

ALBRECHT MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FAKULTÄT

FÜR RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT

ALBRECHT MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW

AIMS – COURSE – TOPICS

It is our aim to provide excellent learning opportunities for PhD candidates and post-docs by offering a research-orientated curriculum in all fields of legal science. Our school furthermore advocates a well-founded interdisciplinary education according to international standards.

The degree programme at the Graduate School of Law is optimal for graduates in legal studies and other disciplines who are keen to produce ambitious doctoral work in an excellent and interdisciplinary research environment. Doctoral candidates from all over the world ensure the continued challenge of intellectual diversity and contribute to the programme's international orientation.

By offering education and training in cooperation with other university departments and faculties, we promote vocational and academic development, thus preparing them for future careers.

The Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy Graduate School of Law is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. Our programme has been designed to accommodate the integration of family and working life.

It is also possible to study part-time alongside work.



ALBRECHT MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY:

Lawyer - Peace Researcher - Artist

The Graduate School of Law follows the tradition of interdisciplinary academic excellence set by its name-giver Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

From 1920 on, he was professor for private law, comparative and international private law in Hamburg and founded the Institute of Foreign Politics in 1923.

Mendelssohn Bartholdy was an expert on Anglo-American law and held a wide range of connections abroad. He was judge at the International Arbitration Tribunal in The Hague in 1925, and became delegate to the League of Nations in 1931.

His enforced emigration in 1933 put an abrupt end to his shining career. Mendelssohn Bartholdy found asylum the following year in England, where he became research fellow at Balliol College, Oxford. He died in Oxford in 1936 after a severe illness. The strong connection between law and peace is perfectly portrayed in the person of this great scholar and it comes as no surprise that Mendelssohn Bartholdy chose judicial office as the subject of his first works.

The **Faculty of Law of the University of Hamburg** concentrates its activities in two key research areas:

RESEARCH AREA 1: International, European, and Transnational Law

The faculty deals with the international dimensions of law and legal science since its establishment in 1919. Today, our focus lays on research activities in the following individual areas:

- International and European public law,
- International private Law
- comparative law,
- international criminal law, and
- refugee law.

RESEARCH AREA 2: Law in Context

Law in Context bundles research activities associated with the principles and interdisciplinary aspects of law; particularly the following:

- legal history,
- philosophy of law,
- legal theory,
- legal sociology,
- economic analysis of law,
- and criminology.

The **Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy Graduate School of Law** particularly welcomes interdisciplinary PhD topics from the two areas but is generally open to all areas of legal science.

WELL-STRUCTURED PHD PROGRAMME

Research in an interdisciplinary and international context

LECTURES:

Concerning the fundamentals and development of legal science.

WORKSHOPS:

In our research workshops, legal scientific questions from a broad range of different topics are dealt with. The workshops serve as a starting point for in depth reflections on law in general and also on the particular research projects of our students.

The following topics are to be named as examples for previous workshop topics:

Natural law from antiquity to the present day, Jurisdiction from a historical perspective, Law as a science, Law and literature, Rule and decision, The study of administration from different scientific aspects, Institutional approaches (including legal science), etc.

SEMINARS:

Subject-specific seminars in our main research areas.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND METHODS FOR PHD-STUDENTS:

This course on writing legal academic writing teaches our students about legal research methods in theory as well as in practice. It furthermore informs about

- rules of good research practice,
- research techniques,
- working with data-banks, and
- how to apply suitable legal methods.

APPLICATION

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

An excellent law degree or a non-legal research-orientated master degree (in particular in business, political sciences, or sociology)

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

- application form (to be found on our website)
- diploma
- tabular curriculum vitae
- index of publications (optional)
- research proposal (up to four pages)
- personal statement for applying to the Albrecht Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Graduate School
- two recommendations from professors
- language certificates (German or English): non-native speakers, who write their dissertation in German or in English are obliged to prove their language skills by relevant certificates.
- German: TestDaF or DSH, English: Certificate that proves C1-Level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

ADMISSION CRITERIA:

- excellent academic performance, generally demonstrated by outstanding qualifications
- a suitable doctoral topic related to the interdisciplinary approach of the graduate school or to the research focuses of the Faculty of Law

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT TERM (BEGINNING IN SUMMER 2027) IS:

14 DECEMBER 2026

NO TUITION FEES

Students at Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy Graduate School of Law do not pay tuition.

However, all enrolled students have to pay the University's administration fee (approx. € 402 per semester), which includes a ticket for public transportation. The ticket is valid in the entirety of Germany for the duration of the semester.

FAKULTÄT FÜR RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COORDINATION-TEAM

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