

## ***PAIRING LAW AND BUSINESS***

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### ***Overview of the Master of Law and Business Program***

In today's global economy, companies and organizations are regularly confronted with international issues that involve both legal and economic aspects. Because they lack the fundamentals necessary for a comprehensive analysis of these challenges, managers as well as lawyers often are unable to reach optimal solutions to these issues. To meet this need, Bucerius Law School and the WHU -Otto Beisheim School of Management jointly offer a one-year, English-language Master in Law and Business ("MLB") program. The MLB combines numerous aspects of international business law with issues of international management. Course participants are systematically trained in both the legal and business fields and thus obtain a unique ability to analyze the ever-increasing number of international business issues that involve both legal and economic elements.

### ***Selection of Students***

Applicants to the MLB program must have successfully completed a first degree in law or economics. Prior professional experience is welcomed, but is not a prerequisite for participation. As all MLB activities are conducted in English, strong English language skills (as evidenced by TOEFL, IELTS or CPE scores) are required. Although participants need not speak German, the program does offer a basic course in German-language skills.

Program participants are carefully selected to create a dynamic and open-minded group representing different cultures and approaches to legal and business questions. Students come from all over the world, speak many languages, are members of numerous religious faiths and, as well as being lawyers, businesspeople and scientific researchers, participate in an extraordinary array of outside activities. Despite – or perhaps because of – this diversity, the students' motivation, enthusiasm and willingness to work together are striking. Bonding quickly in the challenging program environment, participants with a business background assist the legally-trained students in understanding economic and management concepts, while legally-trained participants aid their business colleagues in grasping the intricacies of legal analysis. In academic year 2007 – 2008, 45 MLB students come from 27 countries.

### ***Program Structure***

The MLB is a full-year program. After orientation in late August, the academic year begins with fall term (September to December). The fall term consists -as do spring and summer terms -of both a legal portion and a business segment. In the middle of fall term, a study tour to Berlin or Brussels affords participants the opportunity to gain personal experience with cultural and political elements of Germany and the European Union. The spring term (January to April) combines a six-week teaching block with an eight-week internship, in either a law firm or a corporation. The summer term (May to July) consists of six teaching weeks and plus an addition six weeks devoted exclusively to the final drafting of the master's thesis. Graduation takes place in late August.

The Degree of Master of Law and Business is conferred upon students who have been awarded 60 ECTS credits for the successful completion of at least 22 MLB law and business courses, the Studium Generale and a master's thesis, and who successfully complete an internship. Half of the 22 law and business courses must be law courses, the other half must be business courses. Each law or business course consists of approximately 15 hours of class instruction and counts for two ECTS credits. All modules offer a choice of courses so as to enable participants to tailor their course selections to their own academic background and professional interests. Most courses are taught at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg. Two Live-In weeks -one in the fall and one in the summer -give students the opportunity to attend classes at WHU and experience the atmosphere of the WHU campus by getting in touch with WHU students and joining WHU career services events, such as company presentations.

### ***Classroom Instruction***

Classroom instruction is internationally-and comparatively-oriented. Because international lawyers and managers are problem-solvers whose experience transcends national boundaries, participants learn to assess issues from European, North American, and other perspectives.

MLB coursework is designed to insure that all students have an understanding of the fundamentals of both international business law and international business concepts. The program addresses these fundamentals in the fall term.

### ***“Linked” Law and Business Courses***

A unique focus of the program consists of complementary law and business courses that provide an interdisciplinary approach to central issues in international business and law. (Please see attached page for information on these and other courses.)

### ***Internship***

An eight-week internship as an essential component of the MLB Program. The internship runs from mid-February to mid-April. It provides the participants the opportunity to move beyond the classroom and apply the knowledge they have gained in the first six

months of the Program to international business and legal practice. .Because the internship takes place in the middle, rather than the end, of the academic year, participants are able to bring to their summer term classes the insights that they have gained from their experience. In addition, the internship provides participants with insights that could be useful in the selection of their master's thesis topics.

The MLB Internship Coordinator actively assists the MLB students in procuring an internship. This assistance comes in many forms: helping students in contacting corporate supporters of Bucerius and WHU, offering sessions on preparation of internship applications according to German and international standards, providing group and individual coaching, organizing intercultural training sessions, and sending an MLB Program CV book to a large number of recruiters. Alumni contacts of both the Bucerius Law School and WHU are also actively used to assist students in their search.

In academic year 2007 – 2008, MLB students are interning at a variety of international corporations, law firms and international institutions in Belgium, England, France, Germany, Spain, Turkey, and the United States. Examples of internship providers include the law firms Allen & Overy, King & Spalding, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Lovells, Mayer Brown, Graf v. Westphalen, Linklaters, WilmerHale, and White & Case. Among the corporations providing internships are Deutsche Bank, Hapag-Lloyd, BASF, Lufthansa, T-Online, SUSAT & Partner, and Berenberg Bank. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and UNIDROIT are also among the MLB internship partners.

### ***Master's Thesis***

While practically-oriented, the MLB program is a graduate program that also emphasizes the importance of research. During the first six weeks of the summer term, participants work with faculty members in the choosing of a topic for their master's thesis. During that time, the students receive instruction in research techniques, including use of on-line databases and use of the Bucerius library and other libraries in Hamburg. When appropriate, participants are encouraged and assisted in combining the master's thesis with their experience during their internships. After the end of classes in summer term, the participants have another six weeks to devote to the drafting of the thesis.

### ***General Studies (Studium generale)***

Throughout the academic year, the MLB program is accompanied by an inter-cultural studium generale, consisting of regular lectures, seminars and discussion rounds on international political, business, religious and ethical topics. An example of the topics considered is the legal, economic and moral issues surrounding the procedure, offered by a California fertility clinic, that allows parents to choose, with virtual 100% certainty, the sex of their child. Many of the patents at the clinic come from countries, such as China and Canada, where such a procedure is illegal. Another central element of the studium generale is the presentations by the students of their home countries; these presentations are characterized by the pride the students take in explaining to their classmates about the legal, business, cultural and other traditions that are so very important to them.

### ***English-language Professional Skills***

The mastery of English-language skills is an essential element of both international law and international business. Thus, while only those applicants who already have a strong mastery of English will be admitted to MLB program, non-native English speakers who can use additional training will take part in additional instruction in English-language rhetoric, academic writing, contract drafting, and the preparation of legal and business memoranda.

More information: [www.bucerius.whu.edu](http://www.bucerius.whu.edu)