

Annex to the Learning Agreement:

Description Law Education System in Germany

The German legal education is regulated by law (each federal state may organize the legal education in accordance with the German Judge Law) and divided into two parts: The first part is the education at the university, the second one the so-called Referendariat, a practical course at a court. They both finish with final exams (“Erste Prüfung” and “Assessorexamen”).

The university programme regularly lasts nine semesters (4.5 years; the average lies by 11 semesters though), the Referendariat takes two more years. In both parts the idea of a general jurist is followed, i.e. that the education does not focus on one subject, but each Private, Criminal and Public Law have to be studied and are subjects of the final examination. Passing both final exams enables to practice any kind of legal profession.

The university programme of the Law Department at the University of Bonn consists of basic courses, advanced courses and a legal specialization (“Schwerpunktbereich”). After completing the basic courses and passing an intermediate exam (ten certain legal courses have to be passed), the advanced courses follow and later on the legal specialization.

All this leads to the First Final State Examination (“Erste Prüfung”), which consists of the mentioned legal specialization by 30% and the “Pflichtfachprüfung” by 70%.

To pass the “Schwerpunktbereich” seven courses have to be passed; students also have to participate in a seminar for which a thesis has to be written and presented.

For the “Pflichtfachprüfung” all subjects that have been taught during the basic and advanced courses can be examination material. Students have to take six written exams (3x Private Law, 2x Public Law, 1x Criminal Law) and also one oral examination eventually, in which again all subjects will be tested. For the Erasmus+ exchange programme, this means the following:

Due to the German legal education system, study credits can only be transferred in the area of the specialization courses.

However, studying abroad is highly appreciated and supported by the Law Department. Needless to say that the experience of a different university structure, another law system and different legal methods combined with the context of the European integration is highly recommended to the Bonn law students. Our exchange students are recommended to take part in courses of national and international law, also in fields of their specialization or courses in basic research –

as long as this corresponds with the partner university's guidelines. 25 – 30 ECTS each semester are recommended by the Law Department.

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