

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Bucerius Law School Program in International and Comparative Business Law Hamburg, Germany

One Cardozo students may study at Bucerius Law School each year.

The School

Bucerius Law School is the first private university for law in Germany. It was founded in 2000 with the goal of offering prospective law students an alternative to the usual legal education provided at German state universities. International exchange is an integral part of its curriculum, as all Bucerius students are required to study abroad for a semester at one of the 79 law faculties worldwide with which they have partnerships. Bucerius Law School is located in a beautiful historic building – newly renovated and equipped with the most advanced technology. A modern auditorium building and a library complements the campus. Bucerius Law School is centrally located – a short walk or bus ride from the city centre of Hamburg.

Location

Located in the north of Germany, Hamburg is the second largest city in Germany with a population close to two million. It has saved its specific hanseatic style combining beautiful old architecture and modern buildings. This vibrant city has much to offer: countless theatres and museums, a world-renown opera and ballet and soon a breathtaking new concert hall on the shore of the river Elbe. The city has a vibrant nightlife. 100 countries run consulates in Hamburg, indicating the city's importance in business and economy. Furthermore, Germany's largest international law firms have their offices here. With its international airport and four railway stations, Hamburg is well connected with other German cities and its European neighbours. Being the 2nd largest port in Europe, Hamburg is also just a stone's throw from the North and the Baltic Sea.

Calendar

Bucerius accepts exchange students in the fall semester only. Thus, the program is generally available to 3Ls only. At Bucerius, the fall semester is 12 weeks long including a 2-week exam period, and runs from early September to mid-December. The program is divided into two sessions, generally from early September to mid-October, and from early November to mid-December. A mandatory orientation program precedes the fall semester start.

Application

After receiving approval from Cardozo for study at Bucerius, the selected student must also submit an application to Bucerius, due on April 15. The application is available on their website at <http://www.law-school.de/exchangeprogram.html?&L=1>

In addition to the application form, a completed application consists of:

1. A completed application form (available online as of January),
2. A brief statement of purpose (approximately 1 – 2 pages explaining student's areas of special interest, why you wish to study at Bucerius, previous international experience, etc.),
3. A nomination letter or an e-mail from home university confirming that student has been selected to apply for the International Exchange Program at Bucerius,

JAN-23

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

4. 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) to be used for a student directory and student id card.

The Office of Graduate and International Programs will forward these items to the exchange coordinator.

Language of Instruction

Courses will be held in English and students are also welcome to sit in on regular classes, if their knowledge of German allows. In addition, two German language courses are offered.

Courses

All exchange students are required to take a survey course in German Law. Other courses in English center on international and comparative business law, and have in the past included courses in Alternative Dispute Resolution, European Intellectual Property, Comparative Law, Cross-border Activities and Transactions, EU Consumer (Protection) Law, International Conflict of Laws, International Commercial Arbitration, International Trade Law, and White Collar Crime. See their website (<http://www.law-school.de/international/prospective-students/international-exchange-program/>) for updated course listings and descriptions. Most of the courses run in intensive three- or four-week sessions, though some run for the whole fall semester. Approximately 18 – 20 courses are offered during the semester. Students generally take a total of 6 – 7 courses.

Credit

Courses at Bucerius are listed with both ABA credits and ECTS credits. Courses are either worth 2 ABA / 4 ECTS credits or 1 ABA / 2 ECTS credits. Bucerius Law School has set a minimum course load of 4 ABA credits per session. The German Law Survey course is mandatory. Although credits can be earned with the German Law Survey Course, the credits do not count toward the minimum requirements of 8 ABA credits during the program. Cardozo students must register for at least 12 ABA-credits and will receive 12 credits of transfer at Cardozo. In order to receive credit, students must submit their proposed course selections in writing to the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs prior to departure, and must confirm their final registration as soon as it is done and while there is still opportunity to make changes. The acceptance of any credit or grade for courses taken at Bucerius Law School is subject to approval, and any changes must be communicated immediately to the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs.

Credit will be awarded only for courses in which you receive a grade of "C" or better. No credit will be permitted for any courses taken on a Pass/Fail or Pass/No Credit basis. Courses taken for transfer credit may not be duplicative of courses you have taken or will take at Cardozo. Only the credits and not the grades will transfer per ABA requirements, and the grades will not count toward honors and awards (such as graduation prizes or degree rankings such as cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude.)

JAN-23

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Registration

- At Cardozo
Once approved, students must register during their regularly scheduled registration time for 12 credits of generic study abroad through the Office of the Registrar. Registration must be done in person, via fax to 212.790.0241 or as a pdf attachment to brookdaleregistrar@yu.edu. The fax or pdf must include the student's name, Student ID number, a request to register for 12 credits of study abroad with the name of the host institution, and the student's signature.
- At Bucerius Law School
Students pre-register for course online. Some courses have limits, so students are not guaranteed entry into every course.

The International Student Office will send information via email with instructions in selecting courses and registering online.

Evaluation and Grading System

Exam type is determined by the course instructor. Exams may be in-class (open book, closed book or limited open book) or take-home. Some faculty assign group projects.

Letter grades are used. The grading corresponds generally to the following scale:

Grades transferrable to Cardozo		Nontransferrable grades	
Excellent	A-range	Failing	F
Very good	B-range	Pass	Not transferrable to Cardozo
Satisfactory	C-range (C or better is transferrable; C- is not)	Audit	AU
		Incomplete	INC
		Withdrawal	W

Transcript

Students must request **two** copies of their official transcript to be sent to Graduate and International Programs, 55 Fifth Avenue Room 1007, New York, NY 10003 prior to departure from the program. It is good practice to request a personal copy as well for your records.

German Language Instruction

Bucerius offers German language courses during the program. The classes stretch over 20 lessons (2 x 90 min a week). The instructors are all trained teachers of German as a foreign language. The German courses will be offered at four levels and come at an extra cost. The placement test/interview will take place during the Orientation Program.

Credits earned for language study are **not transferrable** to the Cardozo degree.

Extracurricular Activities

Academic studies are balanced by a selection of interesting extracurricular activities, such as guided tours in and around Hamburg, visits to museums, lectures on the German political system and current political situation, an excursion to Lübeck, a study day at the International Tribunal for the Law of the

JAN-23

CARDOZO LAW

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW • YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Sea and several social events with Bucerius students, all of which are free of charge. An optional five-day trip to Berlin and Potsdam is offered during the one-week study break at an additional cost. Exchange students are also welcome to participate in the numerous student activity groups on campus, including music, political and sport groups.

Housing

Bucerius Law School provides assistance in finding suitable accommodation. Bucerius Law School does not have on-campus housing, but it tries to secure rooms in several nearby dormitories in Hamburg. Accepted students receive information on applying for dormitory housing in May. A limited number of apartments and rooms will be available on a sublet basis from Bucerius students, who leave for their semester abroad in the fall. Rent varies greatly, it could be anywhere between EUR 300 and EUR 650 per month depending on size and location.

Housing options and relevant information are provided once students are accepted into the program. See <http://www.law-school.de/68.html?&L=1> for further information.

Health and Safety

Insurance

To obtain a German student visa / residency permit, students need to have health insurance covering them in Germany for at least EUR 30,000 for the duration of their stay. They can purchase an affordable health insurance plan through Bucerius Law School or provide proof of their own insurance, provided it meets the minimum requirements set forth by the German Immigration Office.

International SOS

Students studying abroad are required to register with International SOS, a 24-hour international medical, security and travel assistance program, which provides local expertise, advice on medical and security pre-travel issues, and emergency assistance during critical illness, accident, or civil unrest. It is also a one-stop repository for all of your important information, including passport number, emergency contacts, medical history, and so on. Registration at

<http://www.internationalsos.com/MasterPortal/default.aspx?membnum=11BYSG000013>

is in two steps:

1. Activate your record: This is registration of your name, passport information, and emergency contacts. You should also include medical history and upload important documents (including a copy of your passport) here.
2. Register your trip: This is where you put details of your travel outside the United States.

Cost of Living

Bucerius estimates that one semester, including housing, insurance, transportation and food, will cost approximately 5400 euros.

Visas

All persons who wish to study at a high school, college or university in Germany are required to obtain a residence permit. Citizens of the United States of America may apply for their residence permit after entering Germany without a visa. You must check on the Bucerius website (<http://www.law-school.de/68.html?&L=1>) to see the list of items you must bring in order. For the most current information about visa requirements, please see the website for the German Consulate General in New York at http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/consular_services/visa/study.html

JAN-23

CARDOZO LAW

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JAN-23