



Summer School on Global Comparative Private Law 5.7. – 15.7.2027
For Students who need to write a final paper

Guidelines for the Final Paper (Bachelor/Master)

Participants seeking credit for the Summer School must submit a written academic paper in English. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate the ability to engage critically with a legal field introduced during the programme and to apply comparative methods where appropriate.

1. Topic Selection

- Students must choose **one legal field presented during the Summer School**.
- **Exclusions:** The paper may **not** focus on the student's own home jurisdiction as the sole legal system.
- Comparative analysis is permitted and encouraged, provided that at least **one** of the examined jurisdictions corresponds to material presented in the Summer School.

2. Length and Scope

- **Bachelor students:** approx. **20 pages**
- **Master students:** approx. **30 pages**
- The page limit **includes all elements** of the paper:
- Minor deviations ($\pm 10\%$) are acceptable, but substantial deviations must be justified.

3. Formatting Requirements

To ensure consistency across submissions, the following style is required:

- **File format:** PDF
- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Font size:** Main text: 12 pt / Footnotes: 10 pt
- **Line spacing:** Main text: 1.15 / Footnotes and block quotations: single-spaced
- **Margins:** Default; approx. 2.5 cm on all sides
- **Page numbering:** consecutive, starting with the introduction as the first page
- **Footnotes:** required; continuous numbering throughout the text

4. Structure of the Paper

While students may tailor the structure to their argument, the following elements are expected:

- **Cover page** (title, name, programme, date)
- **Table of contents**
- **Introduction (chapter 1)**: research question, justification of topic choice, methodological approach
- **Main analysis (several chapters)**: depends on the topic, free of choice
- **Conclusion**
- **Bibliography**

5. Sources and Literature

- Students may use **any reputable academic sources**, including:
 - scholarly monographs
 - peer-reviewed articles
 - legal commentaries
 - legislation and case law
 - reputable online academic databases
- **Non-academic sources** (blogs, general news media, Wikipedia) may be consulted but **should not be cited** as authoritative references.
- Extensive footnoting is not required; however, proper citation must demonstrate:
 - traceability of arguments,
 - avoidance of unreferenced assertions,
 - awareness of relevant scholarship.
- No minimum or maximum number of footnotes is prescribed; the adequacy of referencing will be assessed in light of the paper's complexity.

6. Citation Style

- Students may use **any recognized legal citation format**, such as:
 - Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA)
 - Bluebook
 - Chicago Manual of Style
- **Consistency** within the paper is essential.
- **Footnotes** are mandatory; in-text author-date systems are not permitted.

7. Academic Integrity

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
- All borrowed ideas - whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized - must be cited.
- Use of AI tools is strictly not permitted.
- Substantive legal analysis must be the student's own work. Undisclosed AI-generated text is not allowed and will immediately lead to a negative evaluation.

8. Submission

The completed paper must be submitted **by e-mail to Martina Pachler**: martina.pachler@plus.ac.at

Students who require an immediate confirmation of completion and grade following the end of the Summer School must submit their paper no later than the final day of the programme. Later submissions are possible, although in such cases the issuance of the certificate and grade may be delayed accordingly.

9. Assessment Criteria

The paper will be evaluated on the basis of:

- clarity and precision of the research question
- depth and accuracy of legal analysis
- integration of comparative methodology (where chosen)
- coherence and persuasiveness of argumentation
- correct and consistent citation
- linguistic clarity and academic tone
- adherence to formal requirements

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Philipp Klausberger
(Summer School Director)