	Prof. Philippe De BRUYCKER, Université libre de Bruxelles	France 	Prof. Ségolène BARBOU DES PLACES, Université Panthéon Sorbonne
Belgium 	Prof. Sarah GANTY, Universiteit Gent	Germany 	Prof. Daniel THYM, Konstanz Universität	Bulgaria 	Prof. Valeria ILAREVA, University of Sofia
UK 	Prof. Steve PEERS, University of Essex	Luxemburg 	Dr Niovi VAVOULA, University of Luxemburg	Netherlands 	Assoc. Prof. Lilian TSOURDI, Maastricht University
Netherlands 	Prof. Lieneke SLINGENBERG, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands 	Prof. Tesseltje DE LANGE, Radboud Universiteit	EU 	Dr Jorrit RIJPMA, DG Migration & Home Affairs European Commission
Romania 	Dr Madalina MORARU, University of Bologna	Spain 	Prof. Assoc. Paula GARCIA ANDRADE, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid	Switzerland 	Prof. Vincent CHETAIL, Geneva Graduate Institute
Switzerland 	Prof. Francesco MAIANI, University of Lausanne	Turkey 	Dr Meltem INELI CIGER, Suleiman University	Croatia 	Prof. Iris GOLDNER LANG University of Zagreb
UK 	Prof. Violeta MORENO-LAX Queen Mary University of London	Lithuania 	Prof. Lyra JAKULEVICIENE, Mykolas Romeris University Vilnius	EU 	Dr Fabian LUTZ, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For the final exam, participants have to write a blog post that must be analytical rather than descriptive. The subject to be selected in agreement with the coordination team, must deal with EU or comparative law with an EU dimension. The best posts will be published on the Odysseus blog, so that the selected participants will have a scientific publication to add on their CV. The fourth term corresponds to a research track during which participants draft their blog post with the support of a member from the Odysseus Network. Interested persons will obtain advice on how to build a subject for a PhD. We also offer the opportunity to do a traineeship in the Brussels coordination team of the Odysseus Network.

## SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

The program starts on **4 September 2026** and ends on **10 July 2027**. It is divided into 4 terms. Courses amount generally to a total of 12 to 18 hours spread over a two/three-week period with sessions of 3 hours. The schedule of courses (6 to 9pm on Fridays and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays) enables professionals to participate. Participants will attend the courses online via Teams. Only the three gatherings require physical presence in Brussels.

## ASSESSMENT AND EXECUTIVE MASTER'S DEGREE

**Three online written exam sessions** will be organised: one for the introductory module, one for the specialised module on migration, and one for the specialised module on asylum. The exam session for the introductory module includes a separate exam for each course. The specialised modules on migration and asylum will each have one general written exam. On top, a final **online oral exam** will also be held during the first two weeks of July. This oral exam will include the presentation of the blog post and questions on the specialised modules on migration & asylum, and will be conducted before a jury composed of members of the Network.

Participants who have followed the program assiduously throughout the year and successfully passed the exams will receive an executive degree corresponding to **level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)**. It will be delivered on behalf of the Odysseus Network as an association having a legal personality.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Entrance to the course is competitive and based on academic merit and potential.** In addition to a good knowledge of English, applicants must have as a minimum a university master's degree (MA) in Law, Political Science, European Studies or International Relations. Applications of graduates of other disciplines will be considered case by case. Applicants can also rely upon relevant professional experience (for example as a civil servant, NGO employee, etc.). They will be required to provide supporting documents. Interviews can be organised in case there is a doubt about the fulfillment of the admission requirements, including knowledge of oral and written English. As well as your CV, a statement of purpose of one page (single spaced, 12 font) is required to explain your motivation to attend the program.

# REGISTRATION AND FEES

**For notice, the program is entirely self-financed by the registration fees paid by participants and does not rely on any subvention!**

**The closing date for applications is 10 July 2026** via the link below. Late applications will be considered if some places are left.

Applicants **must pay 1000 € by 10 July 2026 to officially submit their application.** This sum will not be reimbursed if the participant drops out without a reason of force majeure.

The registration fee is:

- 2600 € for students
- 3600 € for PhD students, researchers or trainees remunerated by a salary or a grant
- 6000 € for professionals.
- Persons choosing to attend only one specialised module (migration or asylum) on top of the introductory module will respectively pay 2000, 3000 or 4500 €.

The classification of individuals as a Student, PhD researcher, or Trainee is based on their salary level. It is required to provide proof of your eligibility for the chosen category. If you receive a salary, Odysseus will determine which category you belong to. Please note that individuals with a regular salary do not qualify for these categories.

The fee covers all classes, documentation, one paper copy of the Odysseus Handbook and food during gatherings in Brussels (without travel and accommodation costs), including free access to the Odysseus summer school before the start of the Master. The Network provides one grant to allow a selected applicant to participate free of charge, who will be asked to help with the coordination of the program.

Participants are asked to pay the **entire fee** at the latest by **1st August 2026** by bank transfer to the account below:

<b>Account name:</b> Réseau Odysseus <b>Bank:</b> BNP Paribas Fortis Bank 1050, Brussels, Belgium	<b>IBAN:</b> BE49 0015 4052 2371 <b>BIC:</b> GEBA BEBB <b>Reference:</b> Master & your name
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## CONTACT

Inquiries should be addressed by email at: [odysseus@ulb.be](mailto:odysseus@ulb.be)

## APPLICATION FORM