

Editor's Note

In the previous volume, I paid my concern on the 'publish or perish' and questioned why the Thai regulation requires any master's degree students to publish their thesis in a journal.¹ One may claim that more publications correlate to high university ranking. However, I will not argue on this point because I firmly believe that regulators pay more attention to the quality of a graduate than ranking.

With this argument on ranking in mind, thereafter, I checked graduation criteria of top 10 law schools ranked by the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2019² Among these law schools, six are in the United States, three are in the United Kingdom, and one is in Australia. In the United States, Harvard University, ranked first by the QS, does not require any LL.M. student to write a thesis.³ Thus, there is no requirement for publishing master's degree student's work into a scholarly article. Neither Yale University nor Stanford University obliges their LL.M. candidates with the publication requirement.⁴ While the University of California, Berkeley, Columbia University, and New York University have a so-called thesis option for LL.M. candidates, none of them further binds a publication of a thesis as a condition to graduate.⁵ Traveling across the Atlantic to the United Kingdom, there is no requirement to publish a dissertation on any journal, let alone an indexed or non-indexed one.⁶ For the Melbourne Law School, there is a minor thesis option, but similar to their

¹ Lalin Kovudhikulrungsri, 'Editor's Note' (2018) 8 Thammasat Business Law Journal <<https://www.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/TBLJ/issue/view/9516/Thammasat%20Business%20Law%20Journal%20Vol.8%202018%20Editor%E2%80%99s%20Note>> accessed 29 November 2019.

² Sabrina Collier, 'Top Law Schools in 2019' (*Top Universities*, 27 February 2019) <<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings-articles/university-subject-rankings/top-law-schools-2019>> accessed 29 November 2019.

³ Harvard Law School Graduate Program, 'HLS Graduate Program Handbook 2019-2020' (*Harvard Law School*) <<https://hls.harvard.edu/content/uploads/2019/08/HLS-Graduate-Program-Handbook-2019-2020.pdf>> accessed 29 November 2019.

⁴ Yale Law School, 'Yale Law School 2019-2020' (*Yale Law School*, 10 August 2019) <<https://bulletin.yale.edu/sites/default/files/yale-law-school-2019-2020.pdf>> accessed 29 November 2019; Stanford Law School, 'Student Handbook 2018-2019' (*Stanford Law School*) <https://www-cdn.law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/StudentHandbook_v05-2018-19.pdf> accessed 29 November 2019.

⁵ UC Berkeley School of Law, 'LL.M. Thesis Track, Courses' (*Berkeley Law, University of California*) <<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/academics/llm/ll-m-thesis-track/courses/>> accessed 29 November 2019; Columbia Law School, 'Supervised Research, the LL.M. Essay, and Assistantship Credits' (*Columbia Law School*) <<https://www.law.columbia.edu/students/graduate-legal-studies/llm-degree-requirements/supervised-research-and-llm-essay>> accessed 29 November 2019; Columbia Law School, 'LL.M. Writing Project Requirement' (*Columbia Law School*) <<https://www.law.columbia.edu/students/graduate-legal-studies/llm-degree-requirements/llm-writing-project-requirement>> accessed 29 November 2019; NYU School of Law Graduate Division, 'LL.M Student Handbook 2019-20' (*NYU School of Law*) <<https://www.law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/llm-handbook.pdf>> accessed 29 November 2019.

⁶ The Cambridge LL.M., 'LL.M Programme, Teaching and Assessment' (*Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge*) <<https://www.llm.law.cam.ac.uk/about-the-cambridge-llm-programme/teaching-and-assessment.html>> accessed 29 November 2019; University of Oxford, 'Magister Juris' (*University of Oxford*, 7 October 2019) <<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/magister>>

counterparts in the United States and the United Kingdom, the Melbourne Law School does not force their LL.M. candidates to publish any piece in a learned legal journal.⁷ This comes to my conclusion that top law schools do not command their LL.M. candidates to publish their writing in any journal.

I must admit the limitation of my mini-research that I did not check other disciplines because of my capacity as a law lecturer and the editor to Thammasat Business Law Journal. I aim to focus on the graduation criteria in legal study. If a publication is considered necessary in other sciences, I do not mind that requirement. However, what I try to demonstrate is that in a master's degree study in law, publication in an indexed journal is not a primary requirement. Therefore, a one-size rule does not fit all.

This volume is again published on time, and I am able to spare time to search for an answer mentioned in the previous paragraphs. These could not happen without the support of scholars, the Advisory Board, the Editorial Board, the Manager, and the Managerial Staff. I, as the editor, would like to thank all of them for their unconditional contribution and their continuous works.

Lalin Kovudhikulrungsri

Editor-in-Chief

Thammasat University

juris?wssl=1;%20http://www.lse.ac.uk/law/Assets/Documents/llm/LLM-Student-Handbook-2018-19.pdf> accessed 29 November 2019.

⁷ Melbourne Law School, 'Minor Thesis option' (*The University of Melbourne*)

<<https://law.unimelb.edu.au/students/masters/studies/minor-thesis-option>> accessed 29 November 2019.