

**Highlights****Certificate Program****Erasmus+****Sneak Preview**

Meet our new student assistants Sophie Semper and Katharina Nolte!



Ms. Semper has been studying law at Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) since the winter semester of 2021/2022. She has a particular interest in working within international contexts and in gaining a broader understanding of legal systems beyond Germany. As part of the Erasmus+ program, she spent the winter semester 2023/2024 at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville, Spain. This exchange allowed her to deepen her interest in European legal frameworks and improve her Spanish language

skills. At the ZfI, Ms. Semper supports the team in various areas. Her tasks include advising students who are planning or currently undertaking a study abroad program, especially through Erasmus. She is also involved in the administrative support of the Certificate Program "Anglo-American Law & Language," a program in which she is also a participant. In addition to her regular responsibilities, she helps with event organization and communication tasks related to international programs.

Katharina Nolte has been studying law at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) since the winter semester of 2023/2024. With a focus on comparative law, she is particularly interested in working abroad and engaging in international contexts. At the ZfI, Ms. Nolte supports international students with foreign law degrees in their enrollment and study process for the LL.M. program. Furthermore she is responsible for administrative tasks. She has also successfully completed the "Anglo-American Law & Language" Certificate Program, which has further broadened her understanding of international legal systems.



Ms. Semper and Ms. Nolte have become familiar with the center's ongoing projects and procedures and are available to answer questions from students. Both have greatly enjoyed their work at the ZfI so far and look forward to continuing to assist students. For inquiries, they can be reached via email at zfi-jura@rub.de.

Welcome to RUB: Dr. Elena Babkina joins the Faculty of Law as a visiting researcher



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Elena Babkina to the Chair of Professor Fornasier as a visiting researcher. Supported by a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, she will spend two years at Ruhr University Bochum conducting focused research into the role of regional economic unions in shaping the development of private international law. The

aim is to propose reforms to the legal framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Dr. Babkina brings with her a remarkable blend of academic expertise and practical experience. After earning her PhD in Minsk, she led the Department of Private International and European Law at Belarusian State University for many years, also serving as a legal advisor to a judge at the EAEU Court. She has also acted as an arbitrator in over 50 international commercial arbitration cases, many of them as presiding or sole arbitrator.

Her research interests include international commercial and investment law, private international law, EAEU law and arbitration. In addition to her legal qualifications, Dr. Babkina holds a degree in psychology and is a certified cognitive behavioural therapy consultant. We look forward to working with her and wish her a productive and inspiring time at our faculty!



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Insights into Brexit's Legal Impact: Dr. Marcou's Guest Course at RUB



In the summer semester 2025, the Faculty of Law at Ruhr University Bochum had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Andreas Marcou from the University of Central Lancashire Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus) as a guest lecturer. Dr. Marcou, who holds a PhD in Law from Queen Mary University of London, is Assistant Professor in Legal Theory and Project Manager for the

Centre for the Rule of Law and European Values (CRoLEV). His academic focus lies in legal theory and specifically the rule of law, democracy, and theories of legitimacy.

During his stay in Bochum, Dr. Marcou taught the course Brexit: Constitutional and Political Perspectives. The module offered an in-depth analysis of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, concentrating on the constitutional framework and political dynamics that both shaped and were affected by the Brexit process.

The course began with a discussion of the political environment leading up to the 2016 referendum, particularly the rise of populism and Euroscepticism in the UK. It then turned to the legal and institutional developments that followed the vote, including the negotiation of the withdrawal agreement and the constitutional implications of several landmark court rulings. Special emphasis was placed on how Brexit challenged core principles of the UK's uncodified constitution, such as Parliamentary Sovereignty and the Rule of Law.

Through theoretical engagement and detailed case studies, participants gained a deeper understanding of the interplay between law and politics during a time of significant constitutional upheaval.

The course was well received by students, who appreciated both its topical relevance and the clarity of Dr. Marcou's teaching approach.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Marcou for his outstanding contribution and for sharing his expertise with our students during his time at RUB.

From Naples to Bochum: Meet our new Guest Lecturer Prof. Amatucci

The Faculty of Law at Ruhr University Bochum is pleased to welcome Prof. Carlo Amatucci as a guest lecturer for the upcoming Winter Term 2025/26. Prof. Amatucci is a Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Naples Federico II, one of Italy's most renowned academic institutions. His research focuses on corporate governance, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and insolvency law.

At RUB, Prof. Amatucci will offer the course Corporate Governance and Sustainability, which

critically explores the evolving role of corporations as socially responsible entities. The course examines whether companies should go beyond the pursuit of shareholder profit and act in ways that benefit stakeholders and mitigate harm to society. Central to the course are competing theoretical frameworks such as shareholder primacy, stakeholderism, and enlightened shareholder value. It also addresses the ethical foundations of CSR and critiques the traditional economic model of unlimited growth, which is increasingly challenged by environmental and social concerns.

A comparative perspective will allow students to analyze recent reforms and legislation in various jurisdictions aimed at promoting sustainability and stakeholder engagement. The course presents the corporation as a complex social institution with pluralistic purposes, encouraging students to rethink the role of business in modern society.

The course will take place from 27 October to 6 November 2025, from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. It will be conducted in English and can be used to gain the Foreign Language Certificate. Additionally, it may be taken as an elective course within the Certificate Program.

We are honored to host Prof. Amatucci at RUB and look forward to this great academic experience!



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Wrongful Convictions and Right Experiences: A Summer with the OIP



From late May to mid-August, two RUB students had the opportunity to live and work in Cincinnati, Ohio, and gained deep insights into the American criminal justice system. Looking back on their summer internship at the Ohio Innocence Project (OIP), they are filled with gratitude and excitement:

Cincinnati welcomed us with warm, sunny weather, lots of green spaces, and a dynamic city atmosphere. The people here are incredibly friendly and open – whether in cafés, at the university, or in the office, we were always met with kindness and curiosity. That made settling in very easy. We quickly found our rhythm, both in everyday life and at work.

What surprised us was how many German-speaking people we encountered here – both in professional contexts and in everyday life.

Cincinnati has strong historical ties to German immigration and German heritage is still very present across the city. From “Over-the-Rhine,” the historic German district, to bakeries, street names, and even events like the world’s second largest Oktoberfest, there are tons of reminders of home. It was nice to occasionally switch back to German and connect with locals who proudly maintain their cultural roots. At OIP, we became part of a legal team dedicated to fighting wrongful convictions. Together with American law students (OIP Fellows), we worked on real cases involving individuals serving long sentences – in some instances life without parole or the death penalty. Our tasks included legal research, transcript analysis, drafting public records requests, fact development, and even participating in prison visits and parole hearings. These moments were some of the most moving and challenging of the internship.

Despite the complexity and gravity of the cases, we were positively surprised by how quickly we could contribute. Our legal education from Germany served us well – while the systems differ significantly, our analytical skills transferred smoothly. The Ohio Innocence Project also provided regular training sessions, which helped us understand the specific procedures of post-conviction work in the U.S.

Outside of work, we enjoyed exploring the city – from baseball games and food trucks to hiking trails and museums. And of course, being able to experience traces of German culture so far from home made our stay feel more special.

This internship was more than a professional experience – it was a cultural, personal, and academic journey we won’t forget.

Erasmus in Brno – Studying Law in the Heart of Europe



Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, is one of Central Europe’s most respected universities and a popular Erasmus destination for law students. Spending a semester abroad at the Faculty of Law means becoming part of a modern, internationally oriented

institution known for its academic excellence and strong practical focus.

The Faculty of Law at MUNI combines research with hands-on legal training. Students can choose from diverse, practice-oriented courses including international criminal law, human rights, data protection, and more. Many classes are taught in English, allowing students to explore Central and Eastern European legal systems without needing Czech. Studying in Brno means living in a dynamic, student-friendly city. As the judicial center of the Czech Republic, it hosts the Constitutional and Supreme Courts. The city offers a vibrant, affordable lifestyle with cafés, cultural events, green spaces, and excellent public transport. Masaryk University is part of numerous research and exchange networks. For incoming exchange students, the university offers excellent support – from application guidance and course selection to accommodation assistance. A semester abroad in Brno not only broadens your legal perspective but also offers a unique and authentic student experience.

Curious to experience it for yourself?? Apply by the end of January for your Erasmus semester in the academic year 2026/2027!

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English-Language Course Catalogue WinterTerm 2025/26

Title of the Course	Name of the Professor	Course ID	Mode	Day	Time	Registration Deadline
Introduction to American Law	Mr. von Estorff	Nr. 060520	Face-to-face	Monday	10 a.m. -12 p.m.	09.10.25 23:59
US Constitutional Law II: Fundamental Rights	Mr. von Estorff	Nr. 060522	Face-to-face	Monday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	09.10.25 23:59
Introduction to International Arbitration	Mr. Wuschka	Nr. 060557	Zoom	07.10.25 - 10.10.25	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.	28.09.25 23:59
International Legal Dialogue	Prof. Dr. Windel	Nr. 060360	Hybrid	LS Windel	LS Windel	Individual Application no later than October, 17
Introduction to American Law	Mr. Provan	Nr. 060534	Face-to-face	Monday	2 - 4 p.m.	08.10.25 23:59
International Dimensions of Law	Prof. Dr. Thiede	Nr. 060527	Podcasts	Friday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	08.10.25 23:59
U.S. Intellectual Property Law	Mr. Hanrahan	Nr. 060526	Zoom	Tuesday	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	08.10.25 23:59
European Human Rights Law	Ms. Katsoni	Nr. 060544	Face-to-face	Tuesday	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	08.10.25 23:59
Normative Legal Philosophy	Prof. Dr. Magen	Nr. 060012	Face-to-face	Monday	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	
Corporate Governance and Sustainability	Prof. Dr. Amatucci	Nr. 060549	Face-to-face	27.10.25 - 06.11.2025	4:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	19.10.25 23:59
General Principles of International Sales Law	Dr. Babkina	Nr. 060556	Face-to-face	04. + 11. + 18. + 25.11.2025 02. + 09. + 16.12.2025 13. + 20.01.2026"	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	27.10.25 23:59
Current Challenges in the International Law of the Sea	Mr. Herich	Nr. 060551	Face-to-face	31.10.2025 + 07. + 14.11.2025 05. + 12.12.2025	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	23.10.25 23:59

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

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