

Mapping the Legal Foun- dations of Liechtenstein's Urban Forms



Independent Study
Winter Semester 2026/27



UNIVERSITÄT
LIECHTENSTEIN

LSA

Liechtenstein School of Architecture
Urban Design and Spatial Development Unit

How does law shape the built environment? Recent academic research suggests that architecture and urban space are not merely regulated by law, but are in fact created by legal frameworks. Building on this perspective, this independent study examines how constitutional law, property regulations, planning law and environmental regulations shape Liechtenstein's urban and rural landscapes. Students will individually examine the extent to which Liechtenstein's legal foundations have shaped or, conversely, restricted the country's urban forms. There are two options to choose from, depending on students' interests (students may also take both options together for 4 ECTS).

1. Annotated bibliography (2 ECTS): Students compile the most important legal sources that have shaped Liechtenstein's urban and rural spaces and provide annotations for them. This covers four areas: constitutional law, property and planning law, and environmental and landscape law with measureable spatial impact, as well as relevant secondary literature.

2. Mapping the legal-spatial cadastre (2 ECTS): Using the official Liechtenstein geodata portal, which provides current zoning and land-use plans as an open GIS layer, students map the distribution of building zones and non-building zones as defined in the building law for two to three selected municipalities, and compare these with the capacity guidelines set out in the Liechtenstein Spatial Concept 2020.

The work is supervised individually throughout the semester and concludes with a written assignment, supplemented by the relevant research material. The course is aimed at students interested in the intersections between architecture, urban planning, law, spatial planning, geography and environmental policy.

Tutor: Sanna Kattenbeck. Individual Elective. 2 or 4 ECTS, 4 or 8 LE (+57 or 114 h private study time). No minimal enrolment. Individual appointments will be set with the tutor, group projects are possible, as well as group work with individual submissions. Start, final submission and presentation can be individually defined with the tutor.
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