

JAEN73, EU Data Protection Law, 15 credits

EU:s dataskyddsrätt, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty of Law Board of education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels on 2026-03-04. The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-04 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is an elective course within the Master's Programmes in European Economic Law and European Economic Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is open to students on the programme leading to a Swedish Professional Law degree and to international students participating in exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law.

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
European Economic Law	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
European Business Law	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with in-depth knowledge of legal rules on data protection in the European Union, including the principles governing the processing of personal data, the rights and obligations of data subjects, controllers, processors and supervisory authorities, and the wider societal, security and ethical implications of processing personal data.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the course the student shall be able to:

- comprehensively understand the relevance of legal rules on data protection in EU law
- demonstrate in-depth understanding of the principles, rules and logic governing the GDPR and its role in the EU's policy on digitalisation
- demonstrate a systematic understanding of the interplay between the GDPR, related EU legal instruments and national regulations
- reflect on the relationship between the Court of Justice and the Union legislator in developing legal frameworks for data protection
- understand the challenges and complexities of the rapid process of digitalisation, including the implementation of Artificial Intelligence solutions in both public and private sectors.

Competence and skills

- identify conflicts between the right to data protection and other rights, freedoms and interests
- assess and critically analyse a wide range of relevant legislation, case law and legal doctrine both individually and in a group and present the results both orally and in writing
- detect and formulate the relevant data protection issues when presented with a case
- interpret and apply the legal framework according to generally accepted legal methods and theory.

Judgement and approach

After completing the course the student shall be able to:

- work in a cross-disciplinary and diverse setting, e.g. with colleagues from different cultural backgrounds and genders
- perform independent investigation and take full responsibility for the development of their own knowledge in an objective, but critical manner
- critically assess the GDPR and related EU legal instruments for data protection at the European and global level
- consider and discuss social, ethical and sustainability-related aspects of data protection, and form individual legal opinions and arguments based on such reflections.

Course content

The course prepares students for advanced legal questions related to data protection in the European Union and its member states. The course follows the two-fold aim of the GDPR regarding data processing, that is the protection of personal data and contributing to the accomplishment of the EU internal market.

The course is divided into four modules. The first module focuses on general principles of data protection, including the GDPR's territorial and material scope, data protection by design and the role of supervisory authorities such as the Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection and the European Data Protection Board. The second module covers the legal grounds for processing personal data, including sensitive categories of data, special considerations regarding the processing of personal data of children, data protection rules applicable in different contexts, exceptions concerning academic, journalistic and research activities, and requirements concerning transfers of personal data to third countries outside the EU. The third module gives special attention to data protection issues raised by the use of Artificial Intelligence, including the legality of technologies involving automated individual decision-making and profiling, freedom of speech and the right to be forgotten, and data protection risks raised by technologies such as facial recognition and global surveillance. The fourth module focuses on future challenges faced by lawful processing of data under EU law, such as the use of synthetic data, legal AI, and socially assistive robots.

Course design

Students obtain knowledge and competences by means of individual study of course materials, in particular, EU legislation, case law of the Court of Justice and relevant literature, and by taking actively part in lectures and seminars.

The course consists of lectures, seminars and a final individual assignment.

Assessment

Student performance is assessed by the following methods:

1. Oral presentation of group work assignments in seminars (5 credits)
2. An independent written analysis of a self-identified problem related to data protection in EU law, its presentation orally in class, and peer review on another student's paper (10 credits)

The students must pass each component separately to obtain a pass grade on the course.

All submitted texts must be based on independent work. The student must be able to account for, justify, develop, and modify all parts of the submitted course assignments.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Credit, Pass with Distinction
The oral presentation accounts for 33% of the grade and the written analysis accounts for 67%.

To receive a B on the course, all criteria for a B must be met. To receive a BA on the course, most of the BA criteria must be met. To receive an AB on the course, most of the AB criteria and all of the BA criteria must be met.

B – Pass

In order to achieve the passing grade, the student must show an ability to reflect on the principles and rules governing data protection law in the EU, to identify conflicts between the right to data protection and other rights, freedoms and interests, and to critically analyse the relevant legislation, case law and legal doctrine. The student must show an ability to analyse all relevant sources, including EU legislation, case law and doctrine, and express his or her ideas orally and in writing.

BA – Pass with credit

In order to achieve this grade, the student must show a high degree of competence in reflecting on the principles and rules governing data protection law in the EU, identifying conflicts between the right to data protection and other rights, freedoms and interests, and critically analysing the relevant legislation, case law and legal doctrine. The student must show a good ability to analyse all relevant sources, including EU legislation, case law and doctrine, and express his or her ideas well orally and in writing.

AB – Pass with distinction

In order to achieve the highest grade, the student must show a very high degree of competence in reflecting on the principles and rules governing data protection law in the EU, identifying conflicts between the right to data protection and other rights, freedoms and interests, and critically analysing the relevant legislation, case law and legal doctrine. The student must show a very good ability to analyse all relevant sources, including EU legislation, case law and doctrine, and express his or her ideas clearly and concisely orally and in writing.

Entry requirements

Passed examination in courses corresponding to the first year of the Master's programme in European Economic Law or European Business Law, amounting to at least 45 credits.

For students on the Professional Law Degree Programme the entry requirements for semesters 7 and 8 are outlined in the Programme syllabus (utbildningsplanen).

Exchange students must have passed at least two and a half years of law studies at university level including basic knowledge of EU law.

Further information

The University views plagiarism as a very serious academic offence and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

According to the Faculty of Law's Policy for Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in Teaching and Assessment as Applicable to Students, all submitted texts in examinations must be based on independent work. As a student, you must be able to account for, justify, develop, and modify all parts of your submitted course assignments.