

Rules and Requirements of the Year Abroad 2024/25

Joint Honors Law with French or German

As part of the Joint Honors Law with French or German programme, it is a compulsory part of your degree to spend your Junior Sophister year in France or Germany. The year abroad is completed through the Erasmus Programme. The results of the year abroad count 30% towards your final degree grade. Therefore, you must take your studies in France or Germany seriously. The responsibility is on you to meet Trinity's 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. These Rules and Requirements are applicable to students studying abroad in 2024/25. **The rules and requirements are subject to change, including during the course of the academic year abroad.**

The application process differs between the two-degree programmes. Please read the instructions which correspond to your degree programme:

Application Process - Joint Honors Law with French

1. Joint Honors Law with French students must officially apply to study abroad through the Law School. You must fill out the online Law School Exchange Programme Application form and list French universities in order of preference. The application form can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/study-abroad/index.php#HowToApply> Deadline to apply for the Erasmus Programme of 2023/24 is 5pm on 17th November 2023.
2. Students can apply to study in the following French universities:

| Partner university | Places |
|---|---------------|
| Université Toulouse I Capitole | 4 |
| Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II | 3 |
| IEP - Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris | 3 |
| Université de Strasbourg | 4 |
| Université Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris I | 2 |
| Université Paris-Saclay | 2 |

For more information on each partner university, please visit:
<https://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/study-abroad/index.php#PartnerUni>

- Places will be allocated using a competitive selection process. Students will be ranked according to their Junior Freshman results.
- After the Law School has processed the application forms, Law with French students will receive an offer in mid-December 2023. Students must reply promptly to accept the offer.

Application Process - Joint Honors Law with German Students

- The allocation of places in German universities is completed under the guidance of Academic Advisor, Katrin Eberbach in the German Department. Once the students have decided on their host institution with Ms. Eberbach, students will apply officially to study abroad through the Law School and list their host institution. The link to the online form can be found at:
<https://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/study-abroad/index.php#HowToApply>. Deadline to apply for the Erasmus Programme of

2024/25 is **17th November 2023**. The Law School will confirm your study abroad destination via email.

Students can apply to study in the following German universities:

| Partner university | Places |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | 2 |
| Universität Hamburg | 2 |
| Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz | 2 |
| Universität Würzburg | 2 |
| Universität Tübingen | 2 |
| Universität Freiburg | 2 |
| Philipps-Universität Marburg | 1 |
| Heidelberg University | 1 |

For more information on each partner university, please visit:

<https://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/year-abroad/#PartnerUni>

Continuation of Application Process for both Joint Honors Law with French or German

6. You will be nominated to your host university in February/March 2024, after which the Erasmus Coordinator in the French or 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.

7. For the year abroad you must still register as a student in Trinity College Dublin and you continue to pay Trinity fees, in so far as these are required, but pay no registration fees to your host university. In exceptional cases host universities may require administration fees or other charges. For example, in Toulouse, you are expected to pay to participate in the EU Law Diploma. Participation in the Erasmus programme is usually assisted by a grant from the European Commission, but this is not guaranteed, and the amount can vary from year to year, depending on demand. Students can apply for the grant through Academic Registry. The Law School has no say in the allocation or distribution of the grant. You can contact erasmus.outgoing@tcd.ie for more information or visit this website: <https://www.tcd.ie/study/study-abroad/outbound/apply/apply-erasmus.php>

Course Requirements of the Year Abroad

8. You will study 30 ECTS in Law modules and 30 ECTS in French or German. This applies to the three pathways:
- a. Law Major, French / German Minor
 - b. Joint Law and French / German
 - c. French / German Major, Law Minor
9. **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 French/German. **You are not permitted to take a module abroad which you have already studied in Trinity College Dublin e.g. *English Criminal Law*.** The Erasmus/Exchange Coordinator may make an exception if the content of the module is substantially different to what you have covered in your Fresh years.

10. **30 ECTS in French and German** comprises of 5-10 ECTS of French/ German language modules over the academic year. For the German language modules, this should be taken as one language module per semester, which is a maximum of 5 ECTS per semester.

For the remaining 20-25 ECTS, students can count any module taught through French or German. It can be a law module, or a module provided in a different department. The French Department recommends modules from 'Lettres modernes', History, or Philosophy, for those who wish to take non-language modules in French when they return to Trinity in Senior Sophister year. This is relevant to students on the Joint Honours Law and French pathway or French Major, Law Minor pathway.

11. 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.

12. Where you take or are assigned to a German language course that is below the level required (B2.2 / C1), the mark may not be counted in the calculation of your final mark or may be subject to a grade reduction.

13. Due to the prevalence of oral exams in German universities, **students are required to complete and PASS two written assignments during the year abroad.** This is to assist students improve their skills in written German and legal terminology. One

assignment must be 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. For German, it must be written in German. The assignment must be a minimum 2,000 words.

14. If you do not satisfy any of these requirements, you will fail the year. The onus is on you to select modules that will allow you to meet these requirements. You should consult by email with the Law and Language Coordinator and Katrin Eberbach (for Germanic Studies) in relation to your module choices. You then fill in a Learning Agreement Form (provided by the Erasmus Office at erasmus@tcd.ie) and send it to law.exchange@tcd.ie. The Law and Language Coordinator will sign the Learning Agreement only if suitable modules are taken and overall requirements in terms of ECTS credits are met. You must submit your Learning Agreement by 1 November for the first term and 1 April for the second term.

Requirements for the Professional Legal Bodies

15. If students are on the Law Major, Language Minor pathway, they must carefully plan their studies to meet the Professional Legal Bodies requirements. **The onus is on students to keep up to date with the requirements of the Professional Legal Bodies**, details of which are available on the relevant websites. The requirements are not the same for all professional bodies.
16. If you wish to apply to the Professional Legal Bodies after graduation, you must study **EU Law** and **Legal Philosophy** 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. 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. The list of pre-approved modules is circulated via email to students but bear in mind this list is undergoing a review so always contact law.exchange@tcd.ie for confirmation that the module you would like to take can be approved.

17. If there are no pre-approved EU Law or Legal Philosophy modules listed for a partner university, you need to find a module on offer in the university and send a module description to law.exchange@tcd.ie for approval. If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), in consultation with the module lecturer, deems the particular module taken abroad to be a satisfactory equivalent to the module in Trinity, the Law School can certify this to the Professional Legal Bodies. 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.

Your host university's restrictions and diplomas:

18. 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.**
19. 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.

20. 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.

Assessment Methods and Workload in Host Universities

21. **General observation:** Students should expect to have a heavier workload in their host university. This can be translated into more class time, additional course work, enhanced participation, and so on. Flexibility and adaptation to a new academic environment are components of the Erasmus experience; students should bear that in mind.

22. **Attendance and assessment in German universities:** attendance is a compulsory component for passing a module. With respect to assessment, oral assessment is permitted *only* if it is the method offered by the professor in Germany. Students are advised to clarify this with their professor at the start of the module. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for some modules to have no formal assessment for German students. While you are permitted to attend these modules, you **will not obtain** any credits. If you wish to obtain credits for modules which have no formal assessment, it is your responsibility to approach your German professor at the beginning of the module and enquire whether he/she will be willing to set an assessment for you. Note that this arrangement is between you (and/or other Erasmus students) and your German professor. Credits for these modules will only be accepted if the assessment set by the German professor is adequate.

23. You can participate in International Moot Court Competitions with **up to 15 ECTS credits** of the module being counted towards your required 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 Language Coordinator.
24. Students are permitted to take pass/fail modules during the year abroad - a maximum of 5 ECTS in each discipline can be counted within the required 60 ECTS. For example, a student could take a 5 ECTS pass/fail Law module to count within their required 30 ECTS Law modules. However, when calculating your Law grade, the pass/fail module will not be counted in your best 22.5 ECTS. We will count your best 22.5 ECTS in **graded** Law modules. See **Grade Conversion** section (point 27) below for more information on how your results will be converted.

Return of Results

25. Students must return their transcripts to law.exchange@tcd.ie by **31st July 2024**. If you cannot meet this deadline, please let us know.
26. For Joint Honors Law with German students, please collect the **separate certificate (Schein/Bescheinigung o.ä.) for the modules you take in Law and in German language courses**. These certificates document the grade and ECTS value for each module. You should keep these certificates safe for your own records. While we expect to have all your grades and the ECTS value of each module captured on your official transcript, there can be delays in issuing the transcript in Germany, so it is useful to have the Schein on record.
27. If you need to repeat an assignment, the deadline to return supplemental results to the Law School is **31st August 2024**. 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 2024.

Grade Conversion

28. 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 French or German modules

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

29. Studying abroad can be challenging at times and students may fail an exam abroad. If students fail a module, they can still pass the year abroad, if they pass 22.5 ECTS of Law modules and 22.5 ECTS of French or German modules. Therefore, students are permitted to fail up to 7.5 ECTS of Law modules and 7.5 ECTS of French or German modules and still pass the year abroad. You may avail of the opportunity to repeat failed exams, if necessary, subject to the regulations of your host university. Repeat examinations are usually indicated on your transcript. Please notify the Law and Language Coordinator if this issue arises.

30. The Law School's Court of Examiners will convert your French or German marks into Trinity percentage-style marks in August after your return. The Law School will convert your law modules and the French Department and German Department will assist in converting your French or German language modules. The Court of Examiners has as its greatest priority the principle of fairness to all students in dealing with their grades. Law School conversion tables are provided to students

while studying abroad. They are also available on the Law School Year Abroad website. Please note the conversion scales are always subject to change.

31. The results obtained by each Joint Honors Law with French or German student in his or her Junior Sophister year in France and Germany will count for **30% of his or her overall degree grade.**

Contacts in the Law School and Academic Registry

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|---|---|
| Law and Language Coordinator | Sarah Arduin Approval of Law module choices and signing of learning agreements Email: arduinsa@tcd.ie |
| Law and German Co-ordinator (German Department) | Katrin Eberbach Approval of German module choices Email: eberback@tcd.ie |
| International and Visiting Student Officer (Law School) | Celine Walsh Administrative queries Email: law.exchange@tcd.ie Tel: 01 896 2296 |
| Erasmus Office (Academic Registry) | Erasmus Mobility grant queries Send signed learning agreement & Certificate of arrival/departure to this office Email: erasmus.outgoing@tcd.ie |

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