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## Study Abroad Program Information Package Fall 2017

### Important Dates:

- February 21, 2017  
BU Law application deadline
- Late March, 2017  
Course descriptions posted online
- April 15, 2017  
Bucerius Law School application  
deadline for Fall 2017
- April 30, 2017  
Approval notification
- June 1, 2017  
Deadline to submit Response Sheets  
online
- June 1 – July 15, 2017  
Housing: available sublets from Bucerius  
students posted online
- July 15, 2017  
Deadline to submit visa papers and papers  
for German bank account
- August 8-15, 2017  
Course pre-registration online
- September 4-6, 2017  
Orientation Program (mandatory)
- September 7- December 22, 2017  
Semester dates
- October 23-27 & December 18-22, 2017  
Exam periods

To receive 12 BU Law credits, BU Law students are required to take a minimum of six classes, including one required course, "Introduction to German Law – Survey Course." (Students may also receive credit for writing an independent paper with a Bucerius faculty member, though this is subject to the availability of an appropriate supervising instructor and the approval of this arrangement by Bucerius's program administrators.) Students who are fluent in German can select from and/or audit any of the school's German-taught courses.

Students interested in taking German language classes may do so at an additional cost. These courses do not count towards your J.D. at BU Law, nor do they appear on your transcript.

None of the grades for the Bucerius semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (including the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

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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 2017.
- B. Credits: The program is designed to grant participating students 12 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. In addition, for an additional cost, Bucerius offers German language classes during the program, which stretch over 20 lessons (2 x 90 minutes a week). A placement test / interview takes place during the Orientation Program.
- 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 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 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' approximately 90 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 curriculum<sup>1</sup>.

## B. The City of Hamburg

Hamburg, Germany's second largest city, is known for its beauty. It boasts 2,302 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 metropolis<sup>2</sup>.

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 center 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 Sea<sup>3</sup>.

## 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> This information is cited explicitly from the Hamburg Tourist Bureau's website: [http://international.hamburg.de/index/1.2709.JGdlbz0zJA\\_00.html](http://international.hamburg.de/index/1.2709.JGdlbz0zJA_00.html).

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

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 Fall 2017.

C. Program Dates

Orientation:	September 4-6, 2017 (mandatory)
Session I:	September 7– October 20, 2017
Exam Session I:	October 23-27, 2017
Study trip:	Post Exam October 29-November 2, 2017 (Berlin & Potsdam, optional)
Session II:	November 6- December 15, 2017
Exam Session II:	December 18-22, 2017

You will be expected to arrive in Hamburg in time to attend Orientation on September 4-6, 2017. You will likely want to arrive considerably before orientation to secure your housing arrangements (if you have not already done so prior to your arrival). All international students are required to remain in Hamburg through December 22nd 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. On this trip, students usually visit culturally, historically and politically significant sites in Berlin and Potsdam.<sup>4</sup>

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' 90 partner institutions. Students study alongside approximately 80 visiting students from around the world, making the program itself an experience in internationalism. Courses offered during the fall 2014 semester included:

- Business and Economics of Law Firms: Cross-Border Edition
- Business Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Business Skills: Finance and Accounting for Lawyers
- Business Torts
- Comparative Criminal Law
- Comparative Law
- Corporate Governance
- Corporate Law
- EU Consumer Protection Law
- Global Trends in Intellectual Property and Digital Media Law
- International Banking Transactions
- International and Comparative Competition Law
- International Conflict of Laws
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Commercial Transactions
- Introduction to Comparative Intellectual Property Law
- Introduction to German Law – Survey Course
- Introduction to Law of the European Union
- Introduction to White Collar Crime
- Lawyering in a Globalized World

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<sup>4</sup> This study trip is optional and has an additional cost of approximately €300

- Negotiation
- Practical Aspects of Mergers and Acquisitions
- The Private Law of International Trade

The list of courses to be offered during the fall 2017 semester will be similar to the list above, with slight variations. Information on additional courses offered through the LL.B. curriculum will become available on the Bucerius website at <http://www.law-school.de/international/prospective-students/international-exchange-program/>

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.

Participants also have the option of enrolling in a module of specialized courses intertwining law, economics and management to earn a Certificate in Management and Leadership for Lawyers from the Bucerius Center on the Legal Profession. Sample topics include business skills for lawyers, mediation and lawyering in a globalized world. Additional information on this course of study will be provided to participants prior to the start of the fall semester.

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 become available in late March, 2017.

#### 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](http://www.bu.edu/law/jd/studyabroad), and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Assistant Dean John Riccardi and Associate Director Maureen Tracy Leo scheduled through the Graduate and International Programs Office.

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 21, 2017.

\* 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 April 15, 2017. The application can be found at <http://www.law-school.de/international/prospective-students/international-exchange-program/>. A complete Bucerius application includes:

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) A brief statement of purpose
- 3) A current CV or résumé
- 4) A nomination letter or an e-mail from the home university confirming that student has been selected to apply for the International Exchange Program at Bucerius (due on April 1, 2017).
- 5) A transcript of grades in English or German from the current university, including a description of the grading system and, if possible, the student's class rank
- 6) One passport-sized photo (electronic or printed)

Should you be accepted to participate in the Bucerius exchange program, the Graduate & International Programs Office will facilitate this application process.

## 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 Director of the International Office is Kasia Kwietniewska. Her contact information is:

Director of the International Office  
 Bucerius Law School  
 Clifford Chance International Office  
 Jungiusstr. 6  
 20355 Hamburg  
 Germany  
 Email: [kasia.kwietniewska@law-school.de](mailto:kasia.kwietniewska@law-school.de)  
 Phone: +49-40-30706-109

In addition, both Annalena Galle and Sabrina Henning are available to provide visiting exchange students with administrative assistance. Their contact information is:

Annalena Galle  
 Assistant Director of the International Office (Outgoing Students)  
 Phone: +49-40-30706-264  
 Email: [annalena.galle@law-school.de](mailto:annalena.galle@law-school.de)

Sabrina Henning  
Programs Coordinator (Incoming Students)  
Phone: +49-40-30706-113  
Email: [sabrina.henning@law-school.de](mailto:sabrina.henning@law-school.de)

## 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 card<sup>5</sup>.

## 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 Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. He will then contact Bucerius to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

## X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Bucerius Law School does not have on-campus housing, but it tries to secure rooms in several nearby dormitories in Hamburg. Bucerius Law School also provides visiting exchange students with assistance in finding suitable off-campus accommodations. Often German Bucerius students studying abroad during the same semester sublease their apartment or room to international students. Further housing options and relevant information are provided by Bucerius once students are accepted to the program.

## 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.

Bucerius informs us that students should plan to budget at least €6,375 (or \$7,950 based on December 2014 conversion rates) for their semester in Hamburg. The breakdown of expenses is approximated as:

Expense	Euros
Rent	€2,000

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<sup>5</sup> Information on the library and facilities at Bucerius is cited from [www.law-school.de](http://www.law-school.de).

Food & clothes	€1,400
Insurance (health and liability)	€170
Visa/residence permit	€111
Books & course material	€175-225
Travel & other expenses	€1,400
German course (optional)	€150
Gym membership (optional)	€50
Study trip to Berlin (optional)	€260
<b>Total Approximate Cost</b>	<b>€5766/ (approx.) \$6,100</b>

Any participant who plans on traveling during their semester in Hamburg should budget significantly more than \$8,000 for their time in Germany.

## 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, 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

The most current Consular Information Sheet on is available on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov/>. If an Advisory is issued before you 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 via email and phone. If, based upon the information conveyed to you, you wish to cancel your enrollment in the program, you will have an opportunity to do so. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately by phone and email and given an opportunity to withdraw.

### C. Specific Program Cancellation Information

- This study abroad program may be subject to cancellation by the host school in the event that conditions in and around its location may endanger the health, safety or security of its participants or others.
- In addition, addition, Boston University reserves the right to issue an instruction that all University faculty, staff, or students evacuate or not travel to a given location when, in its sole judgment, conditions have changed to the extent that continued participation in an



activity at that location endangers the health, safety or security of participants. Were this to occur, this program will be cancelled.

- BU Law will notify participants by email immediately of the program's cancellation and will post an appropriate announcement on the program's current student web page.
- If the program is cancelled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full any fees paid to Boston University related to the program (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 cancellation takes place while the program term is underway, students 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 of cancellation), or completion of the semester's study at BU 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.
- If a faculty, staff member or student does not heed a University instruction to evacuate, that individual does so at his or her own risk, may forfeit insurance coverage, academic credit, tuition payments or expense reimbursement, and may be held responsible for additional expenses incurred by the University due to the individual's refusal to follow this policy.

### XIII. Visa Information

All non-EU citizens must obtain a student visa / residency permit for their stay in Germany. Depending on their citizenship, some students will need to apply for an entry visa to Germany in their home country prior to their arrival, which they will need to extend once they are in Germany for their studies. Others will be able to enter Germany as a tourist and apply for a student residency permit once they are at Bucerius. Accepted students receive detailed immigration information as well as assistance with the process of extending or applying for a residency permit in Germany. Nonetheless, students are required to make any necessary inquiries at their local Germany Embassy or Consulate in a timely manner before their studies begin.

Detailed information on visa requirements is available on the Bucerius website at <http://www.law-school.de/international/prospective-students/prepare-your-stay/>. Please note that while the Graduate & International Programs Office at BU Law is happy to assist students accepted into this program with immigration matters, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to work with the International Office at Bucerius in order to obtain the documents required for study in Germany.

### 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 Graduate and International Programs Office:

1. Completion of a mid-semester written report, assessing their experience in light of their academic goals
2. Completion of a completion survey, assessing their academic objectives and academic
3. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experience

Students will not receive academic credit without submission of these materials.