

Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany



School of Law

Study Abroad Program Information Package

Fall 2009

Important Dates:

- **February 13, 2009**
BU Law application deadline
- **Mid-March, 2009**
Selections made
- **March 31, 2009**
Bucerius Law School application
deadline for Fall 2009
- **July 20 – August 2, 2009**
Online course registration
- **September 3 – 4, 2009**
Orientation
- **September – December 18, 2009**
Fall Semester Dates
- **October 19-23 & December 14-18,
2009**
Exam Period

Office of Graduate and
International Programs
Boston University School of Law
765 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 1534
Boston, MA 02215

Tel: 617/353-5323
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E-mail: ofp@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad

We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with Bucerius Law School, in Hamburg, Germany. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered in fall 2009.
- B. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students twelve semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. **Academic Focus:** The program focuses on international and comparative business law. Therefore, the list of courses from which students choose is limited for the most part to international and comparative law subjects.
- D. **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students only who have spent at least one full-year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. **Language:** All courses at Bucerius are taught in English. Students who are fluent in German are free to choose from the school's German curriculum as well.
- F. **Number of Participants:** Four students at most can participate. We may select fewer than four, but under no circumstances can we select more.

II. Why Study Law at Bucerius?

A. Bucerius Law School – Germany's First and Only Private Law Faculty

Founded in 2000 by the ZEIT-Stiftung, one of Germany's largest, private, non-profit foundations, Bucerius Law School is the first and only privately operated law school in Germany. Its founders had the goal of offering prospective law students an alternative to the standard legal education provided at German state universities: their main objective was to create an academically accomplished, practice-oriented, and bi-lingual legal education with a focus on international business law.

Already hailed as one of the top law faculties in Germany, one of Bucerius' strengths is its internationalism. Students pursue the LL.B. degree, and each is required to spend a semester at one of Bucerius' more than 81 worldwide partner institutions. They also gain insights into legal practice through mandatory internships. Bucerius' faculty includes several practicing members of the legal profession, so students learn from both scholars and practitioners. The Bucerius curriculum boasts foreign language courses conducted in Chinese, English, Russian, and Spanish; lectures in business administration; courses in national and international business law; and a diverse, obligatory general studies program.

Each fall, Bucerius offers its visiting foreign exchange students the opportunity to participate in a specially-designed program in International and Comparative Business Law, entirely in English. The program's emphasis is on intensive, high-level international academic and practical training,

personal development opportunities, and a close community. Each year, approximately 75 students come to the program from Bucerius' many partner schools, offering a truly diverse academic learning environment. They come from as close as France and Spain, and as far away as Singapore, Australia, Canada, the United States and Argentina, to name a few. Students who are proficient in German also have the opportunity to audit courses from the school's wide array of offerings in the German curriculum¹.

B. The City of Hamburg

Hamburg, Germany's second largest city, is known for its beauty. It boasts 2302 bridges, more than the total of all bridges that Venice and Amsterdam have to offer. Fourteen percent of the city is made up of green spaces and recreational areas. With more than 90 consulates, Hamburg ranks only second to New York as the city with the most consulates in the world. Hamburg is also culturally and commercially the center of all of Northern Germany. The city itself has 1.7 million inhabitants, and the metropolitan region consists of 3.5 million people, for whom Hamburg is the shopping and cultural metropolis².

The port is the heart of Hamburg, sustaining the business life of the city but also setting the cosmopolitan tone of open-mindedness and international connections. With its ultra-modern airport handling over 10 million flights per year, its container port the largest in Germany and second largest in Europe, and a well-planned road and rail infrastructure, Hamburg is the preferred location for trading houses and businesses. Over 350,000 companies of all sizes are located in the city. Industries include manufacturing in fields as diverse as aerospace and paper, hi-tech and handicraft. As the German centre for broadcasting and publishing, Hamburg has a host of associated service industries including advertising, insurance, and information technology. Serving all this economic activity are the lawyers of Hamburg (from a large number of firms with connections across the globe, including the United States).

The cosmopolitan feel of Hamburg made it the one and only natural choice for the site of Bucerius Law School. Culture thrives with renowned theatres, opera, ballet and a classical music scene worthy of Mendelssohn and Brahms, both sons of the city. The undercurrent to all this is the Hamburg mentality, understated but alert, meticulously polite but friendly – the product of centuries of internationalism.

The legal culture is also central to Hamburg life. Hamburg is proud of its political autonomy as a city state within the Federal Republic of Germany. This independence has a long history with the earliest constitutional documents and legal statutes for Hamburg dating from the 13th century. Today Hamburg is host to legal institutions of national and global significance: the Hamburg state courts, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and Comparative Law, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea³.

¹ Much of this information is copied from Bucerius' website: <http://www.law-school.de>.

² This information is cited explicitly from the Hamburg Tourist Bureau's website: http://international.hamburg.de/index/1_2709_JGdlbz0zJA___00.html.

³ This information is copied directly from Bucerius' website: <http://www.law-school.de>

III. The Bucerius Exchange Program

A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with Bucerius is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative business law in an international setting, one deeply involved in one of the most important international developments of our time, the formation of the European Union. This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad. If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to sightsee, drink German beer and spend time relaxing in one of Hamburg's many beautiful parks, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with German culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to four BU Law students to attend Bucerius in the fall 2009 semester.

C. Program Dates

Please note that the following dates are approximate. We will provide final dates when we receive this information later in the spring. Bucerius will confirm these dates later this spring, once its final schedule is set.

Orientation:	September 3 – 4, 2009
Session I:	September 7 – October 18, 2009
Study trip:	TBD
Session II:	November 2 – December 18, 2009

You will be expected to arrive in Hamburg for orientation on September 3rd and 4th. You will likely want to arrive considerably before orientation to secure your housing arrangements. All international students are required to remain in Hamburg through December 19th due to the exam schedule.

The program is divided into two sessions, with a week-long, organized study trip for all exchange students between the sessions. This trip is usually to culturally, historically, and politically significant sites in Berlin and Potsdam. ⁴

D. Course Offerings and Selections

BU Law students will participate in Bucerius' annual International and Comparative Business Law Program. This is an English-language program designed primarily for the non-German visiting exchange students from Bucerius' 79 partner institutions. Students study alongside approximately 80 visiting students from around the world, making the program itself an experience in internationalism. Anticipated courses for the fall 2009 semester include:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Law
- Comparative Intellectual Property

⁴ Cited from www.law-school.de. Please visit this website, as courses and study trip information for the fall 2008 semester are continuously updated.

- Comparative Products Liability
- Comparative Tort Law
- Cross-Border Activities and Transactions
- Fundamentals of Environmental and Energy Law and Policy
- International Conflict of Laws
- Introduction to German Law – Survey Course
- Law of the European Union
- Legal Aspects of Cross-Border Loan and Financing

Students can select from the above list and also audit any of the school's German-taught courses, provided they are fluent in German. Students can also take German and other language courses free of charge (not for credit) at Bucerius if they so desire, and additional German language courses for a modest fee at the Colón Language Center. Information on the additional courses is available on the Bucerius website at www.law-school.de under "International Program" and "Academics."

BU Law students are required to take a minimum of six classes, including one required course, "Introduction to German Law – Survey Course." Most of the courses run in intensive three- or four-week sessions, though some run the entire fall semester. Additionally, students can opt to work closely with a faculty member on an individually-selected paper topic, for credit.

The course offerings are appropriate for students who have not previously studied the civil law or EU law. The complete schedule and faculty biographies will be available online at www.law-school.de under "International Program" and "Faculty & Centers" in January, 2009.

E. Exams

Exams at Bucerius take place at the end of the course, are typically written and last 3-4 hours. Students are graded on an A-F scale, based on their performance in the final exams.

IV. How to Apply

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application available online at www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad, and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Associate Dean Marx and Assistant Dean John Riccardi, scheduled through the Office of Graduate and International Programs.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 13, 2009.

* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

V. Bucerius Exchange Student Application

Participating students must complete Bucerius' application online no later than March 31, 2009. The application can be found at www.law-school.de (click on "International Program," then "Application"). A complete Bucerius application includes:

1. Completed online application form
2. A brief statement of purpose
3. A letter or email from BU Law stating that you have been selected to apply for Bucerius' International Program
4. Your BU Law transcript
5. Two passport photos

Items 2-6 should be mailed to:

Bucerius Law School
Birte Gall
Director, International Exchange Program
Jungiusstr. 6
20355 Hamburg
Germany

VI. Student Evaluation and Grades

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by Bucerius faculty in accordance with the Bucerius grading system. Bucerius grades its students in the International Program on a scale of A-F, similar to that in the U.S. However, because grading standards between BU Law and Bucerius may differ, a direct translation to BU Law's letter grading system is extremely difficult. Therefore, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. We expect, however, that all credits earned at Bucerius will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

One final point about grading. None of the grades for the Bucerius semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).

VII. Bucerius' Program Director and Staff

The Program Director is Professor Karsten Schmidt, the President of Bucerius and internationally known professor of corporate law. Prof. Schmidt received his doctorate in 1972, followed in 1975/76 by a post-doctorate in Bonn in civil law, commercial law, business law and civil procedural law. Following a professorship in Göttingen (1976), he held a professorial chair at the University of Hamburg from 1977 to 1997 and was Director of the Departments of Commercial, Maritime and Economic Law. Since 1997,

Prof. Schmidt has been professor at the University of Bonn and Director of the Institute for Commercial and Business Law.

Prof. Schmidt is a member of the *Joachim Jungius Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, Hamburg, and the Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea, Salzburg, as well as Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, London. He is a corresponding member of the Academia Nacional de Derecho y Ciencias Sociales, Cordoba/Argentina and serves as a member of the academic board of the *Institut für Wirtschaftsverfassung und Wettbewerb* (FIW), Cologne. Prof. Schmidt served as vice-chairman and chairman of the *Zivilrechtslehrervereinigung* from 1987 to 1999 and was an assessor for the German Research Association from 1988 to 1996. He sits on the supervisory board and the Kuratorium of the Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius ZEIT Foundation, Hamburg.

Prof. Schmidt is publisher and editor of the *Zeitschrift für das gesamte Handels- und Wirtschaftsrecht*, joint publisher of the *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsrecht* (ZIP), and sits on the editorial board of the International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal. He has written textbooks on commercial and company law, as well as monographs, commentaries and numerous academic articles⁵. Prof. Schmidt's contact information is:

Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Karsten Schmidt
President
Bucerius Law School
Hochschule für Rechtswissenschaft
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20355 Hamburg
Germany
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The Director of the International Program at Bucerius is Ms. Kasia Kwietniewska. She is the main contact for visiting exchange students and handles all of the applications, orientation, and student affairs-related issues. Her contact information is:

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Cathleen Stunz
Program Manager
Cathleen.strunz@law-school.de

Lowri Gilbert
Administrative Assistant
Lowri.gilbert@law-school.de

All other inquiries should be directed to:

⁵ Biography cited directly from www.law-school.de.

info@law-school.de

Tel. +49 (0)40 3 07 06 - 0

Fax +49 (0) 3 07 06 - 105

VIII. Academic and Library Facilities

The Bucerius Law School building (main building and Auditorium) and the campus grounds are owned by the ZEIT-Stiftung. The total investment (acquisition and renovation of the building and the construction of the new auditorium) amounts to €34 million. The money invested in Bucerius' infrastructure has resulted in a state-of-the-art campus, with all of the latest technological innovations available to students. Bucerius is equipped with a high bandwidth connection to the internet; multimedia presentation equipment in lecture halls and classrooms support learning at the school; and students can use the internet via wireless LAN connections after registration of their WLAN card.

The library offers different academic databases for student use (WestLaw, LexisNexis, Juris, to name a few). Several copy machines are also available. The library's holdings include over 200 legal periodicals, and should a book or document not be available in the library, it also has an extensive interlibrary loan network.

Students at Bucerius have 24-hour access to the library with their identification card⁶.

IX. Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The Bucerius Law School facilities (excluding the library cupola) are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with Associate Dean Christine Marx or the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. They will then contact Bucerius to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Bucerius cannot offer housing for any of its students, but will do their best to assist all exchange students in securing suitable accommodation for their time in Hamburg. There will be a limited number of rooms and apartments which their outgoing students will sublet while abroad on their own exchange programs.

XI. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

Tuition is the same as the tuition at Boston University School of Law. Participating BU Law students will pay Boston University the normal tuition for a semester at BU Law. Housing in Hamburg is generally slightly less expensive than Boston. Eating out, entertainment and transportation are approximately the same as in Boston, if not slightly more expensive.

Bucerius informs us that students should plan to budget at least €5,000 for their semester in Hamburg. The breakdown of expenses is approximated as:

- Rent: €1,600

⁶ Information on the library and facilities at Bucerius is cited from www.law-school.de.

- Food & clothes: €1,100
- Liability insurance: €50
- German residency permit: €50
- City registration: €10
- Books & course material: €200
- Travel & other expenses: €1,400
- Gym membership: €50

XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Hamburg, Associate Dean Christine Marx and/or Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person.

B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for Germany, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Hamburg area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

In General – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

Area of Instability – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE)**. This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

Travel Warning – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for Germany, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

XIII. Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not require a visa to study in Germany, but must obtain a residency permit once in Germany. Applications for a residence permit require the following documents:

1. Valid passport for the full duration of your stay
2. Two application forms
3. Two passport photos
4. Proof of financial support (proof that the student is able to support him/herself financially for the duration of the program) – due by July 15th
5. Proof of health insurance for your full stay in Germany – due by July 15th
6. A birth certificate for any accompanying children, if applicable

Full details on all of the above requirements are available on Bucerius' website at www.law-school.de under "Prospective Students," "International Program" and "Administration."

XIV. Program Reports

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Office of Graduate and International Programs:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.