

Erasmus policy statement

As an ERASMUS university, Bucerius Law School is obliged to publish a statement on university policy within the ERASMUS framework. The following text was issued in 2020; for current information, please visit our website, www.law-school.de.

An important component of the educational approach taken at Bucerius Law School is seated in our institution's international focus. Internationality is a guiding principle of the Law School and anchored firmly in its profile. Intercultural and foreign language skills, as well as involvement in international projects, are sought, supported and undertaken by students and employees alike. Internationalization is evident in several core areas: in international and comparative (legal) course content, international research activities of academic staff, active support of young academics from abroad, international study programs and our global network of partners. Twenty years after the founding of the Law School, these core areas are to be further expanded and modernized as, more than ever, jurisprudence is called upon to treat differing legal systems in combination with the cultural and historical backgrounds that underpin them.

Digitization plays a central role in the strategic orientation of the Law School. Bucerius celebrated its first steps on this path in having successfully implemented the use of exam software. Lecturers have been trained to offer seminars and lead study groups online as required. With the establishment of our Learning Innovation Lab, which seeks to promote blended learning among our students, the groundwork for further action has been laid. The ERASMUS program provides support and inspiration for such projects. ERASMUS offers a stable network of like-minded institutions and a platform for cross-border cooperation—be it in the sense of classic partnerships for exchange of students and (academic) staff or joint (research) projects.

The range of experience and expertise of network participants makes ERASMUS a valuable resource for every HEI that sees itself as a European university. Under the umbrella of the ERASMUS program, we are jointly pursuing the goal of long-term and sustainable global and modern teaching and research while producing cosmopolitan citizens with a keen interest in actively shaping the future.

Due to the size and teaching orientation of Bucerius Law School, ERASMUS activities focus primarily on student mobility, area KA 1. The Bucerius curriculum offers a holistic approach to international education. Learning (or deepening knowledge of) foreign languages and acquiring an understanding of foreign law—in theory and practice—serve as important focal points. In addition, a compulsory trimester abroad is an integral part of an individual's legal training at Bucerius Law School. Each year, we achieve one hundred percent mobility for study purposes. Our network of over 90 partner universities, 22 of which are ERASMUS partner institutions, offers students a wide range of destinations and areas of interest (regional, linguistic and professional). The continuous expansion of this network, especially into new regions, and regular assessment of existing partnerships provide the basis for international student exchange. Owing to lively collaborations, we are pleased to welcome students from partner institutions to our campus each autumn for participation in our four-

month exchange program in International and Comparative Business Law, which is conducted entirely in English. Participants hail from an average of 23 countries. Beyond the academic content offered by coursework, students are invited to join a range of extracurricular programming in which elements of German and European culture are conveyed. Both incoming and outgoing experiences are evaluated on an annual basis and students are invited to share successful models and practices from abroad with university management and the International Office—valuable suggestions which hold great potential in further development of the Law School.

In addition to student mobility, staff mobility (for continuing education and training purposes) is a component of the internationalization and modernization strategy. Within the expiring generation of programming, Bucerius was able to carry out its first instances of staff mobility, which proved enormously enriching for both the employees and Law School as a whole. The opportunities for staff mobility offered both sides new insight and motivation in approaching administrative structures while strengthening partnerships with novel forms of collaboration. The momentum from this undertaking is to be expanded in the new generation of programs.

Goals for the new generation of ERASMUS programming are as follow:

- Continued one hundred percent mobility among students with a focus on promoting Europe as an attractive study destination
- Close-knit, high-quality support provided by the International Office for both outgoing and incoming students
- Further publicizing the topic of staff mobility and conducting at least two instances of staff mobility per year
- Expansion of the European network by ideally adding a new partnership each year
- Prompting implementation of ERASMUS digitization measures to remove inter-institutional hurdles
- Exchange on matters of sustainability and digitization; putting this on the agenda