

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

2020/21

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 35% 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 Monday 13th January 2020**.
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 have to take **45 credits law courses** as a minimum. You are advised to do more ECTS, generally at least 60 credits. If students take more than the required 45 law credits, their mark for the year will be calculated on the basis of their best 45 law credits.
6. **You must complete and pass an assessment in a major law subject** (*Bürgerliches Recht /Zivilrecht, Öffentliches Recht* or *Strafrecht*). You must also **write and pass a Hausarbeit (essay) in a major law subject. Lastly you must write and pass a second essay. This can be either a Hausarbeit or Seminararbeit.** However, the grades obtained in these assessments do not have to count towards your final grade if you do more than the required 45 law credits.

Generally, *Seminararbeiten* will be written as part of participating in a *Seminar*. *Seminararbeiten* that are not done as requirement of a particular *Seminar* must be approved in advance by the Law and German Coordinator. For the approval, you should write to the Law and German Coordinator, giving the subject, the name of the professor, the topic and the length of the *Seminararbeit* intended to be written.

7. You must submit a **separate certificate (*Schein/Bescheinigung o.ä.*) for each** of the **essays** that you have written in Germany. In this certificate it must be laid out **for which major subject** you have written the essay, how many credits you received for it and the grade. For the ***Seminararbeit*** it must be laid out for which subject and about which topic you have written the second essay. For the German language courses you have to submit certificates too. These should also be submitted to Katrin Eberbach (eberback@tcd.ie). It is **your responsibility** to submit all these documents by the **31st July 2021** (law.exchange@tcd.ie) in order to allow the Law School to check if you have fulfilled all the requirements of the year abroad.

You must write and pass both essays in order to successfully pass the Junior Sophister year.

8. If you need to repeat an assignment, the deadline to return supplemental results to the Law School is **31st August 2021**. 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 2021.

Attendance

9. 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.

German language requirements

- 10.** You must take **German language as compulsory courses** each semester (one written and one spoken) **in addition** to the 45 law credits. 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!

Other courses

- 11.** Courses such as *Einführung in deutsche Rechtssprache* or *Einführung in das deutsche Rechtssystem für ausländische Studierende* **will not count** as one of the required law courses. However, you are allowed to attend these courses if you think these are helpful for you and support your in understanding the German legal system.
- 12.** Law courses taught through English are only allowed after having obtained prior written approval. The approval will be only given in exceptional circumstances as you must study through German. If you receive the permission to do a course taught through English, this course will be accredited with a maximum of up to **3 ECTS credits**. Courses concerning the Anglo-American legal systems will generally not be approved.
- 13.** You may 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 best 45 law credits. Due to the significant workload often involved students should carefully consider this option. Advance approval must be sought from the Law and German coordinator.
- 14.** If you study European Law (*Europarecht*) or Jurisprudence/legal philosophy (*Rechtsphilosophie*) in Germany and would like the module(s) to be 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 Erasmus/Exchange Co-ordinator. If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), in consultation with the Erasmus Co-ordinator (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

Grade conversion

15. 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.

Summary

16. To summarise: we will only count your **best 45 law credits** on production of appropriate evidence that you have **written and passed** at least two *Hausarbeiten* - one of which could also be a *Seminararbeit* - and when you have produced evidence in respect of the language courses you attended. Please make sure your local Erasmus Co-ordinator sends your transcript to law.exchange@tcd.ie by **31st July 2021** 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 **35 % of his or her overall degree grade**.

Contacts in Trinity College Dublin

Law and German Course Co-ordinator	NN NN@tcd.ie
Senior German Language Tutor	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 9th October 2019