Dear ERASMUS student,

Welcome to the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna!

Below, you will find useful and important information about your contact persons, the selection of courses, academic terms and your Learning Agreement.

**Contact Persons**
The ERASMUS Helpdesk and Prof. Marboe, who is your Departmental Coordinator during your ERASMUS stay at the University of Vienna, are in charge of the academic assistance to ERASMUS students. All administrative tasks are assumed by the International Office of the University of Vienna (http://international.univie.ac.at/incoming-students/erasmus/).

**Course directory online**
The Faculty of Law offers a large variety of courses. They include compulsory and elective courses, general and specialised courses, lectures, practical exercises, moot courts, seminars, excursions and others. Most of the courses are eligible for ERASMUS students. Please note, that the Faculty of Law does not operate on a “Bachelor – Master” system. After four years of studies, students graduate as “Magister iuris”.

The courses offered at the Faculty of Law are contained in the “Course directory online” on the website of the University of Vienna (www.univie.ac.at/en/home). You can find it among the “Quick Links” on the right side of the screen or directly under the following link: http://online.univie.ac.at/vlvz?lang=en&extended=Y. You can browse any of the actual and past winter and summer semesters (“Wintersemester” and “Sommersemester”). The law courses are listed under “3.01 Diploma Study of Law” (Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften).

Please note that the course catalogue is not finalized before mid-September for the winter semester and mid-February for the summer semester. However, the courses vary only slightly from year to year. If the course catalogue for the semester(s) of your stay in Vienna is not yet finalized, you can choose from the courses of the most recent winter or summer semester, which will give you an indication of the courses that will be offered during your stay. Please, note that the programmes of the winter and the summer semesters are different. The academic year at the University of Vienna is divided into two semesters of four months each. The winter semester runs from 1 October to 31 January, the summer semester from 1 March to 30 June.

**Course Information**
You can find general information on the courses such as number of ECTS, language of instruction, course dates, exams etc. in the Course directory online. For most courses, you can also find a course description under the link “Further information” in the directory. Unfortunately, course descriptions are not available for all courses. In case you cannot find a course description in the Course directory online, please visit the website of the respective department (Institut). After you arrival, more information will be available on the department’s notices (“Aushang”) on a board at the entrance of the respective department. The “Aushang” also contains more detailed information about the course, exams, date of first meeting etc.

**Guidelines for the Selection of Courses**
Most courses offered at the Faculty of Law are eligible for ERASMUS students. There are, however, some exceptions and recommendations which you find below. Please, follow these guidelines when completing your Learning Agreement for your ERASMUS stay in Vienna.

**Various modules**
At the Faculty of Law, different modules can be distinguished: compulsory modules and elective modules. In addition, there are so-called “Complementary Study Programmes” (Extension Curricula - EC).
1) Compulsory Modules - Pflichtmodule
Courses offered for the “Compulsory modules” (Pflichtmodule) are listed in sections 1 to 3 of the course catalogue. Please note that lectures (VO) and (compulsory) practical exercises (PF, UE) listed in these sections are generally not suitable for ERASMUS students. The reason is that, for lectures (VO), there are usually no exams, and compulsory exercises (PF, UE) have restrictive admission criteria. However, ERASMUS students may choose courses (KU) and seminars (SE) from the compulsory modules list as well as those lectures (VO), which are characterized by the addition “Continuous assessment of course work” and lectures in public international and European law.

2) Elective Modules - Wahlfächer
Courses for the “Elective Modules” (Wahlmodule) are listed in section 4 of the course catalogue. You will find a wide range of subjects covered here. The courses in the elective modules are highly recommendable for ERASMUS students. The same is true for the “Courses Not Tied to Any Stage of the Degree Programme” (Abschnittsunabhängige Lehrveranstaltungen), which can be found in section 5 of the course catalogue. One exception is the elective module on Mediation (section 4.13) which is not recommendable for ERASMUS students, as there are restrictive admission requirements.

3) Extension Curricula (EC)
In addition to compulsory and elective modules, “Complementary Study Programmes” (Extension Curricula - EC) are offered at the Faculty of Law. These programmes are designed to allow students from other faculties to gain insight into a variety of legal fields. EC courses are offered under the heading of “3.03. Complementary Study Programmes”. Most of the EC courses at the Faculty of Law are open to ERASMUS students.

**Types of courses**
At the Faculty of Law, different types of courses are offered: lectures (VO), courses (KU), (compulsory) practical exercises and case studies (PF and UE), seminars (SE), repetition courses (RE), conversation classes (KO), Moot Courts (MC), excursions (EX) and practical work courses (PR).

**Lectures - Vorlesungen (VO)**
Lectures contribute primarily to impart the main content, structure and methods of the respective subject. Generally, lectures take place two hours per week and are attended by a rather large number of students. For most lectures it is not necessary to register and attendance is not mandatory. Please note that usually no exams are organized for lectures and therefore no credits can be awarded for attendance. Lectures are therefore generally not suitable for ERASMUS students. However, lectures which are characterized by the addition “Continuous assessment of course work” can be attended by ERASMUS students, as the performance of each student will be assessed (e.g. through an exam) and credits will be awarded. Please note that this applies only to a small number of lectures. Another exception are lectures in public international and European law (see below).

**Courses - Kurse (KU)**
Courses are classes with the characteristics of lectures, but involve more opportunity for discussion and interaction. Students are expected to prepare each class through reading material and to participate actively during lessons. Most courses are elective subjects and therefore highly recommendable for ERASMUS students.

(Compulsory) Practical Exercises, Case Studies - Übungen/Pflichtübungen, Klausurenkurse (PF, UE)
The aim of this type of course is to train the practical application of the subject matter. Cases are solved by using the theoretical knowledge gained during lectures. In order to successfully complete the course it is generally necessary to pass one or two written exams (Klausur) and to actively participate during lessons. Practical exercises are usually offered for compulsory subjects. Generally, only a restricted number of participants is admitted and profound knowledge of the subject is required. Even if you are able to attain a place, it is extremely difficult to pass the written case study exam undertaken at the end of the course. Therefore, practical exercises are not recommended for ERASMUS students.
Seminars/Diploma Seminars - Seminare/Diplomandenseminare (SE)
In seminars, specific questions in the respective field of law are discussed on a scholarly level. Therefore, solid general knowledge of the subject is required, or in any case recommendable. Participants are generally asked to prepare written papers and to give oral presentations. For diploma seminars additional requirements have to be met. Seminars are very intensive and usually require a lot of work. Therefore we do not recommend choosing more than one seminar per semester.

Repetition Courses - Repetitorien (RE)
Repetition courses are organized to give students the possibility to prepare intensively for exams and are usually held shortly before the examination period. They cover all relevant topics for the respective exam and deal with particularly difficult questions. In order to obtain maximum benefit, students already need to have a profound knowledge of the subject. Repetition courses are not recommended for ERASMUS students.

Conversation Classes - Konversatorien (KO)
This type of course aims at intensifying the students’ knowledge on specific topics. They consist of lectures as well as discussions. For a successful completion students need to contribute actively during lessons, complete assigned homework or pass an exam. Conversation classes are recommended for ERASMUS students.

Working Groups - Arbeitsgruppen (AR)
Working groups are organized as an introduction to scientific co-operation in small groups. Working groups are recommended for ERASMUS students.

Excursions - Exkursionen (EX)
Excursions should deepen and exemplify the knowledge gained in class. Excursions are recommended for ERASMUS students.

Moot Courts (MC)
Students have to represent, as a team, a legal position in a (fictitious) trial and participate in an (international) Moot Court Competition (Philip C. Jessup, René Cassin, Willem C. Vis, European Law Moot Court, ELSA Law Moot Court, etc.). They are required to prepare memorials and pleadings in English and/or French. Moot Courts are a lot of work but very rewarding. Students get specific experience and expertise in the respective subject. They learn how to write memorials in English and/or French, to work in a team and to plead in front of a court or tribunal. Moot Courts are recommended for dedicated ERASMUS students.

Practical Work - Praktika (PR)
A deeper insight into practical aspects of various legal professions shall be provided by cooperation of professors and lawyers of different fields. Practical Works are recommended for ERASMUS students.

Subjects particularly recommended for Erasmus students
As the subjects “Public International Law” and “European Law” are much in demand amongst ERASMUS students, there are some special rules and possibilities.

Public International Law
The lectures (VO) in German entitled "Völkerrecht I" (Public International Law I) in the winter term and "Völkerrecht II" (Public International Law II) in the summer term are part of the compulsory module on public international law. For ERASMUS students a specific exam is organised at the end of the semester, for which 5 ECTS credits are awarded. If the exam is not taken, no credits can be awarded (not even the 3 ECTS credits that appear in the course catalogue).

However, all courses listed under the heading of “1.4 Introduction to International Principles of Law”, including the lecture “Introduction into International Law”, are not open to ERASMUS students. The reason is, that these courses are offered for students in the second semester, who have to pass a large compulsory exam called “FÜM I”, which includes also other subjects. ERASMUS students cannot take this exam.
Numerous specialised courses on international law, mostly in English, are offered in the elective module “4.30.1. International Relations Law (Including International Organisations) - Core Area” and “4.30.2. International Relations Law (Including International Organisations) - Elective Area”. In these courses, ERASMUS students are very welcome.

Furthermore, the “Complementary Study Programmes” (3.03) include courses and conversation classes under the heading “International Law” to which ERASMUS students are also welcome.

**European Law**
All of the lectures (VO) in the module “European Law” are open to ERASMUS students. At the end of the semester, a specific exam for ERASMUS students can be arranged with the professor, for which 5 ECTS credits are awarded. If the exam is not taken, no credits can be awarded (not even the 3 ECTS credits that appear in the course catalogue).

In addition, numerous specialised courses on European law are offered in the elective module “4.17.1. European Law (advanced) - Core Area” and “4.17.2. European Law (advanced) - Elective Area”. In these courses, ERASMUS students are very welcome.

Furthermore, the “Complementary Study Programmes” (3.03) include courses and conversation classes in the area of European law under the heading “International Law” to which ERASMUS students are also welcome.

**Language of Instruction**
If you do not have enough knowledge of the German language in order to follow the courses, you can also take courses in English. Each course in the catalogue, which is held in English, is characterized by the addition “Language of instruction: English”. You can find all courses in languages other than German (most of them will be in English) listed under “Foreign Languages” (section 5.1) in the course catalogue.

**Registration Requirements**
Please look carefully at the specific registration requirements for the courses you would like to attend. The registration requirements may differ from course to course. You can find the requirements for each course under “Further information” in the course directory online. For some courses you may have to register via registration lists at the secretariat of the respective department or during the first course, for other courses online registration is required. Please note that registration deadlines may also differ from course to course. In general, however, make sure that you register no later than two weeks after the semester has started (i.e. 15 October or 15 March respectively).

**Learning Agreement**
Please note that you do not need to send us your Learning Agreement before you arrive in Vienna. The reason is that the course catalogue of the University of Vienna is usually only finalized a few weeks before the semester starts. We recommend that you draft a preliminary list of courses as long as you are still at your home university and that you use the information available about the past semesters in the “Course directory online”. After your arrival in Vienna, you can make your definite choice of courses based on the finalized course catalogue. As soon as you have completed your course registration and know which courses you have been admitted to, you can put together your final list of courses and the ERASMUS Helpdesk and your Departmental Coordinator can approve your Learning Agreement. Afterwards, your home institution should be asked to approve your list of courses as well. When completing your Learning Agreement, please clearly indicate the title of each course, as well as the respective course code and the type of course (SE, VO, KU etc.).

**ERASMUS Helpdesk – Cordula Steinkogler**
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