

Master in Space Law and Geopolitics

Luiss
School of Law

Luiss
School of Government



INTRODUCTION

The **Master in Space Law and Geopolitics** is designed to prepare professionals capable of navigating the growing complexity of space governance, combining legal expertise with a deep understanding of the geopolitical and economic forces shaping the space sector. The curriculum offers a solid and comprehensive foundation in space law and policy, equipping participants to operate effectively in both public institutions and private companies. After the Master, graduates will be ready to assume key roles in shaping, managing, or advising on regulatory and strategic initiatives in the context of space activities.

Throughout the program, participants will engage in a multidisciplinary set of modules that explore the political, legal, security-related, and economic dimensions of outer space. These include **dedicated courses on Space Policy, Governance, Security, and Economy, as well as on the International, European and Administrative Law of space activities**. The Master promotes an applied and interactive approach to learning, enabling students to critically assess the legal frameworks, institutional structures, and strategic choices that underpin current space activities. The objective is to provide students with the tools to interpret multilevel regulatory systems, address contemporary legal challenges, and contribute meaningfully to national and international decision-making in the space domain.

PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE

This distinctive program is structured around **seven thematic modules** that integrate academic rigor with advanced professional expertise. Each module – guided by highly qualified scientific coordinators – comprises 40 hours of frontal lectures, complemented by institutional visits and meetings with international experts and organizations. Students will engage in an inductive learning approach that fosters in-depth exploration of current and emerging legal and policy challenges related to space. At the conclusion of every module, their learning will be tested by drafting legal and policy briefs or by taking a written exam on the topics discussed in class. The program culminates in the submission of a 10,000-word dissertation or project work on a subject matter of individual interest.

Space Policy

This module explores the political and strategic dimension of space activities, from Cold War rivalries to today's democratization of access to space.

It analyzes national policies, global competition, and cooperative frameworks, with a focus on the influence of innovation on national space strategies and future service infrastructures.

Space Governance

The module investigates the institutional architecture of global space governance, from UN bodies to regional and national frameworks. It compares differing governance visions among major space powers and emerging regions, addressing also the challenges surrounding the governance of lunar activities and suborbital flights. During the module, European governance is studied in detail, focusing on the roles of ESA, the EU, and member States.

FACULTY

The faculty chair of the Master is **Prof. Aldo Sandulli**, Full Professor of Administrative Law, Luiss Guido Carli in coordination with **Dr. Ersilia Vaudo**, ESA Special Advisor on Future Talents, as deputy.

The scientific coordination of individual module has been assigned to the following leading national and international experts:

Space Policy – **Eric Morel de Westgaver**,
ESA Director of strategy, legal and external affairs;

Space Governance – **Marco Ferrazzani**,
ESA Director of internal services and member
of the Executive Board;

Space Security

This module addresses the main security challenges facing assets in outer space, including counterspace threats and risks inherent to dual-use technologies. It investigates the current global situation on space security, and examines the policies, strategies and programmatic endeavors of major space powers around the world. Key topics include the conceptualization of space security, the prevention of conflictuality in space and the protection of space infrastructure.

Space Economy

This module explores the structure and evolution of the modern space economy, analyzing public and private investments in space as well as markets revenues and looking at the main sectors such as launch systems, satellite telecommunications, earth observation and low earth orbit or lunar economic activities. It looks into the evolution of the financing models, including venture capital and public-private investments, and the space insurance market. The module also addresses the socio-economic impact of space programs.

Public International Space Law

This module provides an in-depth overview of the international legal framework governing outer space, tracing its development from early treaty law to emerging soft law instruments. It addresses the legal status of space objects and actors, including the notions of jurisdiction, registration, and launch state, as well as the liability regime for damage caused by space activities. The course also examines thematic legal challenges such as space debris mitigation, orbital servicing, satellite-based services, and the use of space during armed conflicts. Legal norms applicable to space tourism, human presence in orbit, and the exploitation of celestial resources are explored through both global and national regulatory perspectives.

Administrative Law of Space Activities

This module explores the legal and procedural mechanisms through which States regulate and supervise space activities at the domestic level. It focuses on the structure and content of authorization regimes for space operations, including launches, satellite services, lunar missions, and the use of frequencies. Particular attention is given to the allocation of regulatory competences between legislative bodies and technical authorities, the management of cross-border regulatory conflicts, and public oversight mechanisms. The course also addresses strategic regulatory tools such as investment screening, dual-use export controls, and public procurement processes, including innovative contracting and public-private partnerships in the space sector.

Space Law in Europe

This module analyses the legal framework governing space activities at the regional level in Europe, focusing on ESA and the EU. It explores their legal nature, regulatory competences, rights and obligations both at the internal and international levels. Students will develop a deep understanding of specific legal issues, such as the procurement regimes of the two institutions, the rules on the management of the EU space assets, and the European regulation of foreign investments in the space domain.

Space Security – **Quentin Verspieren**,
ESA Space safety programme coordination lead
and visiting assistant professor at the University
of Tokyo - Graduate school of public policy;

Space Economy – **Charlotte Mathieu**,
ESA Head of industrial policy and space economy division
and Board member of the European Centre for Space
Economy and Commerce (ECSECO) in Wien (Austria);

Public International Space Law – **Tanja Masson-Zwaan**,
Assistant Professor and Deputy Director
of the International Institute of Air and Space Law
at Leiden University;

Administrative Law of Space Activities – **Jakub Handrlica**,
Full Professor in Administrative Law at Charles University;

Space Law in Europe – **Maria Elena De Maestri**,
Associate Professor in International Law
at the University of Genova.

The overall academic coordination of the teaching
activities will involve **Dr. Andrea Capurso**,
Research Fellow & Lecturer in Space Law,
Luiss Guido Carli.

COSTS

Tuition fees for the Master in Space Law and Policy have been fixed at € 9500.

- € 5000 to confirm their place in the programme
- € 4500 prior to the start of the programme.

For those who apply before 30 September 2025, Luiss will apply a 10% discount on the full fee.

*Admitted students can withdraw from the Master only before the official start of the academic program set by the Director of the Master and communicated by Luiss as to offer the place to a candidate in the “reserve” list. Withdrawals need to be communicated by written notice to the Faculty Chair and Student Secretariat. Any request for withdrawal after the start date of the academic programme does not exempt the student from paying the full tuition fee.

HOW TO APPLY

To participate in the admission procedure, applicants must hold at least a three-year bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification. In accordance with Italian national legislation, students may not be simultaneously enrolled in other undergraduate, graduate, Ph.D. programs at Luiss Guido Carli or any other university. Final-year undergraduate students may be conditionally admitted, provided they complete all academic requirements by the extraordinary session (March/April 2026) of the 2024/2025 academic year.

Student selection is based on the following criteria:

Academic merit: the quality and consistency of the applicant's academic background, as evidenced by transcripts and curriculum vitae/resume

Motivation: a clear and compelling explanation of how and why the master's program aligns with the applicant's personal and professional goals.

Applicants need to fill out the online form on the Luiss School of Government website.





CAREER SERVICE

The Career Service office guides students as they enter the job market, through:

Application Lab & Job Interview Workshop

This workshop provides students essential skills to craft an effective CV and master interview techniques, helping them establish meaningful connections with potential employers.

One-to-One Career Guidance

Our professional counseling service offers personalized support, allowing students to review their CVs with a Career Service advisor, prepare for job interviews, explore career options, and develop a strategic action plan aligned with their career goals.

Career Service Initiatives

Master's students can take part to Luiss Career Day, an exclusive networking event that connects them with leading Italian and international employers. This event provides valuable exposure and fosters professional networking.

Job Opportunities

Throughout the academic year, we share job openings and relevant opportunities aligned with students' Master's programs.

Internship Administrative Support

We provide guidance and assistance with the administrative processes required to activate internships.

Career Support Programmes

- **Junior Programme:** for students looking for curricular internship, this program supports those entering the job market for the first time.
- **Senior Programme:** Tailored for experienced professionals, this program includes coaching sessions and soft skills development to enhance performance and career progression.



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