Course report

Course name and code: ICAL Master's Thesis JU679M

Semester: VT26

Credits: 15

Responsible teacher: Daria Kozlowska-Rautiainen

Number of students: 37

Number of respondents to the feedback form: 11

Description of changes since previous year: The course was back to having under 40 students.

The strengths of the course's according to the students

Students found the thesis course to be a strong and well-structured experience overall. The prior preparation through smaller essay assignments in the Advanced International Arbitration course was particularly valued, as it gave students practice in developing focused research questions and academic writing before tackling the full thesis. The course was appreciated for allowing sufficient time for the thesis to develop organically, and the opposition seminar, where students reviewed and discussed each other's work, was highlighted as especially beneficial. The freedom to pursue a topic of personal interest was also seen as a meaningful strength.

The weaknesses of the course according to the students

One aspect which was lifted is that supervision varied significantly depending on the assigned supervisor, leaving students uncertain about expected standards. Guidelines around the thesis process, including presentation format, timing, and the role of the opponent, were seen as incomplete and inconsistently applied across groups, creating confusion and an uneven experience. Another aspect lifted, was that not all students provided the detailed and constructive comments that they were supposed to provide on the assigned thesis. Finally, the word limit was seen by some as insufficient for genuinely deep analysis.

Teachers' comments

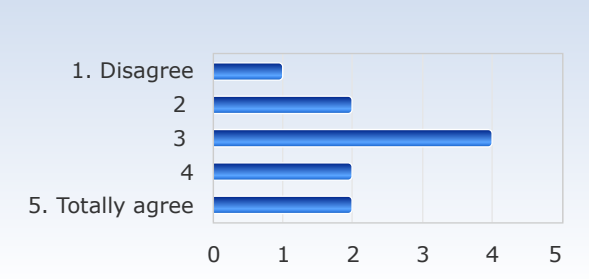
The instructions and the framework for the thesis has not changed from the previous years, but it is clear that this year, the students would have needed the instructions to be communicated in a different way than it has been done before. There will be detailed instructions provided next year in more than one location. The programme will use a different online platform than before and hopefully it will serve the future ICAL students well and be easier to use. The word limit will not be changed, but the students will be directed even more clearly to choose narrow topics that suit the 35-40 page long thesis.

ICAL Master's Thesis in Commercial International Arbitration, VT26

Answer Count: 11

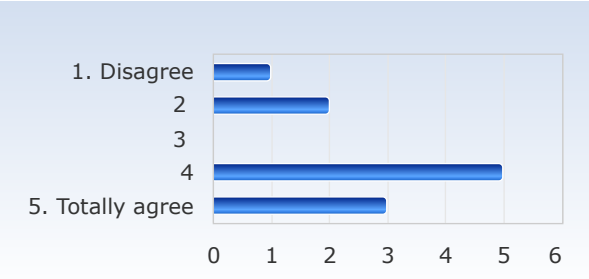
1. Overall, I am satisfied with the course.

Overall, I am satisfied with the course.	Number of responses
1. Disagree	1 (9,1%)
2	2 (18,2%)
3	4 (36,4%)
4	2 (18,2%)
5. Totally agree	2 (18,2%)
Total	11 (100,0%)



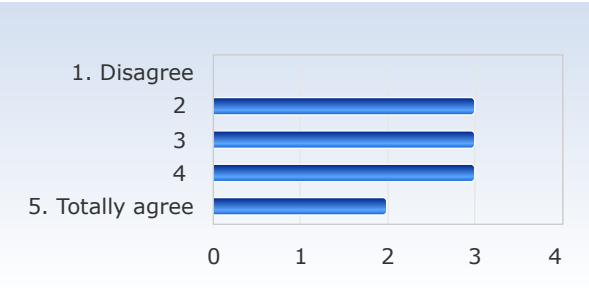
2. The content of the course was relevant to me for achieving the intended learning outcomes.

The content of the course was relevant to me for achieving the intended learning outcomes.	Number of responses
1. Disagree	1 (9,1%)
2	2 (18,2%)
3	0 (0,0%)
4	5 (45,5%)
5. Totally agree	3 (27,3%)
Total	11 (100,0%)



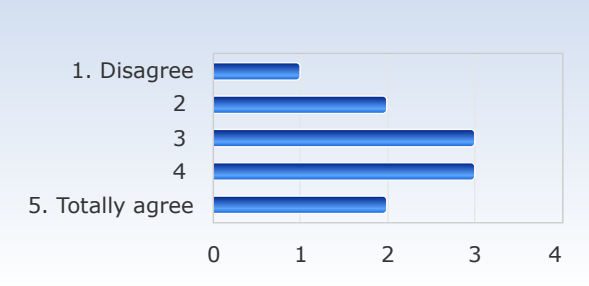
3. The teaching gave me good conditions to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

The teaching gave me good conditions to achieve the intended learning outcomes.	Number of responses
1. Disagree	0 (0,0%)
2	3 (27,3%)
3	3 (27,3%)
4	3 (27,3%)
5. Totally agree	2 (18,2%)
Total	11 (100,0%)



4. The examination/assessment tested how well I achieved the intended learning outcomes.

The examination /assessment tested how well I achieved the intended learning outcomes.	Number of responses
1. Disagree	1 (9,1%)
2	2 (18,2%)
3	3 (27,3%)
4	3 (27,3%)
5. Totally agree	2 (18,2%)
Total	11 (100,0%)



5. On average, I have spent approximately the following number of hours per week on the course, total time, including self-study.

On average, I have spent approximately the following number of hours per week on the course, total time, including self-study.	Number of responses
2 - 8	1 (10,0%)
9 - 15	1 (10,0%)
16 - 22	2 (20,0%)
23 - 29	0 (0,0%)
30 - 36	3 (30,0%)
37 - 43	1 (10,0%)
44 - 50	1 (10,0%)
51 - 57	0 (0,0%)
58 - 64	0 (0,0%)
65 - 71	1 (10,0%)
Total	10 (100,0%)

