



Welcome and farewell



My name is Ingo Knippertz, I am 39 years old (young) and have been a research assistant at the ZfI since 01 April 2023.

At the beginning, an academic career was not in my cradle. After completing secondary school, I trained as a bank clerk and then worked as a bank clerk for some time. After my civilian service, I changed to the human resources department for a total of nine years. During this time, I acquired my entrance qualification for higher education and passed the examination to become a state-certified business economist specialising in human resources management. This was my ticket to study as a so-called "professionally qualified person" without the general university entrance qualification. Thanks to a scholarship, I was able to start studying law in the summer semester of 2017 at the age of 33. The first three semesters were spent at the Open University in Hagen, and I transferred to Bochum for the 2018 winter semester. After I had mastered the state part of the state examination at the beginning of 2022, I passed my last examination on 26 October 2022 with the defence of my seminar paper in focus area 4 (International and European legal relations) - now I am a newly qualified and also proud Diplomjurist.

My relationship with the ZfI can be metaphorically characterised as "love at first sight". On the one hand, the tasks are demanding, on the other hand, I find my range of activities exciting, multi-layered and extremely satisfying. But the most important thing for me is the super trusting cooperation with my highly valued and extremely committed team colleagues. Every working day is an enrichment.

In almost 15 years of professional experience, I have never had such a beautiful job. But the truth is that my time at the ZfI is at least "ticked off". In spring 2024, I plan to switch to the preparatory service, the traineeship. If financial and personnel capacities permit, I would like to continue working for the ZfI on a small scale. However, whatever the outcome, it is already clear that I will remain loyal to my alma mater, the RUB, its Faculty of Law and, in particular, our Dean's Office, of which the ZfI is a staff unit.

Report from a study abroad semester at Murdoch University in Perth



Image: Sara Behning

From the moment I arrived in Perth, I knew I had made the right decision to come here for my semester abroad. The city's charm, the warmth of its people, and the inviting atmosphere of Murdoch University all confirmed this instantly. In terms of cultural adjustment, I've experienced only positive surprises. Australians are incredibly open and friendly, always up for a chat - whether it's on the bus, in a store, or at the university. Don't let the Australian accent intimidate you; in Perth, their speech is quite clear (and they certainly speak loudly enough!). Arriving in July during Australia's winter, I was pleasantly surprised by the city's sunny disposition, capable of brightening even the rainiest day. However, a note of caution: indoor spaces can be chilly. Most Australians don't rely heavily on heaters, as their houses are designed for warmer weather.

Murdoch University truly caters to every need. The orientation process is smooth and enjoyable. Numerous Student Clubs, the Murdoch Guild, and StudyPerth organize many regular (often free) events, particularly geared towards international students. You'll never feel alone here; the university ensures you're always well-informed about any query and boasts a picturesque campus with excellent study spots.

I was fortunate that my journey, including flights and finding accommodation, went off without a hitch. It's worth noting that securing housing can be a challenge, so if you're considering coming to Perth, seeking advice from the Center for International Affairs is highly recommended.

For those interested, the whole report about my experiences will be published on our blog upon my return in November.



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UK Constitutional Law



The Center for International Affairs is pleased to introduce "UK Constitutional Law" - a brand new foreign language course for winter term 2023/24. The course will be held in English by Mr. Provan, who works as a Undergraduate Seminar Leader at the School of Law at University of Edinburgh. This upcoming winter term he will visit Bochum to teach UK Constitutional Law every Monday from 2 pm to 4 pm. Within this course, Mr. Provan will give a historical overview of UK constitutional law leading to contemporary lawmaking procedures, voting systems, and the constitutional restraints on legislation and governance. This will be tremendously interesting, since the UK is one of the only countries in the world without a codified constitution and therefore has a long and rich history of constitutional development. Furthermore, he will discuss different layers of UK legal authority, first looking inward to devolution and then outward to the UK's relationship with international law. If you are interested in this course, you can register yourself up until October, 8th, 2023 via eCampus. Be aware, that by passing the final exam of the course, it is possible to acquire the foreign language qualification. Besides, the course also counts as one of the elective courses in our Anglo-American Law & Language Certificate Program.

Opportunities generating Opportunities

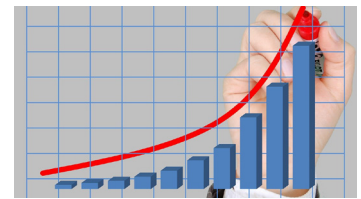
I am Romy D. Feiertag, 24 years old and in the final stages of my law studies.

I am very glad I did not deprive myself of broadening my horizons beyond the standard curriculum during my studies. Since I love the English language, the Anglo-American Law and Language Certificate Program of the Zfl appealed to me. The wide range of courses offers a variety in content and the opportunity to practice the English language on a regular basis and to further develop and professionalize my skills. I was able to acquire a repertoire throughout the program, which goes beyond its usefulness for social media consumption or occasional conversations during travelling.

During the 15 courses I completed in this program (fewer courses are sufficient to obtain the certificate), I had the opportunity to meet many dedicated lecturers. In particular, I have to mention Dr. Karolina Prochownik, who goes above and beyond to support her students as soon as she recognizes an inclination for her subject. After I took two courses with her, she recommended an international program in collaboration with the City University of New York and assisted me with the application process. After I participated in the program, I became a permanent member of the "CUNY ExPhiLab". Ideas can be exchanged there and collaborations on publications with experienced researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds are done. From there every opportunity presented to me, which I took, turned out to generate more opportunities! Working with national and international teams and universities on papers, presentations, articles, workshops and discussions, expanding my network; spiraling in the cherry on top (for now): My first contract with the Cambridge University Press for the paper "How Much Harm Does It Take? An Experimental Study on Legal Expertise, the Severity Effect, and Intentionality Ascriptions". I am the second author of this paper, first author being Dr. Prochownik, for the Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Jurisprudence.

During every step I took with the Zfl towards my certificate, one thing became very clear: the Anglo-American Law and Language Certificate Program is a matter of heart of the Zfl and its staff. What can be done is done. This student-oriented attitude makes the program, in addition to its objective advantages, a particularly charming opportunity to gain further qualifications in one's studies.

Development of our Certificate Program



Eight years ago, in winter term 2016/17, the Center for International Affairs launched its "Anglo-American Law & Language Certificate Program". The program consists of three obligatory core courses and five elective courses, which are all held in English. After successfully completing all eight courses, participants must take a final written and oral exam to graduate the program. By then, they have obtained profound knowledge about the Anglo-American legal system as well as English legal terminology. Since 2016 the Certificate Program has gained popularity within the Faculty of Law – whereas in 2020 there were only about 60 students who successfully graduated from the program, we can now congratulate 118 students for acquiring the certificate! Additionally, there are about 113 students who are participating in the program right now. If you are curious about our certificate program, feel free to contact us for any further questions or already register yourself by sending us a request for admission. The document can be found on our homepage.

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Erasmus in Dublin – new Partnership



You always wanted to do an Erasmus stay, but you don't speak French, Italian, Greek or any other language except English?

Finally we have a cooperation in an English speaking country, so there is nothing standing in the way of your stay abroad.

Starting with the new academic year 23/24 you will have the opportunity to study for a semester at Ireland's second largest university in the capital city of Ireland. It is a state university, which exists in its current form as Ireland's first university of technology since 2019. Our cooperation refers to the College of Arts and Tourism, more precisely to the Faculty of Languages, Law and Social Sciences.

Dublin, renowned for its cozy pubs adorned with the famous Guinness beer, the St. Patrick's Cathedral, historic Dublin Castle, Trinity College Dublin, and a rich variety of enchanting leprechaun tales, invites you into its embrace. Interested? Reserve your spot by submitting your application for the academic year 2024/2025 no later than January 26th, 2024.

Erasmus Scholarship



of living in different regions, categorized into three country groups.

The first group, comprising Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, and Ireland, is entitled to 600€ per month in the academic year 2023/2024.

The second group, which includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain, receives 540€ per month for a semester spent abroad. For the third group encompassing Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Northern Macedonia, the stipend is set at 490€ per month.

Erasmus is designed to promote sustainability, equal opportunities and inclusion, for this reason students can apply for top-ups amounts in addition to the regular funding rates.

"Green Travel" is an option available to students, applicable when at least half of the mobility is covered by eco-friendly transportation (train, bus, car) during their stay abroad. This choice allows scholarship recipients to seek an extra one-time support of €50 and up to four additional support days for longer journeys, in addition to the regular grant.

Furthermore, additional funding for participants with fewer opportunities can be applied for. This is possible for both long-term mobility (at least 60 days) and short-term mobility (5-30 days) and applies to participants with a disability (at least 20 degrees), participants with a chronic illness with additional financial needs abroad, participants with child(ren), working students and first-time academics. If any of these criteria apply, Erasmus scholarship holders can request extra financial assistance, supplementing the standard grant of 250€ per month. The application is made during the online scholarship application by filling in a declaration of honor.

Erasmus Statistics

Now let's take a look at some statistics of our activities in conjunction with the Erasmus+ program for law students in the academic year 2023/24.

It appears that the popular choices for destinations remain consistent, with Barcelona, Lisbon, and Seville topping the list. Additionally, there's a noticeable trend towards southern locales gaining momentum, giving Bergen, Norway, a close competition for its standing as the favored destination.

The winter semester remains the preferred period for students to embark on their journeys. Interestingly, this year saw a notable number of students submitting applications after the official deadline. However, within the bounds of partner university deadlines, we accommodated these late applications, ensuring students' aspirations weren't compromised. But we still had available spots this year. So, if you're contemplating exploring while pursuing your studies, seize the opportunities.

In terms of student diversity, the law faculty is extending its welcome to a student from as far as Perth, Australia. Lastly, it's worth mentioning the presence of a student from Brazil, contributing to the program's outreach to South America. We warmly welcome all students coming to Bochum!

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English-Language Course Catalogue Winter Term 2023/2024

Title of the Course	Name of the Professor	Course ID Number	Mode	Day	Time	Registration Deadline
US Constitutional Law II: Fundamental Rights	Herr Diekjobst	Nr. 060301	Face-to-face	02.+04.+05.+06.10.23	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	27.09.23 23:59
Introduction to International Dispute Settlement	Herr Wuschka	Nr. 060305	Online Audio Course	Monday (17.10.-21.11.22)	4 p.m.- 8 p.m.	13.10.2022 23:59
Normative Legal Philosophy	Prof. Dr. Magen	Nr. 060003	Hybrid	Tuesday	8.15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	LS Magen
Experimental Legal Philosophy: Selected Experiments	Prof. Dr. Magen	Nr. 060116	Face-to-Face	08.+29.11. + 20.12.23-24.01.24	2.15 p.m. – 8 p.m.	LS Magen
Justice, Psychology and Legal Doctrine. A Legal Experimental Case Study	Prof. Dr. Magen	Nr. 060115	Face-to-Face	18.10.+ 15.11.+ 06.12.23+ 10.01.24	2.15 p.m. - 8 p.m.	LS Magen
International Dimensions of Law	Dr. Thiede	Nr. 060307	Podcasts	Thursday	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	19.10.23
U.S. Intellectual Property Law	Benjamin M. Hanrahan, Esq.	Nr. 060304	Zoom Video Course	Tuesday	4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	27.09.23
International Legal Dialogue	Prof. Dr. Windel	Nr. 060173	Hybrid	LS Windel	LS Windel	LS Windel
UK Constitutional Law	Herr Provan	Nr. 060314	Face-to-Face		2 - 4 p.m.	08.10.23
International Environmental Law in the Anthropocene	Prof. Dr. Scholtz	Nr. 060309	Hybrid	17.10.+ 18+23.+30.10.+ 13.+20.11.23	noon – 5 p.m. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	09.10.23 23:59

Registration is open in eCampus! | For updates please visit our website

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