

MASTER & MBA PROGRAM

MASTER'S IN BUSINESS LAW

Master the law in service of corporate strategy!

Master Droit des Affaires — Maîtriser le droit au service de la stratégie d'entreprise !

2 years

MASTER 1 (COMMON CORE AND...

120 ECTS

60 PER YEAR, 30 PER SEMESTER,...

2 diplomas

MBA IN BUSINESS LAW (ESG) · ...

DEGREES AWARDED · DIPLÔMES DÉLIVRÉS

MBA in Business Law (ESG Paris)

Master's Degree in Business Law (UFRA)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Université Française d'Abidjan · ESG Graduate School — Abidjan



01 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Présentation du programme

The Master's in Business Law trains high-level legal professionals capable of securing corporate operations, structuring complex transactions, and defending a company's interests before the courts as well as through amicable dispute resolution. Grounded in the OHADA framework and open to the international arena, it prepares graduates for roles in legal management, advisory, taxation, and compliance, within companies as well as law firms.

The Master's program is built in two stages.

- ◆ First year, high-level common core shared with the MBA Fast-Track cohort: strategy, financial analysis, management control, OHADA business law and taxation, data and AI, leadership;
- ◆ First year, Business Law track: advanced corporate law and restructuring (OHADA mergers and acquisitions), complex domestic and international business contracts, advanced tax law (optimization, transfer pricing, tax treaties), banking, financial and capital markets law (BRVM, UEMOA AMF);
- ◆ First year, continued: international commercial arbitration and amicable dispute resolution, competition and investment law (UEMOA, AGOA, EPA), intellectual property, digital law and compliance, and an internship leading to a dissertation;
- ◆ Second year, deeper specialization: OHADA restructuring, international contracts, taxation, enforcement procedures, mergers and acquisitions and legal engineering, business criminal law, arbitration and mediation, intellectual property and data, Legal Tech;
- ◆ Second year, professional thesis and extended internship.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Train legal professionals capable of securing and structuring corporate operations within the OHADA framework;
- ◆ Master the legal engineering of mergers, acquisitions, and restructurings;
- ◆ Handle litigation and leverage arbitration and amicable dispute resolution methods;
- ◆ Optimize tax burden and prevent business criminal risk;
- ◆ Deploy compliance, data protection, and Legal Tech tools.

KEY FACTS · REPÈRES

Master · Bac+5

EXIT LEVEL

2 years

DURATION

French

LANGUAGE OF...

Bac+3 or Bac+4

ADMISSION

02 GRADUATE SKILLS

Les compétences du diplômé

Qualify and secure

Master legal sources, characterize a given situation, and secure contracts, deeds, and transactions.

Structure transactions

Manage corporate life cycles, restructurings, and mergers and acquisitions (OHADA).

Defend

Handle litigation and master procedure, enforcement proceedings, arbitration, and mediation.

Optimize

Master corporate taxation and design lawful tax optimization structures.

Protect

Ensure compliance, data protection, and the defense of intellectual property.

Innovate

Leverage Legal Tech and Legal Design to streamline and clarify the legal function.

03 CURRICULUM

Maquette pédagogique

The Master's program runs over two years. The Master 1 common core and the Master 2 shared courses are pooled with the MBA Fast-Track cohort, giving students direct contact with working executives and managers.

Stage	Content	ECTS
Master 1 – Semester 1	Common core (shared with MBA): strategy, finance, management control, law, data, leadership	30
Master 1 – Semester 2	Business Law track	30
Master 2 – Shared Courses	Cross-disciplinary courses shared with the MBA Fast-Track cohort	13
Master 2 – Specialization	Specialty courses, applied research thesis, and internship	47
TOTAL Master	2 years, 4 semesters	120
Alternative	Executive MBA Fast-Track, 12 months	90

- Progression rule: each year is worth 60 ECTS, i.e. 30 per semester;
- A year is validated with an overall average of 10/20 or higher;
- Specialty subjects, the thesis, and the internship carry a coefficient of 2;
- Common and cross-disciplinary courses carry a coefficient of 1.

CURRICULUM*

The tables below present the official program structure: subjects and ECTS credits, in teaching order. Indicative structure, subject to pedagogical adjustments.

MASTER 1 - SEMESTER 1: COMMON CORE (30 ECTS)				30 ECTS
<i>Common to all Master 1 tracks. Shared with the MBA Fast-Track.</i>				
Corporate Strategy & Governance	4	Data Analytics, AI & Digital Tools		3
Financial Analysis & Diagnostics	4	Management, Leadership & Change Management		3
OHADA Business Law & Corporate Taxation	4	Negotiation & Professional Communication		2
Management Control & Performance Management	3	Business English		2
Strategic Marketing & Digital Transformation	3	Research Methodology & Seminar		2

MASTER 1 - SEMESTER 2: BUSINESS LAW TRACK (30 ECTS)**30 ECTS***Opening of the specialization.*

Advanced Corporate Law & Restructuring (OHADA Mergers & Acquisitions)	5	International Commercial Arbitration & Amicable Dispute Resolution (CCJA, ICC, ICSID)	4
Complex Business Contracts & International Contracts (Incoterms, PPPs, lex mercatoria)	5	Competition Law, Economic Regulation & Investment (UEMOA, AGOA, EPA)	3
Advanced Tax Law (Optimization, Transfer Pricing, Tax Treaties)	5	Intellectual Property, Digital Law & Compliance	2
Banking, Financial & Capital Markets Law (BRVM, UEMOA AMF, Guarantees)	4	Internship / Applied Law Project & Internship Report	2

MASTER 2 - SHARED COURSES (13 ECTS)**13 ECTS***Cross-disciplinary courses common to all M2 tracks, taken with the MBA Fast-Track cohort.*

Orientation & Integration Seminar · Sem. S3	1	Research Methodology & Thesis Support · Sem. S3–S4	3
Professional Uses of AI & Data · Sem. S3	2	Negotiation & Executive Communication · Sem. S4	1
Leadership, Management & Change Management · Sem. S3	2	CSR, Ethics & Transition · Sem. S4	2
Business English & International Communication · Sem. S3–S4	2		

MASTER 2 - BUSINESS LAW SPECIALIZATION (47 ECTS)**47 ECTS***Specialty courses, applied research thesis, and professional internship. Full Master 2 pathway: shared courses (13 ECTS) + specialization, thesis, and internship (47 ECTS) = 60 ECTS.*

Corporate Law & Restructuring (OHADA) · Sem. S3	4	OHADA Arbitration, Mediation & Amicable Dispute Resolution · Sem. S4	3
International Contract Law & International Trade Law · Sem. S3	3	Intellectual Property & Digital Law (Data) · Sem. S4	4
Tax Law & Corporate Taxation · Sem. S3	3	Legal Tech, Legal Design & Compliance · Sem. S4	3
Civil Enforcement Procedure & Legal Remedies · Sem. S3	3	Applied Research Thesis / Professional Dissertation in Business Law · Sem. S4	9
Mergers & Acquisitions and Legal Engineering · Sem. S4	4	Professional Internship / Work–Study Program (4 to 6 Months) & Report · Sem. S4	8
Business Criminal Law & Litigation · Sem. S4	3		

* Programmes may evolve to stay in step with changing professional practice.

04 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ASSESSMENT

Professionnalisation & évaluation

Component	ECTS	When
Applied research thesis (professional dissertation)	9	Master 2, semester 4
Professional internship or work-study program (4 to 6 months) and report	8	Master 2, semester 4
Internship or applied Business Law project	2	Master 1, semester 2
Research methodology and thesis support	3	Master 2, semesters 3 and 4
Legal Tech, Legal Design, and compliance	3	Master 2, semester 4

THE PROJECT THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

- ◆ The professional thesis addresses a real legal issue raised by a company, a law firm, or an institution;
- ◆ It is supervised by a thesis advisor and supported by a methodology seminar;
- ◆ It is then defended before a mixed panel of faculty researchers and professionals;
- ◆ It carries a coefficient of 2.

OTHER PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

- ◆ Consultations and case studies drawn from real files;
- ◆ Drafting of deeds, contracts, and legal structures;
- ◆ Simulations of arbitration, mediation, and oral advocacy;
- ◆ Masterclasses and networking sessions with the MBA Fast-Track cohort;
- ◆ Personalized coaching and individual project follow-up.

ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION

Method	Indicative weight
Continuous assessment (case studies, exercises, participation)	30 %
Semester exams	30 %
Applied research thesis and defense	25 %
Professional internship and report	15 %

- Coefficient of 2: specialty subjects, the thesis, and the internship;
- Coefficient of 1: common and cross-disciplinary courses;
- The semester is validated from an overall average of 10/20, and the semester's 30 ECTS are then earned.

05 CAREERS & PARTNERSHIPS

Débouchés & partenariats

CAREER TRACKS

Legal Management and Corporate Law

Steer the legal function and secure corporate governance.

KEY COURSES

Corporate Law and Restructuring (OHADA) · Advanced Corporate Law and Restructuring, OHADA Mergers & Acquisitions (M1) · Intellectual Property, Digital Law and Compliance

CAREER PATHS

General Counsel · Senior In-House Counsel · Company Secretary · Head of Legal Affairs

Mergers & Acquisitions and Legal Engineering

Structure major corporate transactions.

KEY COURSES

Mergers & Acquisitions and Legal Engineering · International Contract Law and International Trade Law · Complex Business Contracts and International Contracts, Incoterms, PPPs (M1)

CAREER PATHS

M&A Lawyer · Business Lawyer · Transaction Advisory Consultant · Head of Legal Operations

Litigation, Arbitration and Amicable Dispute Resolution

Prevent, manage, and resolve business disputes.

KEY COURSES

OHADA Arbitration, Mediation and Amicable Dispute Resolution · International Commercial Arbitration, CCJA, ICC, ICSID (M1) · Business Criminal Law and Litigation · Civil Enforcement Procedure and Legal Remedies

CAREER PATHS

Litigation Lawyer · Attorney · Arbitrator · Mediator · Head of Collections · Dispute Resolution Consultant

Taxation and Tax Engineering

Optimize tax burden with full legal security.

KEY COURSES

Tax Law and Corporate Taxation · Advanced Tax Law: Optimization, Transfer Pricing, Tax Treaties (M1) · OHADA Business Law and Corporate Taxation

CAREER PATHS

Tax Specialist · Head of Tax · Tax Optimization Consultant · Tax Lawyer in a Law Firm

Intellectual Property and Digital Law

Protect intangible assets and data.

KEY COURSES

Intellectual Property and Digital Law (Data) · Intellectual Property, Digital Law and Compliance (M1)

CAREER PATHS

Intellectual Property Lawyer · Digital Law Specialist · Data Protection Officer (DPO) · IP Consultant

Compliance and Legal Tech

Scale compliance and modernize the legal function.

KEY COURSES

Legal Tech, Legal Design and Compliance · Intellectual Property, Digital Law and Compliance (M1) · Professional Uses of AI and Data

CAREER PATHS

Compliance Officer · Legal Counsel · Legal Tech Consultant · Head of Legal Risk

FURTHER STUDIES

- ◆ Complete the pathway with the Executive MBA Fast-Track (90 ECTS, 12 months);
- ◆ Prepare for the bar entrance exam;
- ◆ Pursue a doctoral track.

ACADEMIC PARTNER

A DUAL DEGREE WITH ESG PARIS

A dual degree, two forms of recognition: MBA in Business Law awarded through the ESG Paris partnership, and Master's Degree in Business Law, accredited by the MESRS (Côte d'Ivoire).

Thesis + internship

DEFENDED PROFESSIONAL...

Bac+3

OR DIRECT ENTRY INTO MASTER...

Hybrid format

ON-CAMPUS AND REMOTE,...

GET CERTIFIED WITH ICAD EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

The Institute for Executives and Managers (ICAD) offers professional certificates made up of stackable skill blocks shared with the degree's coursework. Blocks completed within a certificate can be recognized toward a degree, and vice versa.

ICAD professional certificate	ECTS
CERT-DRT-01 – Legal Management and Corporate Strategy	10
CERT-DRT-02 – Labor Law and Conflict Management	8
CERT-DRT-03 – OHADA Arbitration, Mediation and Amicable Dispute Resolution	9
CERT-DRT-04 – Compliance, GDPR and Legal Tech	8
CERT-FIN-05 – Tax Engineering and Optimization	9
CERT-CGR-02 – Risk Management and Compliance	9

06 ADMISSION & TUITION

Admission & frais de scolarité

ADMISSION PROCESS

1

Online application

File and transcripts on ufra-esg.org

2

File review

Assessment by the admission committee

3

Motivation interview

On campus or by videoconference

4

Enrollment

Admission decision and confirmation

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your background	You enter	Requirements
Completed Bac+3 (180 ECTS) in Law	Master 1 – Common Core and Business Law Track	Solid foundations in civil, commercial, and corporate law
Completed Bac+4 or Master 1 obtained	Master 2 – Business Law	Command of corporate law and a defined professional project
Working professional or career changer	Master 1 or Master 2 (prior learning assessment)	Experience in a legal, tax, or compliance role

FEES 2026-2027

Hybrid (on-campus and remote), compatible with professional employment. Duration: 2 years. Language of instruction: French. Intake: 2026–2027 academic year.

APPLICATIONS OPEN – 2026-2027 INTAKE

Candidatures ouvertes – Rentrée 2026–2027

[UFRA-ESG.ORG](https://ufra-esg.org)



07 CAMPUS LIFE

Vie de campus

- ◆ Cocody Riviera 3 campus: library, study spaces and project rooms
- ◆ Competitions, business games and inter-school projects all year long
- ◆ Student societies: entrepreneurship, debate & public speaking, sports, culture
- ◆ Career support: annual corporate forum, alumni mentoring

ADDRESS

Cocody Riviera 3, cité coprim2,
rue E139
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

CONTACT

+225 27 224 644 50
infos@ufra-esg.org

APPLY

ufra-esg.org
Intake: October 2026