

Bucerius Law School: Hamburg, Germany (BLS)

a. General Information

Founded in 2000 by the ZEIT-Stiftung, one of Germany's largest, private, non-profit foundations, Bucerius Law School is the first and only 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' more than 80 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. Bucerius Law School is located in a beautiful historic building—newly renovated and equipped with the most advanced technology. A modern auditorium building complements the campus. The Hengeler Mueller Library at Bucerius, as well as the Freshfields Bruckhaus 3 Deinger IT Center are open 24 hours/7 days a week. Wireless Internet access is available on campus. Almost all Bucerius Law School facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

b. The Exchange Program

The program is specially designed for law students, from the law schools' impressive network of 88 partner universities in 30 countries, wishing to deepen their understanding of the forces shaping international business law. Students gain insight into the day-to-day practice of international commercial law from experienced professionals working in the field. The program offers a unique opportunity for the participants to expand their knowledge of German, European and international law. The courses are taught solely in English. In countries (such as the United States) where law is studied at a graduate level, applicants must have completed at least one year of study at a law school at the time the program begins. In countries (such as Germany) where law is studied at a university level, applicants must have completed at least two years of their legal education.

The program will take place from September 3 to December 18, 2009 and is divided into two sessions, each session lasts six weeks and is followed by a one-week exam period. Students who participate in the program will study alongside about 90 students from around the world who are also spending the fall semester at Bucerius. The program provides for a professional and personal international background and is the ideal place to exchange legal and cultural perspectives from different countries.

c. Academic Calendar

Bucerius Academic Calendar 2009.pdf

d. Language of Instruction

Bucerius Law School offers a one-term, English-language International Exchange Program each year from September to December.

NOTE: Although the law courses are offered in English, students are encouraged to study German to increase their understanding of the country and its culture. For this reason Bucerius offers optional German language courses.

e. Eligible Courses

See section f.

f. English Language Courses

A tentative course list for the International Exchange Program 2009 is now available online: <http://www.law-school.de/69.html?&L=1>

g. Academic Requirements for Admission to Exchange Program

At least two years of previous law studies when law is studied at a university level and at least one year of previous law studies when law is studied at a graduate level.

h. Standard Course Loads

The International Exchange Program is split into two sessions of six weeks with an exam week following each session. Some courses only last for one session, other courses last for the duration of both sessions. Most courses are worth 2 ABA credits.

Students may select as many courses as they want, but are required to take a minimum of 4 ABA credits per session, and thus 8 ABA credits during the International Exchange Program.

The German Law Survey course is the only mandatory course that all international exchange students are required to take.

Bucerius advises students to take an extra course in case they do not pass all of their exams.

i. Course Enrollment and Registration

Students pre-register for their courses on-line. Once students have been accepted into the International Exchange Program they will receive a log in and password for the intranet. A tentative course list for the International Exchange Program 2009 is now available online: <http://www.law-school.de/69.html?&L=1>. Course descriptions will be posted online on May 15, 2009. Between July 20 and August 2 students must select the courses they want to take.

Course selection is carried out at Bucerius' intranet site. Some courses are limited to a maximum number of participants.

Once students have arrived and the exchange program has begun they can add and drop courses according to certain deadlines. These deadlines will be thoroughly explained to the students during the orientation program which takes place 9/3-9/4/09.

j. Grading System

With rare exceptions, courses are graded based on students' performances in the final exams. Exams will not be graded on a curve.

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.

k. Application Procedure

- The completed online application form (Please note: You only need to submit the application form online!), which you can find after January 1, 2009 at:
<http://www.law-school.de/222.html?&L=1>
- A brief statement of purpose,
- A letter or an e-mail from SLS confirming that you have been selected to apply for the International Exchange Program at Bucerius,
- A transcript of grades from SLS,
- One passport-sized photo (electronic or printed).

Please mail your application to:

Ms. Kasia Kwietniewska
Director Clifford Chance International Office
Bucerius Law School
Jungiusstr. 6
20355 Hamburg
Germany

l. Application Deadline

March 31, 2009.

m. Housing Information

Bucerius is not able to offer on-campus or dormitory housing to any of its students. A limited number of apartments and rooms will be available on a sublet basis from Bucerius students. They leave for their semester abroad in the fall. Rent varies

greatly, anywhere from EUR 200 to EUR 650 per month depending on size and location.

Student accommodations in private dormitories can also be found throughout the *Studierendenwerk*. Dormitory housing is more affordable than apartment housing, but many dormitories currently have waiting lists.

In addition, Bucerius has worked out a cooperation agreement with the agency *City Wohnen* which offers contacts for interim housing. The agency charges a commission fee for on which Bucerius students will receive a 15% discount.

All contact data and additional information about the housing market in Hamburg, neighborhood descriptions, and the most common abbreviations in accommodation ads can be found at Bucerius' intranet sites. You will be able to access the intranet with a Bucerius password after the admission into the program (from June 1st onwards).

Bucerius Law School will post available sublets on their website (www.lawschool.de. Click on "International Program").

More information about housing in Hamburg can be found [here \(PDF\)](#).

n. Visa/Immigration Information

Visa and Residence Permit:

Residence Permit

US citizens do not require a visa to study in Germany, but must obtain a residency permit once in Germany. Applications for a residence permit require the following documents:

- Valid passport for the full duration of your stay (submit upon arrival)
- Two application forms (to be filled out with Bucerius' assistance during the Orientation Program which takes place 9/3-4/09)
- Two passport photos (which you should have already submitted with your Bucerius application)
- Proof of financial support (proof that you are able to support yourself financially for the duration of the program)
- Proof of health insurance for your full stay in Germany
- Birth certificate for any accompanying children, if applicable (submit upon arrival)

Full details on all of the above requirements are available on Bucerius' website at <http://www.law-school.de> under "International Program" and "Administration." If you have additional questions regarding residency permit, please contact Kasia Kwietniewska at kasia.kwietniewska@law-school.de.

Financial Affidavit

The Immigration Office requires proof that you have sufficient funds to meet your educational needs and cost of living during your stay in Hamburg. For this purpose you need to submit a Financial Affidavit.

In compliance with the regulations of the Immigration Office are the following sources of subsistence acceptable: personal savings, family support or financial aid/scholarships from other institutions. In each of these cases you need to provide supporting documentation:

- **Personal Savings:** Enclose an official and original bank statement signed by a bank official certifying that you have sufficient funds for your living expenses in Germany. The amount certified needs to be at least \$4,200 for your entire stay in Germany.
- **Family Support:** Enclose a formal obligation from someone in your immediate family who is willing to support you during your stay here (e.g. parents or spouse). This "Formal Obligation" form is available and has to be written and signed in a German embassy. The person who is willing to support you will need to prove that he/she possesses sufficient funds, e.g., bank statement, salary statement, tax declaration, etc. The support amount certified by your family needs to be at least \$910 x the number of months of your stay in Germany.
- **Financial Aid/Scholarship from Government Agencies, Private Foundations, Bank, etc.:** Enclose an official and original letter specifying the amount and availability of funds.

o. Fees

Students will pay their normal tuition to Stanford for the quarter during which they study at Bucerius.

p. Estimated Cost of Living

Below is an estimated chart of expenses that may be incurred during your time at Bucerius Law School. However, please note that students' requirements can vary significantly, depending on how much is spent on housing, travel and living expenses.

Overall amount: €4,940

Details below:

- Housing: €1,600
- Food & clothes: €1,100
- Health insurance: €130
- Liability insurance: €50
- German residency permit: €50
- City registration: €10
- Books and course material: €200
- Travel and other expenses: €1,400

- German course (optional): €150
- Study trip to Berlin (optional): €250

*If you plan on traveling around Germany or Europe during your exchange, you will want to budget more to cover additional expenses.

It will make your life much easier if you have a German bank account during your stay at Bucerius. Because it is not always possible to open an account for only 3 or 4 months, Bucerius has made an arrangements with their house bank to allow you to have an account and a euro cheque card (like a debit and ATM card) ready and waiting for you when you arrive here in Hamburg, without the hassle of having to apply for an account on your own.

q. Health Insurance Requirements

Health/Liability Insurance:

For visa purposes, you must show proof that you have health insurance which covers you in Germany. You can purchase travelers health insurance in the U.S. or ask whether your current policy covers you while abroad. Bucerius can assist you in getting coverage under an affordable German insurance policy. The policy satisfies the German requirements for the residence permit. Coverage costs approximately EUR 25 per month, and would be pro-rated.

r. Program Contacts/Advisors at Bucerius

Bucherius University Contacts/Inquiries:

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