



ZfI Bulletin

RUB

Zentrum für Internationales - Jura | Center for International Affairs - Law

SOMMER 2019

Bergen

*Our Most Popular
ERASMUS+ Destination
for 2019/2020*

From our 39 ERASMUS+ partner universities in 18 countries, Bergen is by far the most popular destination with approximately twice as many applicants as places. In the academic year of 2019/2020, five of our law students will spend a semester there. Norway's second largest city is home to many students and has a breathtaking landscape waiting to be explored. The University of Bergen's Faculty of Law offers a broad range of English-language legal classes, such as Human Rights Law, Energy Law, Commercial Law, and Company Law, along with Norwegian language classes and a variety of extracurricular activities. The semester abroad starts with an orientation week and a welcome ceremony for all foreign guests in order to make their arrival smoother and more pleasant. One of our outgoing students described his stay in Bergen as "one of the most beautiful experiences of my life." For more information on our ERASMUS+ partner universities, visit our website.

International Human Rights Law



*Our Most Popular English-Language Elective Course
in the Summer Semester of 2019*

Basic entitlements of each human being is the subject of the course "International Human Rights Law." The course also reflects the limitations of the protection of these rights on the international level. Our Faculty's postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Isabella Risini, has been offering a course on "International Human Rights Law" on and off since the summer semester of 2018. Her course's content starts from the very basics, namely international law itself, and continues on to the area of human rights law, the area that provides rules for States with respect to how they treat individuals under their jurisdiction, including their own citizens. Dr. Risini discusses current issues, difficulties, and challenges in the course, including the international and the European level. She takes, and motivates all participants to take, a critical look at the field through contemporary scholarship and primary sources.

We offered the course at the beginning of the summer semester of 2019 as a block course and were overwhelmed to receive more than 100 applications for the 30 places in this course. Participants were provided with the necessary reading materials through Moodle and had ample opportunity to discuss and question existing legal notions, their regulation through treaties, their implementation and execution in municipal law and the challenges of enforceability on both national and transnational levels. The course concluded with a take-home exam. Due to the topic's undeniable actuality, the high number of applicants for the places and the necessity of such a course in the legal curriculum, we are honored to have Dr. Risini teach this course again at the very beginning of the winter semester of 2019/2020.



upcoming new courses that we could offer. Some students registered for our Certificate Program in "Anglo-American Law & Language" and became members of ELSA Bochum. This was the second ZfI-ELSA Cocktail Bar and we are already looking forward to our third such event next summer!

Cocktailbar



We, at the Center for International Affairs (ZfI) together with the European Law Students' Association's (ELSA e.V.) Bochum chapter wished to kick-off the Ruhr University's Summer Festival with our own Cocktail Bar. On June 19, 2019, we offered every student and junior researcher, who stopped by our office in the GD building on the first floor in room 131 a complimentary cocktail along with a relaxed atmosphere and a photo box to capture and document the experience. We posted some impressions of the event on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Members of the ZfI's team were on site and enjoyed pleasant discussions about opportunities to study or work abroad, informing students about the broad range of destinations we can offer. We also received valuable feedback and suggestion for

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“Anglo-American Law & Language”

In line with the demands of the globalized legal community, the Ruhr University's Faculty of Law through its Center for International Affairs (Zfi) launched a Certificate Program in “Anglo-American Law & Language”. Students, who study law for at least two semesters at our Faculty can earn a certificate and gain extensive knowledge and insight into the legal system of the USA and other common law systems as well as improve their legal English skills. The Program consists of three obligatory “core” courses and another five “elective” courses from all the English-language legal courses at the Faculty. Our regularly recurring offer includes courses on U.S. Contract Law, U.S. Tort Law, U.K. Company Law, International Dispute Settlement or Introduction to South African Constitutional Law. The Program is completed with the passing of the final exam both in writing and through an oral exam in front of a committee. We are happy to count over 140 students who have participated in the Program since it started in 2016 and are proud of our 43 graduates.

Foreign-Languages

English is not the only foreign language that we offer legal courses in. The Zfi follows three goals by offering foreign-language legal courses in Spanish, Turkish, Italian and French. First, we wish to offer law students of our own Faculty the opportunity to pursue their so-called Fremdsprachenschein, a proof they need to register and be eligible for the first German state exam. Second, we wish to provide our outgoing students with an opportunity to prepare for their upcoming semester abroad in terms of the foreign language as well as the teaching and learning experience. Third, we wish to cater to the needs of our incoming students as well by offering legal courses not only in German and English, but also in other foreign languages.

Since 2018, the Zfi has also been offering the Spanish-language legal course “Introduction to Spanish Law”, which provides an introduction to the basic Spanish legal vocabulary along with the Spanish legal institutions in all three major areas of the law.

We offer a Turkish-language legal course in the area of criminal law taught by Juniorprofessor Dr. Özdem Özyaydin from Istanbul. The course is a block course, held on Fridays and Saturdays, and concludes with a written exam.

For students interested in Italian law, Ms. Marisella Campolucci offers the course “Introduction to the Italian Legal Language”, which stretches over multiple semesters but students are allowed to join in at any time depending on their preexisting knowledge of the Italian language. The primary purpose of this course is to prepare students for an ERASMUS+ semester in Italy but it allows participants to earn a Fremdsprachenschein at the end of the summer semester of 2020.

The Faculty's French-language legal course offer in the upcoming winter semester is offered through the Chair of Prof. Dr. Adelheid Puttler. Dr. Anne Jeannot, Maître de Conférences at University of Tours will teach the course “Introduction to French Constitutional Law” covering the basic terms of French constitutional law, a systematic understanding of the French constitution and the organization of the V. Republic.

Consulate, where the Consul, Mr. Balázs Szegner and a Member of the NRW Parliament, Mr. Rainer Matheisen (FDP) received us. Back in Bochum, we met Mrs. Lisa Kapteinat (SPD) and had a panel discussion with us. This week provided a wonderful opportunity for the participants to get to know each other and to exchange cultural experiences.

Summer School



Our Summer School, which was hosted by our Partner Faculty at the National University of Public Service (NUPS) in Budapest (Hungary) for the past two summers, has taken place for the first time in Bochum from July 28 until August 4, 2019. We welcomed and hosted 10 Hungarian students, who participated together with our law students at the English-language legal course on the legal history and development of the state and public administration. Dr. Judit Beke-Martos, the Zfi's managing director and Associate Professor Dr. Zsuzsanna Peres from the NUPS taught the course together. The program included numerous activities such as a visit to Bochum's Mining Museum or a guided tour of the city. We took a one-day trip to Düsseldorf, where we visited the Villa Horion and were invited to the Hungarian

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Study Abroad!

The ERASMUS Program is the European Union's scholarship program to provide financial support that allows students to spend a semester abroad, to live and learn alongside other students at a foreign university. Studying a semester of law abroad may seem a bit paradoxical as our legal education concentrates primarily on the national German law. A semester abroad, however, offers a multitude of opportunities for personal and professional development: students learn to cope in a new cultural environment, make new friends and enhance their language skills. Last but not least, an ERASMUS semester is simply fun!

Currently the ZfI has 39 partner universities all over Europe. We are continuously increasing the number of partnerships in order to provide destinations for all of our students.

The ZfI assists outgoing students through every step from the initial decision-making all the way until filing their report once they return. We are also receiving the incoming students, who chose Bochum as their destination. If you are thinking about going abroad, we are happy to help you.

Two New Partners

***Josip Juraj Strossmayer
University Osijek, Croatia***



Since every fifth resident in Osijek is a student, the city has a rather young vibe, especially in the old town where most of the university buildings as well as numerous bars and restaurants are situated. Located in Eastern Croatia close to the vineyards of Baranja County, Osijek is the country's fourth largest city and one of the newest additions to our ever expanding ERASMUS+ Partnerships. Since the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University pursues an agenda of internationalization the Faculty of Law offers a broad range of courses taught in English such as EU and Croatian Competition Law, Human Rights Theory or Hate Speech Through European Criminal Law Standards. The ZfI's ERASMUS coordinator, Mr. Hendrik Schwarz has just spent a week in Osijek in June participating at the 5th International Staff Week, where he represented our Faculty. If you are interested in spending a semester in Osijek or are curious to learn more, come by our office, we are happy to help you!

University of Vilnius, Lithuania

Equally exciting is one of our newest ERASMUS+ Partnerships: The University of Vilnius in Lithuania, where Mr. Schwarz represented our Faculty at the Annual Meeting of the Nanterre Network in June. This network is a coalition of European law faculties with the aim to strengthen international cooperation in terms of both research and academic exchanges. After fruitful discussions and a scientific colloquium about "The Rule of Law in Crisis?", a day of social activities allowed participants to explore Vilnius' rich history and culture. Lithuania's capital in its medieval old town, which is a UNESCO world heritage site offers numerous churches and museums to visit. Right next to the old town is a young and alternative art scene, a neighborhood called the Republic of Užupis. The University of Vilnius' Faculty of Law offers a range of legal classes taught in English, including different fields of Comparative Law and issues related to Digitalization.

The Baltics do aim to be the new Scandinavia, which is why we are so excited to offer you this opportunity along our Partnership at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Are you up for a challenge to explore this part of Europe?

Internship Abroad!

If you still need to do an internship or are simply interested in learning more about your future profession in practice, bear in mind that you could also do that abroad. If you opt for a two-month internship in a foreign country, you could receive financial support from the EU through ERASMUS+ while earning your proof of foreign-language legal knowledge for the state exam.

The ZfI assists you through the process of finding an internship, assuring financing for your stay abroad and getting your internship accredited by the Judicial Examination Office (JPA). We provide you with the necessary bilingual forms and other important documents for your employer as well as for the JPA. We also advise you on how to apply for a position and what documents help you in finding your way. We are continuously extending our circle of contacts all around the world and having you profit from those.

In May 2019, we held our second "Internship-Offensive," where we provided extended office hours to advise you on internships abroad, followed by Mr. Hendrik Schwarz's workshop on how to write a resume and a letter of motivation.

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In the Winter semester of 2019/2020, we offer two completely new and very exciting English-language legal courses:

Blockchain & AI in Civil Law

Our Faculty's postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Veronica Hoch offers a course on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the challenges these contemporary developments present in the area of civil law. Blockchain is the basic technology used to digitize and automatize contracts on the way to eradicating all human involvement in contractual relationships. AI is increasingly applied in judicial procedures and may already be put to good use in problem solving mechanisms without any further human input. Technology offers a lot of advantages but in legal matters these developments create unique challenges, first and foremost in the area of liability. Who is responsible for the actions of a robot or other automatized mechanisms? This and similar questions will be discussed in Dr. Hoch's course.

The course will be taught solely in English as a block course on Fridays and Saturdays, October 11-12 and 18-19, 2019 daily from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with obligatory attendance. Registration is open through eCampus until October 3, 2019 at 11.59 p.m. The course will conclude with a paper that students need to write and submit in order to pass the exam.

U.S. Approaches to International Law

The University of Tartu's (Estonia) Professor of International Law, Professor Laurie Mälksoo is the DAAD Guest Professor at the Ruhr University's Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and the Faculty of Law in the upcoming winter semester of 2019/2020. Professor Mälksoo is offering a course on "U.S. Approaches to International Law," where through the work of contemporary authors in international law he examines the claim of U.S. exclusivity and the American approach to the otherwise consent-based international law and legal practice.

The course will be taught solely in English as a block course on Fridays and Saturdays, November 8-9 and 15-16, 2019 daily from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with obligatory attendance. Registration is open through eCampus until October 30, 2019 at 11.59 p.m. Students will be required to hold a presentation during the course in order to complete the course and pass the exam.

Save-the-Date: Info Event about ERASMUS+ and International Exchanges in 2020/2021

When?

Tuesday, December 3, 2019. at 4 p.m.

Where?

HGB 40

What?

Extensive information on possible destinations, how to apply, and financing

Special guests:

Our returning outgoing students, who will share their own personal experiences



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