Rules and Requirements of the Law and French Junior Sophister Year Abroad
2017/2018 (Updated)

As a Law and French student, it is a compulsory part of your degree to spend your Junior Sophister year in France. The year abroad is completed through the Erasmus Programme. The results of the year abroad count 35% towards your final degree grade. Therefore, you must take your studies in France seriously. The Law School will need evidence that you have completed the course requirements for the Law and French year abroad. The responsibility is on you to meet our requirements for the year. If you have any doubts about whether the modules that you propose to take will meet these requirements, you must be proactive and engage with both Trinity and your host university.

Applying to Study Abroad

1. Students must officially apply to study abroad through the Law School International and Visiting Student Office. You must fill out the Law School Exchange Programme Application form and list French universities in order of preference. You must also sign the Personal Declaration. The documents can be found at: https://www.tcd.ie/Law/undergraduate/year-abroad-rules/law-and-language-requirements.php. Deadline to apply for the Erasmus Programme of 2016/17 is Friday 13th January 2017.

2. Places will be allocated using a competitive selection process. Students will be ranked according to their Junior Freshman results. The Law and French Course Coordinator and Exchange Programme Coordinator will also take into consideration the suitability of the different academic environments in light of students’ aspirations.
3. After the Law School has processed the application forms, Law and French students receive an offer in late January / early February 2017.

4. You will be nominated to your host university in March, after which the Erasmus Coordinator in the French university will contact you directly with application forms. It is your responsibility to meet the deadlines set by your host university. The Law School can only give you limited assistance with regard to accommodation and modules abroad. You must check the host university's website to learn as much as possible about your destination and avail of any advice offered there to visiting students. You may find it useful to make contact with other Law School students who have been there before.

5. For the year abroad you continue to pay Trinity fees, in so far as these are required, but pay no registration fees to the French university. In exceptional cases host universities may require administration fees or other charges.

6. Participation in the Erasmus programme is usually assisted by a grant from the European Commission, but this is not guaranteed. To apply for the grant an Erasmus/European Exchange Application Form should be completed online and returned to the International Admissions and Study Abroad Office of Trinity College in mid-February 2017 (date to be confirmed) http://www.tcd.ie/study/non-eu/study-abroad/from-trinity/erasmus/Apply/. The Law School has no say in the allocation or distribution of the monies. This is the responsibility of the International Admissions and Study Abroad Office (located in Academic Registry - erasmus@tcd.ie). The grants involved have sometimes been in the region of €1,500. Nonetheless, do not assume that a similar sized (or, indeed, any) grant will be made available in your case.
Course Requirements of the Year Abroad for Law and French Students

7. Students will take **45 credits of substantive modules in Law** or related subjects taught through French.

8. If you are not going to Sciences Po, you must take two of the four following one-semester modules, with seminars ("travaux dirigés"):  
   a. Droit des contrats (also called “Droit des obligations I")
   b. Droit des personnes and / or Droit des biens and / or Droit de la famille (these topics can be mixed together or separated, depending on the university policy. When they are separated, you can take whichever you want)
   c. A module in Legal History, if the university offers one with seminars
   d. Droit pénal général

You are free to choose the optional modules which they will take along with their preferred compulsory module, from those offered by their host university, subject to prior approval by the Law and French Course Coordinator.

9. If you are going to Sciences Po, you have to receive 45 credits for modules in “Droit” or “Civilisation française”, with prior approval by the Law and French Course Coordinator. You are free to choose any other module in addition, but they won’t be converted in ECTS from Trinity nor will they be counted in your Trinity grade.

10. We recommend that students consider taking Jurisprudence (philosophy of law) in France. If you would like the module(s) counted as the equivalent studied in Trinity for the purposes of gaining entry into the professional legal bodies, you will need to send a module outline to the Exchange Coordinator in Trinity.
If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), in consultation with the Exchange Coordinator (and, where appropriate, module lecturers), deems the particular module taken abroad to be a satisfactory equivalent to the module in Trinity, the Law School can certify this to the King’s Inns. Students must note, however, that the Law School cannot give any commitment to students that outside professional or other bodies will necessarily regard modules studied abroad as meeting those bodies' particular requirements. Students are therefore advised to check the requirements of particular professional bodies.

11. If students take more than 45 credits of substantive modules, their grade for the year will be calculated on the basis of their best 45 credits.

12. You can take French language courses in your host university, but it is not mandatory nor the mark would count in your results. We encourage you to develop your French language skill through your whole journey in France, by talking only in French, even between English native speakers (don’t be afraid to be rude, learning French is one main goal of your whole journey!), by going to the movies in French, etc., in short by immersing yourself the best you can in a French-speaking environment.

Your host university’s restrictions and diplomas:

13. Trinity’s requirements are distinct from any restrictions imposed or special programmes of study offered by your host university. You must meet Trinity’s requirements.

14. It is possible that your host university may limit the subjects which they allow visiting students to take. In some cases, they may permit you to take a specific
subject on condition that Trinity confirms that you are required or allowed to take this module, as the case may be.

15. Students may wish to take courses which lead to the award of a certificate or diploma offered by their host university. This is an added optional extra: Trinity does not require it. It is up to you to decide whether you are better devoting your time to the subjects which will count for your degree in Trinity or whether you would prefer to take on the other work needed to get a diploma. The rules for that diploma do not apply to or replace the rules governing Trinity’s requirements. For example, your host university might tell you that if you do the diploma, it means you can pass by compensation, but that provision would only apply for the purposes of their diploma; you must still pass your required subjects for Trinity for us to determine that you have passed the JS year abroad.

Calculating your grade:

16. **We will count the marks from your best 45 credits of substantive subjects** to calculate your average mark for the year. The mark for each module will be weighted in the calculation according to the module’s credit rating, so that bigger modules will have a larger effect on your overall grade.

17. You will be **required to pass your compulsory subject overall to pass the year** but it will not necessarily be counted in your best 45 credits if you have taken more than 45 credits of substantive modules. Passing your compulsory subject means attaining an average of a pass mark when the various marks attained in your compulsory subject are averaged and converted. However, where we receive a number of marks for related modules (e.g. both "travaux dirigés" and exams over two semesters in a compulsory subject) we can count any of these individual marks in the calculation of a students’ overall grade.
18. You may avail of the opportunity to repeat exams if necessary, subject to the regulations of your host university. Repeat examinations are usually indicated on your transcript. Please notify the Law and French Course Coordinator if this issue arises. If a student does not pass the year abroad, they may be permitted to repeat the year in Trinity.

19. The Law School’s Court of Examiners will convert your French marks into Trinity percentage-style marks in September after your return. The Court of Examiners has as its greatest priority the principle of fairness to all students in dealing with their grades. The conversion scales which have previously been used by the Court of Examiners to convert grades attained by exchange students abroad are made available to students on a local access webpage. The Court of Examiners retains its discretion to vary or amend these conversion scales where the interests of fairness require.

20. If you have any concerns with the conversion tables, you should raise these in writing with the Erasmus Coordinator by 30 April 2017. In no circumstances, will any objection to the conversion scales be entertained after this deadline.

21. The results obtained by each Law and French student in his or her Junior Sophister year in France will count for **35% of his or her overall degree grade**. This rule may be subject to revision in the future.
## Contacts in the Law School and Academic Registry

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<thead>
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