

**Highlights****Certificate Program****Erasmus+****Sneak Preview****Meet our new research associate**

My name is Niklas von Estorff, and I joined the Center for International Affairs in March 2025 and started my PhD. Last year, I completed my First State Exam with a focus on international law and was part of this year's Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court team at the RUB. This experience deepened my passion for international law and sharpened my legal reasoning and advocacy skills. At the German National Rounds in Leipzig, we achieved quite a success by reaching the quarterfinals and earning multiple awards for our work.

In my free time, I am actively involved in politics in my hometown of Castrop-Rauxel, being a member of the Committee for Economic Development and Digitalization. Additionally, as a member of the Leo-Club Castrop-Rauxel, I take part in various social engagements and activities for people in need. At the Center for International Affairs, I will primarily be responsible for the Anglo-American Certificate Program and will be teaching the core courses "Introduction to American Law" and "US Constitutional Law." I'm very excited to get started!

Internship and LL.M. at the University of Cincinnati

Maybe you always dreamed of staying abroad in the U.S. to get an impression of the special American campus experience with a unique community feeling, academic challenges in a foreign legal system and of course a broad range of athletics teams. For two students of our law faculty this dream now becomes reality through an internship at the Ohio Innocence Project at the University of Cincinnati!



The University of Cincinnati was founded in 1819, is located in the beautiful and thriving city of Cincinnati, Ohio, with an award-winning urban campus. More than 53,000 students are enrolled at this university (more than at the Ruhr University Bochum!), which is ranked among the 200 best universities worldwide and 68th best in the U.S.

Exclusive internships at the Ohio Innocence Project
Last year the law faculty of the Ruhr University Bochum concluded a quite special cooperation with the University of Cincinnati. Two students were offered an exclusive internship in the Ohio Innocence Project beginning on 25th May 2025. The Ohio Innocence Project is part of the global innocence network, and its goal is to "free every innocent person in Ohio who has been convicted of a crime they didn't commit". Fortunately, the International Office awarded the possibility of a travel grant via the PROMOS funding program for the two new internees at the Ohio Innocence Project.

LL.M. at the University of Cincinnati

For those, who are interested in staying at the University of Cincinnati beyond an internship and wishes to specialize in American Law can apply for the at least nine-month LL.M. program of the University of Cincinnati. The specialties of this master's program are the personalized support with small class sizes and the practical approach: As LL.M. student you get the exclusive opportunity to attend practice observations at courtrooms and law firms. Additionally, the master's program impresses with a wide variety of areas of study, for instance Business and Entrepreneurship Law, Criminal Law, Environmental and Energy Law, Health Law, Innovation, Technology and Intellectual Property Law, International Law as well as Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

LL.M. at the University of Cincinnati

A big thank you goes to Ms. Mieke Clincy, Program Manager at the Cincinnati Center for the Global Practice of Law, who kindly introduced both the Ohio Innocence Project and the LL.M. Program at the University of Cincinnati on 13th November 2024 here in Bochum.

If you are interested in the LL.M. program at this special university you are welcomed to reach out to us!



Exclusive interview with two of our certificate program participants



To get you an insight look of the certificate program we asked our new student assistants, who are both participants in the program, to tell you their motivation and experiences.

1. When and why did you decide to take part in the certificate program?

Sophie: I decided to participate in the certificate program during my second semester of law studies, after a fellow student informed me about it. The main reason I chose to join was my passion for learning in multiple languages, and this program offered an opportunity to incorporate that into a course of studies conducted almost entirely in German. Additionally, I believed that in an era of increasingly global interconnectedness, learning the technical legal language in English would be invaluable. I also saw this as a chance to deepen my understanding of how different legal systems function, enabling me to critically assess and reflect on our own legal framework.

Katharina: A class trip to London sparked my passion for English and international experiences, which grew during a stay in New Zealand and later fueled my desire to study in the U.S. At the same time, I found my passion for law which led to the decision of studying law in Germany. I was sure that there was a way to implement my interest in internationality and the U.S. into my degree in Germany, so before I started my studies here in Bochum, I collected information about possibilities to do so. Quickly, I came across the ZfI and their certificate program and I knew right in that moment that I wanted to participate. It

offers everything I was looking for at the time: the possibility to acquire profound knowledge of the U.S. American law and language of law and to practice and upskill my English. Whether or not I am going to fulfil that wish of going to the U.S. under the current circumstances, I am still glad that I decided to participate in the program. I learned a lot about the foundation of a foreign law system, was able to connect with other students based on our shared interest in internationality and I am sure that no matter where I decide to go, this knowledge will come in handy.

2. What was your favorite course? What did you particularly like or find interesting about the course?

Sophie: My favorite course was "The Reception of European and International Law in Mixed Legal Systems: Cyprus," taught by Professor Shaelou from the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus. It stood out to me because we were a small class, which allowed for open discussions and the opportunity to ask questions freely. Before the course, I had very little knowledge about Cyprus, let alone its legal system.

In addition to studying German civil law and exploring common law in other certificate courses, this course provided me with a fresh perspective on a mixed legal system, which was fascinating and enriching.

Katharina: I cannot really pinpoint it to one course in particular, as my favorite part about the courses was to understand the interlacing of the historical development of the U.S. Constitution, its content and the people's need for fundamental rights and progress. I quite enjoyed the synergy between U.S. Constitutional Law I and II. Not only did I acquire the knowledge that was imparted during the lectures, I also got a better understanding of why the U.S. handle things the way they do. In addition to that I greatly enjoyed U.S. Intellectual Property law as the lecturer gave a good insight into an economical topic that is not only important in the U.S. but also in many other countries. With many cases and examples of how trademark infringement can take place and why Vanilla Ice was important for the course, I was enamored throughout every lecture.



Zentrum für Internationales Jura

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Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program in EU and EEA Law in Bergen

We are happy to announce that since last year the University of Bergen offers a Master of Laws program in EU and EEA Law. The English program always starts in autumn with a duration of three terms and allows you to not only gain an in-depth knowledge of EU- but also EEA law. This makes the University of Bergen's LL.M. one of a kind!



The LL.M. program prepares you for a future academic career and a career as a practitioner as it focusses both on theoretics and practical EU/EEA legal issues. The lectures and seminars will mostly take place in the Faculty of Law in Bergen, located on the hillside of the Bergen University Campus. Fortunately, applicants from the EU, the EEA and Switzerland are exempted from the fees for the LL.M. program.

The program might be particularly interesting for all of you who stayed abroad at the University of Bergen via Erasmus+ already or are planning to do so. Why? Because there is a special credit option for you. Up to 30 ECTS-points of those courses you participated in can be counted for the Master's program. Additionally, it will be assumed that you meet the English skills requirements. Finally, if you already participated in LL.M. courses during your Erasmus+ stay in Bergen you can, at the end of your term, directly apply for the LL.M. program. We encourage all of you to apply for the next term in order to deepen your knowledge in EU- and EEA Law as well as experiencing staying abroad in the beautiful city of Bergen.

Updates regarding the Erasmus+-subsidies and travel allowance



There are exciting updates regarding the funding of Erasmus+-stays - the foundation for your stay abroad. The Erasmus+-subsidies were adapted according to changes in cost of living. Both in countries with low and medium costs of living you will now get 540 Euro per month as support. In countries with high costs of living there will be a support of 600 Euro per month. Partly, there was a change of the allocation of the countries to the different groups of countries to make sure that Erasmus+-students get the appropriate financial support for their stay abroad. If you are a student with fewer opportunities there is a top up for individual support of 250 EUR/month.

Further, since 2025 you will get a travel allowance for both short- and longterm Erasmus+ stays. The travel allowance is calculated with the EU-Distance Calculator (feel free to try yourself: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator/>) and ranges between 26 and 1.735 Euro. Additionally, there is a special amount granted for green travelling varying between 56 and 758 EUR, to contribute to common sustainability goals. The travel to your destination country falls under the category of "green travel" if 50 % of your arrival and departure route is made via train, bus or car sharing. So, do not miss this opportunity!

Group 1 (high costs of living)	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden Also special case: United Kingdom	600 EUR/month
Group 2 (medium costs of living)	Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, Cyprus	540 EUR/month
Group 3 (low costs of living)	Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Turkey	540 EUR/month

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English-Language Course Catalogue Summer Term 2025

Title of the Course	Name of the Professor	Course ID Number	Mode	Day	Time	Registration Deadline
Introduction to American Law	Mr. von Estorff	Nr. 060520	Face-to-face	Monday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	06.04.25 23:59
US Constitutional Law I: State & Governance	Mr. von Estorff	Nr. 060521	Face-to-face	Tuesday	noon - 2 p.m.	07.04.25 23:59
Introduction to International Arbitration	Mr. Wuschka	Nr. 060536	Face-to-face	10. - 13.06.25	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	02.06.25 23:59
U.S. Intellectual Property Law	Mr. Hanrahan	Nr. 060526	Zoom	Tuesday	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	07.04.25 23:59
International Dimensions of Law	Prof. Dr. Thiede	Nr. 060527	Podcasts	Friday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	03.04.25 23:59
Analytical Legal Philosophy	Prof. Dr. Magen	Nr. 060013	Face-to-face	Monday	12.15 p.m. - 1.45 p.m.	06.10.24 23:59
UK Constitutional Law	Mr. Provan	Nr. 060534	Face-to-face	19.05. + 26.05. + 02.06. + 16.06.2025	8.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	11.05.25 23:59
Law & Global Challenges	Prof. Dr. Kaltenborn	Nr. 060532	Face-to-face	Tuesday	noon - 2 p.m.	06.10.24 23:59
International Legal Dialogue	Prof. Dr. Winde	Nr. 060360	Hybrid	LS Windel	LS Windel	Individual Application no later than April 17, 2025 until 23:59
Brexit: Constitutional and Political Perspectives	Dr. Marcou	Nr. 060543	Face-to-face	16.06. + 17.06. + 18.06. + 18.06. + 20.06.2025	noon - 2 p.m. + 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. + 8 a.m. - noon + 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. + 8 a.m. - noon	09.06.25 23:59

Registration is open in eCampus! | For updates please visit our website

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