

## **Rules and Requirements of the Law and French Junior Sophister Year Abroad 2020/21**

As Law and French students, 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 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.

### **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: <http://www.tcd.ie/law/programmes/undergraduate/year-abroad> Deadline to apply for the Erasmus Programme of 2020/21 is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
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 Director 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 2020.

4. You will be nominated to your host university in February/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. 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@tcd.ie](mailto:erasmus@tcd.ie) for more information.

#### **Course Requirements of the Year Abroad for Law and French Students**

7. Students will take at least **45 credits of substantive modules in Law** or related subject taught through French, with prior approval from the Law and French Director.
8. If you are not going to Sciences Po, you must take at least two one-semester legal modules with seminars (“travaux dirigés”), with prior approval from the Law and French Course Director.

9. If you are going to Sciences Po, you have to receive 45 credits for modules in “Law” or Law-related modules, with prior approval by the Law and French Course Director. 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 EU Law and Jurisprudence (philosophy of law) in France. A full list of EU Law and Jurisprudence modules approved in previous years in partner universities will be made available to students so students can plan their studies in advance. 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](mailto: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.

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.

12. You can take French language courses in your host university, but it is not mandatory, nor would the mark count in your results. We encourage you to develop your French language skills through your whole journey in France, by talking only in French, even among English native speakers, 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.*

16. In Toulouse 1 University Capitole, you have the option to complete the EU Law Diploma worth 32 ECTS. However, Trinity School of Law will cap the number ECTS from the EU Law Diploma. The best 25 ECTS from the EU Law Diploma can count towards your required 45 ECTS. Therefore, you must complete a minimum of 20 ECTS in other law modules in Toulouse 1 University Capitole. This rule will be applied to Law and French students going away in 2019/20 onwards.

***Calculating your grade:***

17. Your average mark for the year will be calculated with the following method: We count the marks of your two best compulsory modules (with seminars), plus your best marks in the other subjects so that 45 ECTS are counted in total. For example, if two of your compulsory subjects are worth 20 ECTS (with seminars), we count these credits plus your best 25 ECTS in the other modules you took.

You also have the option to cap the compulsory modules (with seminars) at 12 ECTS within your overall 45 ECTS. For example, we count the best 12 ECTS from your compulsory subjects (with seminars) and the best 33 ECTS from the other modules to make up the required 45 ECTS. This second option would only be applied if it is in the best interest of the student's overall grade and if students have completed sufficient number of credits overall to meet the minimum 45 ECTS requirement.

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 Director 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. Conversion tables are provided to students while studying abroad. They are also available on the Law School Year Abroad website.

20. 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***

<b>Law and French Course Director</b>	<b>Sarah Arduin</b> (Law and French Degree Programme queries) Email: ARDUINSA@tcd.ie
<b>Erasmus Coordinator</b>	<b>Caoimhin MacMaolain</b> (Academic queries) Email: <a href="mailto:macmaolc@tcd.ie">macmaolc@tcd.ie</a> Tel: 01 896 2587
<b>International and Visiting Student Officer (Law School)</b>	<b>Celine Walsh</b> (Administrative queries) Email: <a href="mailto:law.exchange@tcd.ie">law.exchange@tcd.ie</a> Tel: 01 896 2296
<b>Academic Registry</b>	Erasmus mobility grant queries Email: <a href="mailto:erasmus@tcd.ie">erasmus@tcd.ie</a>

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