

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

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 2018/19 is **Friday 15th January 2018**.
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](mailto: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 will 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

5. You will have to take **45 credits law courses** as a minimum. You are advised to do more ECTS, at least 60 credits. If students take more than required 45 law credits, their mark for the year will be calculated on the basis of their best 45 law credits.
6. **You must take a course in a major law subject** (Bürgerliches Recht, Öffentliches Recht or Strafrecht) and **write a “Hausarbeit” (essay) and pass the Hausarbeit.**  
**You must write a second “Hausarbeit” or “Seminararbeit” and pass it.**

All “Seminararbeiten” that are not done as requirement of a particular “**Seminar**” must be approved 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 essay. However, the grades obtained in these essays **do not have to count towards your final grade** if you do more than the required 45 law credits.

**If you do not write and pass both essays you will fail the Junior Sophister year.**

7. Attendance is an obligatory element for passing a module. With regard to assessment, you are allowed to do an oral assessment if the German professor provides this to you. However, this is up to the 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. We accept credits for those modules and the assessment set by the German professor.
8. 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 a C1 level. Most universities offer intensive introductory courses in German language before the beginning of the semester. It is 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. Courses “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.
10. Courses concerning the Anglo-American legal system or other 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 we only count this course up to a maximum of **3 credits**.

11. You may participate in International Moot Court Competitions. The credits for such a competition will be counted despite it being held in English.
12. You must submit a **separate certificate (Schein) 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. It is **your responsibility** to submit all these documents by the **30<sup>th</sup> of August 2018** (to [heimannn@tcd.ie](mailto:heimannn@tcd.ie)) in order to allow the Law School to check if you have fulfilled all the requirements of the year abroad.
13. If you study Europarecht or Rechtsphilosophie in Germany and 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 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

14. To summarize: we will only count your **best 45 law credits** when you have produce 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 for the language courses you attended. Please make sure your local Erasmus Co-ordinator sends your transcript to [heimannn@tcd.ie](mailto:heimannn@tcd.ie) by **30<sup>th</sup> August 2018** at the latest to allow the Court of Examiners to convert your results into Trinity marks and establish that you may rise to your 4<sup>th</sup> 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**.

### **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.

## Contacts in Trinity College Dublin

Law and German Course Co-ordinator	Nazli Heimann <a href="mailto:heimannn@tcd.ie">heimannn@tcd.ie</a>
Senior German Language Tutor	Katrin Eberbach <a href="mailto:eberback@tcd.ie">eberback@tcd.ie</a>
Erasmus Academic Co-ordinator	Catherine Donnelly <a href="mailto:law.exchange@tcd.ie">law.exchange@tcd.ie</a>
International and Visiting Student Executive Officer (Law School)	Celine Walsh <a href="mailto:law.exchange@tcd.ie">law.exchange@tcd.ie</a>
International Admissions and Study Abroad Office (Academic Registry)	<a href="mailto:erasmus@tcd.ie">erasmus@tcd.ie</a>  (for queries related to the Erasmus grant)

*Updated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018*