BUCERIUS LAW SCHOOL
HOCHSCHULE FÜR RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT

BUCERIUS LAW SCHOOL
FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

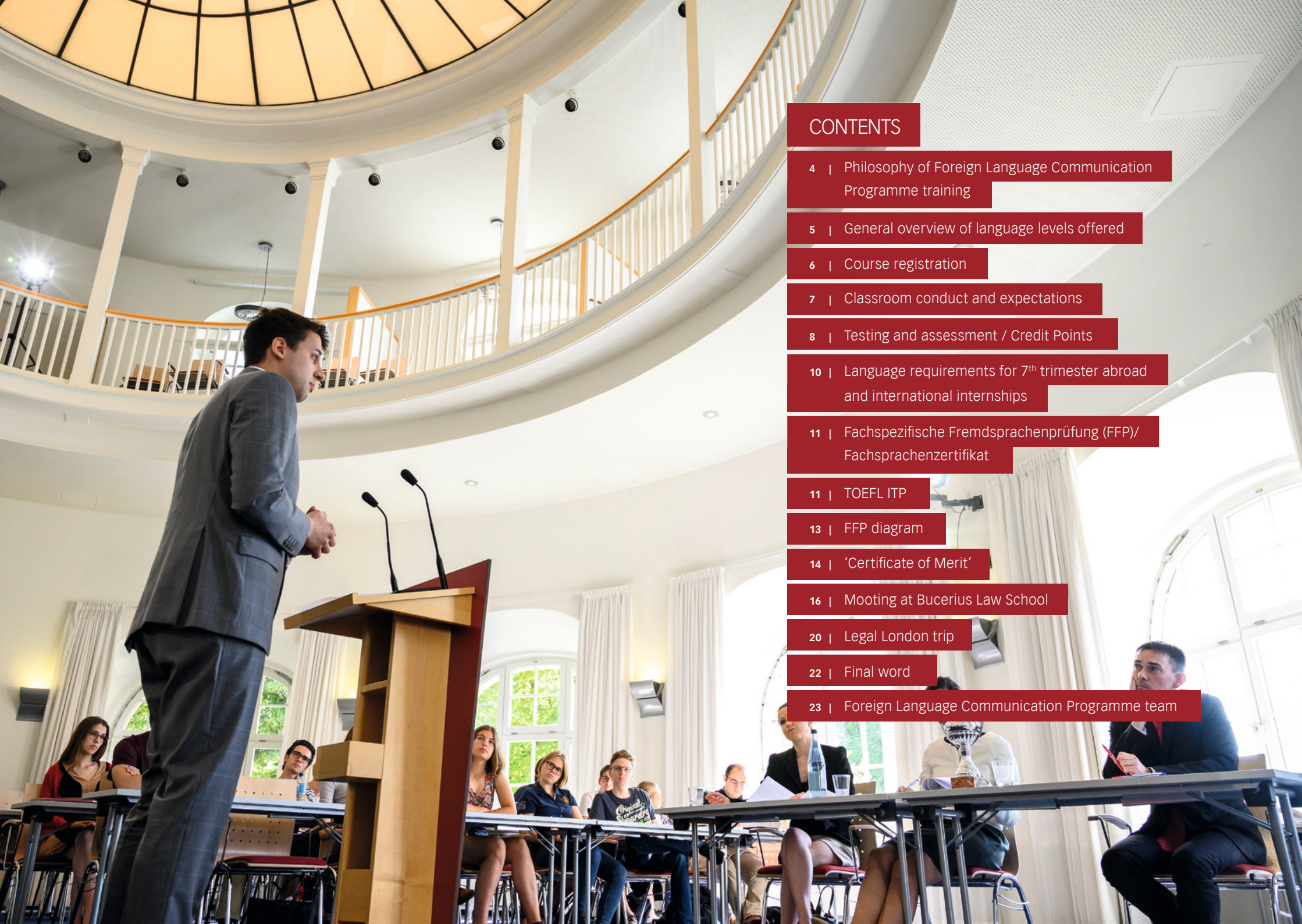








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PHILOSOPHY
FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME TRAINING

Bucerius Law School offers legal language training to fulfil its mission of providing practically oriented legal education with an international outlook. The language training is designed against the backdrop of globalisation and with regard to the fact that today's young lawyer is increasingly required to work across national borders. In addition, Bucerius Law School students often plan careers with international organisations, political institutions or in diplomacy.

Our immediate focus in the programme is to prepare you for the 7th trimester abroad, legal internships and, more importantly, the world of work, by providing you with the tools and skills you may need in your professional life. To this end, you will undertake authentic tasks which simulate communication with foreign colleagues or clients while engaging in activities such as discussion, mooting, negotiation, writing or legal research. In this way, you will also acquire the terminology and conceptual insights necessary for professional life. At the same time, you will experience other legal cultures, especially the common law as practised in England, the United States of America and most English-speaking jurisdictions. These insights into the 'mindset' of foreign lawyers are essential to the practice of law in an international context.

We hope you enjoy our courses and invite you to work with our teachers to continue to shape the programme.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF LANGUAGE LEVELS OFFERED

Language courses are offered on three levels

Advanced (Legal Language) – these courses include the English courses, as well as Cours de Français Juridique I & II and Español Jurídico. They also enable you to qualify for a language proficiency certificate ("Fachspezifische Fremdsprachenprüfung").

Intermediate – Français Intermédiaire and Español Intermedio are designed to improve your fluency and hopefully improve your language to the point where you can participate in advanced courses. We do not offer French and/or Spanish courses at a beginner level.

Beginner/Elementary – Chinese and Arabic. We have a limited number of courses offered at the beginner or elementary level, as legal studies at Bucerius Law School are demanding and there may be little time to learn and master a language from beginner level during your degree.



REGISTRATION FOR COURSES

- Registrations for all optional language courses end before the start of the trimester, deadline is set by Studiengangmanagement.
- Once the **registration deadline has passed**, you **can no longer register or de-register** from our language courses.
- **Failure to deregister** from any courses during this time frame will mean you will need to participate in the course and complete all the requirements, **failing which you will be graded "0"**.
- **NOTE: Please note that due to oversubscription in some courses, we act on a "first-come, first-served" basis.** This means that we will close the course as soon as it has reached its maximum number of participants. Some courses are over-subscribed even before the trimester starts, so be sure to register for courses as soon as they open for registration. Should an oversubscription occur, the IHMAS system will select and reject students based on an automated point system. (Please refer to Studiengangmanagement for more information on the point system.)



CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

- When studying a foreign language, it is necessary to practise communication consistently, rather than simply reading and learning concepts. For this reason, **regular attendance is required** in all of our courses, and attendance sheets are distributed for students to sign in each class. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences, **you will automatically fail the course.**
- You are **expected to be present for the entire class.** Do not arrive late or leave early. Doing so can be very disruptive for the teacher and other students, and may have a negative effect on the lesson planning. In exceptional circumstances arriving late may be excused, particularly under emergency circumstances, but you should be prepared to explain your tardiness to the instructor after class. Likewise, the need to leave early should be explained to the instructor before class. **You will be marked absent if you miss the first 15 minutes of class or leave early.**

Absences

- Inform the teacher in advance if you know you are going to miss a class. Also, take responsibility for obtaining missed assignments from other students. Do not expect that you will be allowed to make up work, such as unannounced quizzes or tests, after an absence. Teachers are not responsible for re-teaching the material you missed because of your absence.
- **NOTE:** Familiarise yourself with the attendance requirements for your course. **If you have more than 3 unexcused absences, you will automatically fail the course.**

Classroom

- You are expected to behave in class in a way that is civil and courteous to others. You must refrain from behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn. Do not carry on side conversations in class. Do not eat or bring food into the classroom. Clean away all litter and do not leave any rubbish in the classroom when the lesson is over.

Devices

- You may not receive or make telephone calls during class and must refrain from using your phone, computer, tablet or similar devices for browsing, games, texting or other purposes during class time.

TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

- The information below is a summary of the main points in the official university examination regulations and language programme regulations (Richtlinien des Fremdsprachenprogramms). As a student, **you are responsible for reading through the necessary official university rules and regulations.**
- Assessment of student performance in courses is partly oral and partly written.
- Oral performance will be assessed generally in class, and also when you are asked to give presentations or take part in moots or negotiations.
- Written performance is assessed in a variety of ways, usually by setting essays and other written assignments.

NOTE: You are required to pass ALL components of assessment in order for you to receive a final grade, including:

- **attendance,**
- **oral performance,**
- **written tasks, and**
- **exams (oral and written).**

No attendance certificates (Hörerschein):

In the interests of the best use of resources, language courses are tested as a matter of principle. No credit of any kind will be given for courses where you fail to take the written test. All students who are registered for courses are required to pass all components of assessment in order to pass the course and receive a final grade for it.

CREDIT POINTS

- **1 credit = 1ECTS**[1] and is equivalent to **30 notional study hours**, which includes class time and homework (for example, assignments, preparation, and so on).

[1] European Credit Transfer System



LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

7th trimester abroad

The following advice is offered to help you plan and prepare for the 7th trimester abroad.

Although the decision about where you study abroad is yours, Bucerius Law School will ask that you meet certain language requirements, where necessary, to satisfy particular exchange universities or institutions offering internships.

Certainly, you will need adequate foreign language skills to benefit from legal studies in the 7th trimester at the foreign university of your choice. Certain exchange universities may also have their own language requirements.

Depending on the language you will use abroad, we generally require you to complete:

- **For English:** one **Foundational Legal English course** (2 CP) and one **Skills-Based Legal English course** (1 CP) with a third Legal English course of your choice recommended.

or

- **For French/Spanish:** 3 courses Français Juridique / 3 courses Español Jurídico by the end of trimester 4

International internships

Similar language considerations apply to the second internship (Vertiefungspraktikum).

It is also possible for you to do an internship abroad rather than in Germany. Here, the language requirements are likely to be more demanding than for study. It is quite likely, for example, that you will be interviewed over the telephone in the foreign language before receiving the internship place.

Assessing your language skills is often an individual matter, and we will do our best to assist and advise you.

BUCERIUS LAW SCHOOL
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATION (FFP)

Bucerius Law School offers a Fachspezifische Fremdsprachenprüfung (FFP) in English, French or Spanish. The FFP is intended to mark a high level of achievement in legal language at the end of your studies at Bucerius Law School.

Regular legal language classes in English, French (Français Juridique) and Spanish (Español Jurídico) taught in the Language Programme count as 20 hours each.

All other courses taught entirely in English at Bucerius Law School, other than in the Language Programme, are classed as advanced level and count towards the minimum number of hours.

FFP (Fachspezifische Fremdsprachenprüfung)

Very good knowledge and professional competence: 'Excellent language user'
Requirements: 190 hours of advanced language instruction, including at least half at Bucerius Law School (including translation/research paper), and courses taken during the 7th trimester abroad. Oral and terminology exam.

Ordinary Proficiency Certificate (Fachsprachenzertifikat)

Good knowledge and competence: 'Good language user'
Requirements: 100 hours of advanced language instruction, including at least half at Bucerius Law School (including translation/research paper), and courses taken during the 7th trimester abroad. Oral and terminology exam.

Instead of the English Legal Translation course, you can submit a Research Paper. If you choose this option, you will need to take "Legal Writing and Research" in trimester 6 and attend the "Research Proposal Seminar" in trimester 8.

External Examinations

TOEFL ITP (Institutional TOEFL): The TOEFL ITP exam is offered to prospective students who wish to study at Bucerius Law School and require an English language proficiency certificate to verify their English language proficiency as an application requirement (see Bucerius Law School website for further information).



FFP DIAGRAM
ENGLISH / FRENCH / SPANISH

TRIMESTER 1
No English / French / Spanish courses offered

TRIMESTER 2
- optional English courses
- Français Juridique I
- Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 3
- optional English courses
- Français Juridique I
- Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 4
- optional English courses
- Français Juridique I
- Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 5
- optional English courses
- Français Juridique II
- Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 6
- optional English courses
- Français Juridique II
- Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 7
Abroad

TRIMESTER 8
- English Legal Translation
- Traduction de Français Juridique II
- Traducción Español Jurídico

(20 hours each)

TRIMESTER 9
- Oral exam
- Terminology exam



‘CERTIFICATE OF MERIT’
RECOGNISING THE TOP-PERFORMING STUDENTS

The Department may issue a “Certificate of Merit” in Introduction to Legal English and Foundations of Contract Law. The award is given to students who have achieved excellence in their study of the course. Usually granted to the highest-scoring student based only on the final grades, in some trimesters it may instead be given to a student who otherwise exemplified outstanding and particularly impressive academic excellence throughout the trimester, or in some trimesters it may not be given at all. The decision whether there will a recipient and who it will be is at the sole discretion of each lecturer in conjunction with the Director.



MOOTING AT BUCERIUS LAW SCHOOL

Mooting is an age-old common-law tradition used as an intense intellectual and adversarial exercise to train students for careers in law. Students compete by presenting opposing sides of a legal question or case as though they were before an appeal court. Mooting technique forms an essential part of language teaching at Bucerius Law School, and there are special courses offered during your studies.

Bucerius Law School Common Law Moot

Students are encouraged to participate in the annual Bucerius Law School Common Law Moot, which is open to first- and second-year students. The competition enables participants to hone their legal advocacy skills in a formal "courtroom" setting, and is excellent training and preparation for the international mooting competitions.

International Competitions

Kirkland & Ellis Mooting Center

The Kirkland & Ellis Mooting Center is the first contact for information on all the Moot Courts at Bucerius Law School. Their aim is to support the participation of our students as well as coaching the existing Moot Teams and networking with the International Mooting Competitions.




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LEGAL LONDON TRIP

The annual Legal London Trip is offered to first-year LLB students and takes place after the second trimester of studies. It is a fantastic way to consolidate learning from the introductory courses offered by the language programme and to introduce students to legal practice. Students are exposed to a breadth of commercial and judicial organisations at the heart of both the United Kingdom and international legal practice, such as the courts, law firms, Inns of Court, and alternative dispute resolution. They also enjoy an evening theatre visit.

















FINAL WORD –
COMBINING LANGUAGES WITH LEGAL STUDIES

Learning foreign languages is essential in the modern world – a lawyer without foreign languages is becoming inconceivable.

At the same time, language study at Bucerius Law School needs to be carefully balanced with the study of law. Given the intensity of the law programme and the extramural activities offered, this may be a difficult task.

We ask you to consider your workload very carefully in your first few months at Bucerius Law School and to create learning strategies to make the best of the language training offered. Naturally, we would be happy to advise you individually on this if you wish.

How is the Bucerius Language Programme designed to meet your needs?

- Our language training is intended to be enjoyable and a break from legal studies.
- Class sizes are small to encourage extensive interaction between trainers and students.
- Legal language training is taught by experienced native language professionals with legal and business backgrounds.
- Language tests are designed to be low on stress, and activities are designed to be practical, requiring active participation, consistent attendance and regular learning.

We trust that this brochure provides you with the necessary information. We encourage you to visit the Bucerius Law School website for further information. Please feel free to speak to the team directly if you have any questions concerning the programme.

Kind regards,



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