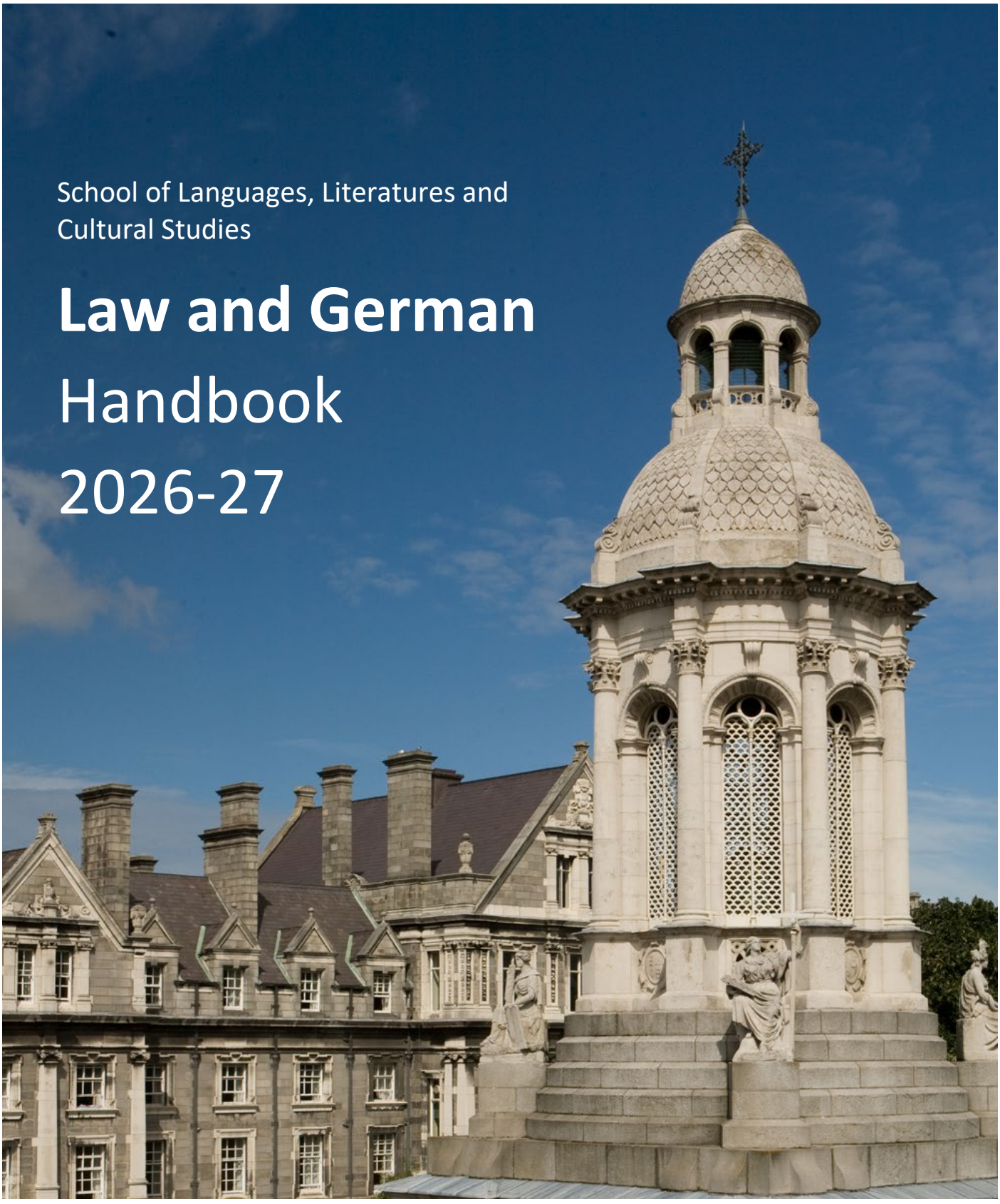
Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

# Law and German

# Handbook

# 2026-27

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## A Note on this Handbook

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the General Regulations published in the University Calendar and information contained in programme or departmental handbooks, the provisions of the General Regulations in the Calendar will prevail.

This Handbook should be read in conjunction with the general School Handbook available on the School website, or on Blackboard in GRU12345, and the Joint Honours Law Handbook, as well as the information on the School of Law website.

**Alternative formats of the Handbook can be made available on request.**

# 1. General Programme Information

## 1.1 Introduction

Welcome to the Department of German! This handbook applies to all students taking Law and German. It is meant as a guide and reference point to make your work on this degree programme as informed, effective and enjoyable as possible, by setting out the course structures, the examination and assessment patterns, what is expected of you, and the academic and personal support available to you.

## 1.2 Academic Staff Contact Details

| Staff Name | Role | Email | Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Prof Mary Cosgrove** | Head of Department | cosgroma@tcd.ie | 5066 |
| **Katrin Eberbach** | Law and German Coordinator, Language Coordinator | eberback@tcd.ie | 5080 |
| **Natascha Guggi** | Teaching Fellow | guggin@tcd.ie | 5080 |
| **Theresa Langer** | DAAD Lektorin (German Academic Exchange Service) | langert@tcd.ie | 5080 |
| **Dr Caitriona Leahy** | Associate Professor | cleahy@tcd.ie | 5070 |
| **Dr Gillian Martin** | Associate Professor | gsmartin@tcd.ie | 5071 |
| **Dr Emma Riordan** | Schuler Assistant Professor in German Applied Linguistics | eriordan@tcd.ie | 5069 |
| **Dr Clemens Ruthner** | Associate Professor (on leave in HT) | ruthnerc@tcd.ie | 5068 |
| **Dr Michiel Rys** | Assistant Professor (HT only) | rysm@tcd.ie | 5069 |
| **Julia Weingartner** | OEAD Lektorin (Austrian Lectureship Programme) | weingarj@tcd.ie | 5080 |
| | DAAD - Assistenz | | 5065 |

All staff have office hours which will be advertised in the modules in Blackboard or on their office door.

## 1.3 Key Locations

For all email communications, in the email subject line include your student number and course of study.

## School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (SLLCS)

**Office hours**

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 12.30pm, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

**Undergraduate Office**

The Undergraduate Office is located in Room 5080 on the 5th floor of the Arts Building, students are welcome to call in during office hours.

| Nature of query | Office location | Email |
|---|---|---|
| **Undergraduate Office:** general undergraduate queries and transcript requests | Room 5080<br>5th floor, Arts Building | undergraduate.sllcs@tcd.ie |
| **Undergraduate timetables** | Room 5080 | timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie |
| **Erasmus and Study Abroad** | School of Law, House 39 | law.exchange@tcd.ie |
| **School Office:** School operations, finance and HR | Room 5042 | |

## Undergraduate Degree Programme Offices

It is advised that students make an appointment in advance, where possible. In the email subject line include your student number and course of study.

| Programme | Office location | Email |
|---|---|---|
| **Law and a Language** | School of Law, House 39, New Square | law.school@tcd.ie |

## 1.4 Key Dates

The current Academic Year Structure is available on the Trinity website.

Key dates for each module you are studying will be communicated in the module at the beginning of the term.

## 1.5 Timetable

You will find your timetable on My.tcd.ie and the Trinity Live app. Please check it regularly for updates. In case of a timetable clash, please email timetables.sllcs@tcd.ie.

## 1.6 Study Abroad/Erasmus

Up to date information on the Year Abroad is available from the School of Law website. Please make sure you familiarise yourself with:

- Rules and Requirements for the Law and German Year Abroad
- Law and Language Application Form
- Exchange universities for Law and German

If you have any queries regarding the Erasmus programme, please contact Celine Walsh (law.exchange@tcd.ie) or Katrin Eberbach (eberback@tcd.ie).

General information for Outbound Students is available on the College's Study Abroad website.

# 2. Foundation Scholarship and Prizes

## 2.1 Foundation Scholarship Examinations

The School of Law website provides the most up to date information on prizes.

The Academic Registry provides General Information regarding the **Foundation Scholarship examinations**. Further information can also be found in the School Handbook.

For details of the content and format of the Foundation Scholarship examinations in the Department of German, contact Katrin Eberbach (eberback@tcd.ie).

## 2.2 Other Prizes

**Kate Bird Prize**: This prize which commemorates a deceased student of the department is awarded annually to support a student in going abroad as part of their studies. Details are circulated in Hilary Term; SF students may apply.

**GILBA Prize**: This prize is awarded in JF, SF, JS and SS by the German-Irish Lawyers and Business Association.

# 3. Academic Writing

## 3.1 The Use and Referencing of AI (Artificial Intelligence)

The School's guidelines on the use of Generative AI (GenAI) are available on the School website.

## Acknowledging and referencing AI

The Library of Trinity College Dublin has developed guidelines on acknowledging and referencing GenAI. GenAI is evolving rapidly and there is not yet general consensus on how to acknowledge and reference it. This guidance will therefore continue to be reviewed and updated.

**Resources**

- The Library guidelines on acknowledging and referencing GenAI.
- Trinity's Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) Hub.
- College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research.

## 3.2 Academic Integrity and Referencing Guide

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. However, it is essential that we do so with integrity, in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Any action or attempted action that undermines academic integrity and may result in an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any member of the academic community or wider society may be considered as academic misconduct.

For more information students can access the Library Guide on Academic Integrity and the related College Statement.

The Coversheet that is submitted with all assignments declares the following:

I have read and understood the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year.

I have also read and understood the guide, and completed the 'Ready Steady Write' Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism.

## 3.3 Research Ethics

Students should refer to the College Research Ethics webpage when completing assignments and Policy on Good Research Practice when necessary.

# 4. Teaching and Learning

## 4.1 Law and German Programme Architecture[1]

Students can access **full module descriptors** on their MyTCD student portal by clicking on

**Courses & Modules -> View Course and Module Descriptive information**

## Programme Structure

### 4.1.1 Junior Fresh Law and German

All JF TJH students take 30 ECTS in German and 30 ECTS in Law. The modules listed below for German are compulsory.

| Junior Fresh | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **ECTS** | **Semester** |
| **GRU1100Y** | German Language 1 | 10 | 1 + 2 |
| **GRU11011** | Area Studies MT | 5 | 1 |
| **GRU11012** | Area Studies HT | 5 | 2 |
| **GRU1102Y** | Introduction to German Literature & Film | 10 | 1 + 2 |

**Registration of JF Students on SF Pathways**

At the end of your Junior Fresh year, Law and German students will be invited during Trinity term to select their Senior Fresh pathway. Students will be advised of how to register several weeks in advance of registration.

Junior Fresh Law and German students must choose between the following options for their Senior Fresh year:[2]

[1] The School reserves the right to amend the list of available modules and to withdraw and add modules. Timetabling may restrict the availability of modules to individual students.
[2] Please note that available pathways are subject to change and may be dependent on capacity.

- **Joint Honours:** Continue to take both subjects that they currently take (20 ECTS + 20 ECTS) and 20 credits of Trinity Electives & Open Modules.
- **Major / Minor:** Take Law as a Major and German as a Minor. (40 credits + 20 credits)
- **Major / Minor:** Take German as a Major and Law as a Minor.
- **Single Honours:** Take one Subject only and 20 credits of Trinity Electives & Open Modules. Students who select Single Honours Law for Senior Fresh will be on track to exit with a Single Honours Law degree and will not spend a compulsory year abroad in JS. Students who select Single Honours German for Senior Fresh will be on track to exist with a Single Honours degree in German and will spend a compulsory year abroad in a German Studies exchange university.

Please check the information on Pathway Selection on the School of Law website – pathways for SF Law and German and pathways for JS Law and German.

For further information on the choices and pathways available to Joint Honours students please visit the Trinity Pathways website. Further information on Law and German Honours pathways is available from the School of Law Office.

### 4.1.2 Senior Fresh Law and German

**1. Single Honours German**

Single Honours SF students in German take:

- **40 ECTS in German**
- **20 ECTS in Trinity Electives/Open Modules**

| Senior Fresh (Single Honours German) – compulsory modules | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **ECTS** | **Semester** | **Mandatory/ Optional** |
| **GRU2212Y** | German Language 2 | 10 | 1 + 2 | Mandatory |
| **GRU22131** | Cultural History I | 5 | 1 | Mandatory |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GRU22132** | Cultural History II | 5 | 2 | Mandatory |
| **GRU22012** | German Literary History | 5 | 2 | Mandatory |
| For optional modules in German please see **GRU12345**<br>For Trinity Electives and Open Modules please click on the links. | | | | |

**2. Major With Minor (Major German)**

SF students majoring in German take:

- **40 ECTS in German (Major)**
- **20 ECTS in Law (Minor).**

| **Senior Fresh (Major [Spanish] with Minor) – compulsory modules** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **ECTS** | **Semester** | **Mandatory/ Optional** |
| **GRU2212Y** | German Language 2 | 10 | 1 + 2 | Mandatory |
| **GRU22131** | Cultural History I | 5 | 1 | Mandatory |
| **GRU22132** | Cultural History II | 5 | 2 | Mandatory |
| **GRU22012** | German Literary History | 5 | 2 | Mandatory |
| For optional modules in German please see GRU12345 in Blackboard<br>For Trinity Electives and Open Modules please click on the links | | | | |

**3. Joint Honours German**

SF Joint Honours students take:

- **20 ECTS in German,**
- **20 ECTS in Law**
- **20 ECTS in Trinity Electives/Open Modules**

| **Senior Fresh (Joint Honours German) – compulsory module** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **ECTS** | **Semester** | |
| **GRU2212Y** | German Language 2 | 10 | 1 + 2 | Mandatory |
| For optional modules and module descriptions in German please see GRU12345 in Blackboard<br>For Trinity Electives and Open Modules please click on the links. | | | | |

**4. Minor German**

SF students minoring in German take:

- **20 ECTS in German**
- **40 ECTS in Law**

| Senior Fresh (Minor German) – compulsory module | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **ECTS** | **Semester** | |
| **GRU2212Y** | German Language 2 | 10 | 1 + 2 | Mandatory |
| For optional modules and module descriptions in German please see GRU12345 in Blackboard | | | | |

Senior Fresh Law and German students will follow pathway B for their Junior Sophister year.

### 4.1.3 Junior Sophister Law and German

Students of Law and German have an integrated **year abroad** in JS. Students will take 30 ECTS in **each** of their subjects in their JS year in a host university in Germany, irrespective of the Major/Minor or Joint Honours pathway.

#### i. Single Honours German – Compulsory Year Abroad

Single Honours students in German **must** spend their third year abroad. You can find further details on Study Abroad as well as details of German partner institutions in GRU12345 in Blackboard.

An information meeting on going abroad will be organised after Reading Week in MT for all interested TJH students, including Single Honours German with a Joint Honours Law and German entry. You will be notified of the meeting in advance by email.

#### ii. Single Honours Law

There is no compulsory year abroad for the Single Honours Law pathway in Law and German. Please check the School of Law website.

#### iii. Major with Minor (Major German or Major Law) – Compulsory Year Abroad

JS students majoring or minoring in German or Law take pathway Option B

- 30 ECTS in German and 30 ECTS in Law

#### iv. Joint Honours German – Compulsory Year Abroad

JS students in Joint Honours law and German take:

- 30 ECTS in German and 30 ECTS in Law.

### 4.1.4 Senior Sophister (Law and German)

Students choosing to study German in their final year of the Joint Honours programme can, based on their pathway choice in SF and JS, **choose** a Single Honours exit, Major with Minor exit and Joint Honours exit for their final year. Please see Pathways Selection and exits.

- **40 credits Subject 1 and 20 credits Capstone (Single Honours)**
- **40 credits in their Major subject, 20 credits for the Capstone project (Major with Minor)**
- **20 credits in German, 20 credits in Law, and 20 credits Capstone project (Joint Honours)**

Please check for your subjects in the Pathway Choices.

| **Senior Sophister (Law and German) – compulsory module** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Mandatory Module** | **ECTS** | **Semester** | |
| GRU4400Y | German Language 4 | 10 | 1 + 2 | Mandatory |
| For optional modules in German please see GRU12345 | | | | |

## 4.2 Learning Outcomes for German

On successful completion of this programme and depending on their pathway, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a high level of oral, aural and written proficiency in German, including the ability to give oral presentations on and to discuss freely general and academic topics, and to produce a variety of written text types to a high standard of accuracy and fluency.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of German-language literary and cultural heritage.

3. Integrate critical, linguistic and cultural awareness with the appropriate knowledge and strategies in order to deal creatively and ethically with challenges in communication in academic, social or professional settings.
4. Demonstrate a high level of comprehension of written German and apply this to the translation from German to English of a range of text types with accuracy, consistency and appropriateness of register and expression.
5. Demonstrate a differentiated knowledge and understanding of, together with an ability to evaluate critically, the social and political institutions of the countries where the target language is spoken and to place these in their historical context.
6. Apply the skills of analysis and problem-solving acquired through critical engagement with a range of literary, philosophical, and journalistic text types in German in order to make independent and informed judgments.
7. Question, synthesize and present ideas in a structured, reasoned, and coherent way in both written and oral modes in German and English.
8. Plan and conduct independent research using primary and secondary sources in German and English, leading to the writing of a capstone project.
9. Work effectively as individuals and in teams in multi-disciplinary, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural settings.
10. Demonstrate flexibility, adaptability, and self-direction in order to engage productively with a changing social and cultural environment and with a capacity to move effectively within and between different language and cultural communities.
11. Demonstrate an ability to engage in further and increasingly self-directed study in support of the goal of life-long learning.

## 4.3 Coursework Requirements & Attendance

1. **Attendance** at all lectures and tutorials is **compulsory**. In case of illness, please notify your lecturers (see 3.) In JF and SF, attendance will count towards the module mark.
2. **Weekly homework** and **preparation for classes**: you are expected to complete these. As a minimum, in all years students are required to submit at least two-thirds of all the work set on any module and to attend two-thirds of all classes held.
3. **Excused absence**: Med certs can be submitted to the programme and module coordinator. You should also inform your College tutor. If you are absent for other reasons such as family illness, bereavement, etc., you are also advised to see your tutor.
4. **Developing Study Skills:** To keep on top of your work you need to develop good study skills. As part of your undergraduate study, we will be helping you to develop important soft or **transferable skills** such as planning, time management and multi-tasking so that you can manage your learning more effectively. These skills are life-skills and are as critical for study as they are for the world of work. Take a look at the documents **Study Skills** and **Enhance your Language Learning** in GRU12345 in Blackboard.
5. When you are planning your study time, try to remember that for every hour of class, you should be doing at the very least an extra hour of private study.
6. **Writing Essays and Assignments**: For advice on researching, planning and writing essays please see the document How to write an essay in GRU12345 in Blackboard.
7. **Students are reminded of Trinity's Accessible Information Policy.** All written material (e.g. theses, essays) should use sans serif font (e.g. Calibri, Arial), minimum size 11/12, 1.5 spaced.

## 4.4 Marking Scheme

1. **Marking Scheme for assessed work and examinations:**

   The Department of German Studies uses the full marking scale between 0% and 100%. This scale is subdivided into 6 classes, which can be glossed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| I 70% + | distinction – work of exceptional quality |
| II.1 60%-69% | very good – merit |
| II.2 50%-59% | average – good |
| III 40%-49% | passable – adequate |
| F1 30%-39% | fail |
| F2 0%-29% | not a serious attempt |

2. In the case of **objective tests,** you should note the following. Objective tests are correct answer tests / items which have unequivocal answers. These may be useful in the assessment of discrete linguistic skills and/or knowledge. Objective items can be designed to focus on specific knowledge and skills and can be set at any required level of difficulty.

Objective test types are, amongst others:

- Gap/cloze tests of various kinds
- Comprehension exercises (True/False; Multiple choice; questions requiring students to locate specific information in the source text, short-answer exercises)
- Matching questions + answers/beginnings + ends of sentences; Sentence completion

In the Department of German Studies, the top mark for objective tests is normally 80. This is an indication of a very high I class mark. Exceptional performances may, however, be awarded a mark in excess of 80.

3. **Guide criteria for awarding marks and classes**
   Full details of criteria for awarding marks and classes are provided in GRU12341 in Blackboard.
4. The School Handbook includes details of **College's Plagiarism Policy** as well as links to the Library Guides on avoiding plagiarism and the plagiarism declaration text used for submitting assignments. It is the responsibility of students to familiarise themselves with this important policy and its consequences.

5. The School Handbook also sets out the School **policy on the late submission of coursework.**

## 4.5 Capstone Project

The Capstone project is an independent research project on a topic chosen in consultation with a departmental staff member who will act as supervisor. It is an extended essay of 10,000 words, including all notes, references and bibliography.

Details of College Policies and Procedures with regards to research guidelines and ethical practices are included the School Handbook.

## 4.6 Requests for Transcripts

Transcripts can be requested from Academic Registry. These provide detail of modules studied and marks attained. If you require further information that is not included in the official transcript, please contact the School of Law.

**If you wish to request a copy of your academic transcript, contact the School of Law (law.school@tcd.ie).**

**Include the following information in your email:**

- Full name (as it appeared during your time as a student)
- Student number
- Programme of study
- Years of attendance at Trinity College Dublin

## 4.7 External Examiner

Prof. Astrid Köhler, Queen Mary University of London