

Rules and Requirements of the Law and German Junior Sophister Year Abroad

2021/22

As a Law and German student it is a compulsory part of your degree to spend your Junior Sophister year in Germany. The year abroad is completed through the Erasmus Programme. The results of the year abroad count 30% towards your final degree grade. Therefore your studies must be taken seriously and the Law School needs evidence that you have completed the course requirements of the Law and German year abroad.

Applying to Study Abroad

1. The allocation of places in German universities is completed within the Law and German degree programme. However 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 sign the Personal Declaration. The documents can be found at: <http://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/year-abroad#apply> Deadline to apply for the Erasmus Programme of 2020/21 is **5pm Friday 8th January 2021**.
2. Once you have applied for the Law School Erasmus Programme, the Academic Registry will contact you at the end of January to fill in an online form. The details are needed for your Erasmus grant application, as participation in the Erasmus programme is usually assisted by a grant from the European Commission. Note that universities have no control over the amount allocated. The amount of the grant varies from year to year and from country to country. For more information on the Erasmus grant, please visit the website: <https://www.tcd.ie/study/study-abroad/outbound/apply/> or contact Erasmus@tcd.ie.
3. You will be nominated to your host university in March, after which the Erasmus Co-ordinator in the German 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. Their contact details can be made available to you, upon request.

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

Course Requirements of the Year Abroad

ECTS Credits

5. You will study 30 ECTS in Law modules and 30 ECTS in Germanic Studies. This applies to the three pathways:
 - a. Law Major, German Minor
 - b. Joint Law and German
 - c. German Major, Law Minor

6. 30 ECTS in Law modules must be provided by the Law Faculty in your host university. The Law modules can be taught in either English or German.

7. 30 ECTS in Germanic Studies must comprise of a minimum of 4 ECTS German language course in each semester. For the remaining ECTS, students can count any module taught through German to meet the Germanic Studies requirement. It can be a law module or a module provided in a different department.

8. For the **German language course** you must inform Katrin Eberbach about your chosen courses and receive her approval. Ideally, the German language courses are at C1 level. Most universities offer intensive introductory courses in German language before the beginning of the semester. It is strongly recommended that you attend those courses to set you up for the year. These courses do not count as one of the compulsory German language courses. Some universities require you to sit an assessment to establish your level of German before you may sign up for language courses. Please make sure you check your university's regulations regarding language courses before you go

9. Students must complete and PASS two written assignments during the year abroad; one in a Law module and one in a module for Germanic Studies, other than the language modules. For the Law module, the assignment can be written in English or German depending on the language of instruction of the module.

Requirements for the Professional Legal Bodies

10. If you wish to apply to the Professional Legal Bodies after graduation, you must study **EU Law** and **Philosophy of Law** during your year abroad. The Law School provides a list of EU Law and Legal Philosophy modules taught in our partner universities which have been approved in the past as equivalent to EU Law and Legal Philosophy studied in Trinity for the purpose of gaining entry into the professional legal bodies. This list is circulated via email to students. Please note that the Law School cannot guarantee that the same modules will be available during your year abroad. You will need to check with your host university if the same modules are on offer during your year abroad.

11. If there are no pre-approved modules listed for a partner university, you need to find a module on offer in the university and send a module description to the Erasmus/Exchange Coordinator to law.exchange@tcd.ie for approval. 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.

12. 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.

Paperwork and Return of Results

13. You must submit a **separate certificate (*Schein/Bescheinigung o.ä.*) for the modules you take in Law and in German language courses**. For the German language courses you have to submit certificates to Katrin Eberbach (eberback@tcd.ie). It is **your responsibility** to submit all these documents by the **31st July 2022** (law.exchange@tcd.ie) in order to allow the Law School to check if you have fulfilled all the requirements of the year abroad.

14. If you need to repeat an assignment, the deadline to return supplemental results to the Law School is **31st August 2022**. For that reason, it is advised that you complete compulsory components of the year abroad early on in the academic year. If you need to repeat a

compulsory assignment, you must ensure to make provision for plenty of time to re-submit the assignment and have it assessed by the lecturer so that the final official result from the partner university is received by TCD no later than 31st August 2022.

15. Attendance is an obligatory element for passing a module. With regard to assessment, oral assessment is permitted if this is the method offered by the professor in Germany. However, this is up to the individual professor so make sure to talk to him/her at the beginning of the course to establish what form of assessment he proposes for his module. There might also be modules that have no formal assessment for German students. You are permitted to attend these courses but you **will not obtain** any credits for a module that is not assessed. If you wish to obtain credits for these courses you are expected to approach the German professor at the beginning of the module and enquire whether he/she will set an assessment for you. This arrangement is between you (and/or other Erasmus students) and the professor. Credits for those modules will be accepted on the basis of the adequate assessment set by the German professor.

16. You can participate in International Moot Court Competitions. Despite the competition being held in English, **up to 10 ECTS credits** of the module can be counted towards your 30 ECTS Law ECTS. Due to the significant workload often involved students should carefully consider this option. Advance approval must be sought from the Law and German coordinator.

Grade Conversion

17. When calculating your final JS grade, Trinity will count the best 45 ECTS out of 60 ECTS using the following method:
 - count the best 22.5 ECTS in Law modules
 - count the best 22.5 ECTS in Germanic Studies modules

This means we count your highest performing grades in each discipline when calculating your final JS grade.

18. The Law School Court of Examiners converts the grades from your host university to their equivalent in the Trinity marking scale. The scales applied by the Law School are available on the Law School Year Abroad website and are provided to you while you are studying abroad.

The Court of Examiners bases its conversions on conversion tables but retains discretion to ensure broad equivalence. Please note the current conversion scales may change under new TEP regulations for 2021/22.

Summary

- 19.** To summarise: students must complete 30 ECTS in Law and 30 ECTS in Germanic Studies. Please make sure your local Erasmus Co-ordinator sends your transcript to law.exchange@tcd.ie by **31st July 2022** at the latest to allow the Court of Examiners to convert your results into Trinity marks and establish that you may rise to your 4th year. The results attained by each Law and German student in his or her Junior Sophister year will count for **30 % of his or her overall degree grade.**

Contacts in Trinity College Dublin

Law and Language Course Co-ordinator	Caoimhin MacMaolain Law.exchange@tcd.ie
Law and German Co-ordinator (German Department)	Katrin Eberbach eberback@tcd.ie
Erasmus Academic Co-ordinator	Caoimhin MacMaolain law.exchange@tcd.ie
International and Visiting Student Executive Officer (Law School)	Celine Walsh law.exchange@tcd.ie
International Admissions and Study Abroad Office (Academic Registry)	erasmus@tcd.ie (for queries related to the Erasmus grant)

Updated 10th March 2021