

THEMIS

The International Legal Network of Excellence

www.themis-legal.eu



THEMIS – A truly international experience



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Welcome 4

UNIVERSITIES



ESADE 6



Freie Universität Berlin 7



Università Bocconi 8



Université de Paris 12 – Val de Marne 9

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Carla Casals San Miguel 10

Salvatore Graziadei 11

Kirsten Leube 12

Federico Longobardi 13

Juliane Olga Moulganova 15

Anja Sasse 16

Joel Schroeder 20

Maria Chiara Toniolo 21

Prof. Gilles Cuniberti 22

Frequently asked questions 23

THEMIS

The International Legal Network of Excellence

THEMIS is a network made up of four top European Universities: Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi (Milan, Italy), Esade (Barcelona, Spain), Freie Universität (Berlin, Germany), and Université de Paris 12 (Val de Marne – Paris, France). These schools have come together to create a new standard in business law in response to an ever-increasing demand for law

professionals with international know-how and expertise.

The THEMIS program, offering a joint international certificate, was launched in September 2006. It is based on the ERASMUS LLP – Exchange Programme. Graduate-level law students who are selected to participate in this program will be given the opportunity to widen their intellectual and aca-



The THEMIS experience contains three core elements:

A semester abroad, an international internship and a seminar.

Semester Abroad: The semester abroad (Winter Semester) offers students the opportunity to acquire core knowledge and skills in an international context. The semester abroad starts in September or October and lasts usually until mid-February. Students will be selected in the spring and will spend the first semester of their following year abroad. While on the exchange, students will have the chance to create their own study plan by choosing their courses out of those offered by the Partner school and approved by the network. The course program is fully in English, but students may select further courses in the local language. A minimum of 24 ECTS is required.

Internship: The internship is considered to be an integral part of the THEMIS educational experience. The internship gives the student a chance to put their academic knowledge into practice and begin developing their professional career. The THEMIS partners strongly recommend international internships or internships conduct-

ed at home in an international environment (law studios, European organizations, multinationals). Students develop their ability to work in an international setting through their professional internships, creating a profile well-appreciated by international organizations.

INTERNSHIP DURATION

Internship must last minimum 3 months and maximum 12.

However, grants will be given for a maximum of 6 months.

Seminar: The THEMIS seminar provides students with a chance to delve deeper into an area of international law relevant to their academic career. The seminar will focus on a different subject each year and will be conducted in English. The program will be developed by professors from the Partner schools, local experts, and international faculty members. It will also provide the students with the opportunity to meet and share information with the fellow network participants. The seminar participation fee for the THEMIS students is approximately 250 €.

demical horizons by going on international exchanges, attending specialized THEMIS seminars, and participating in international internships.

Students who are selected to participate in the THEMIS network will obtain not only their local law degree (Laurea Specialistica degree from Bocconi, Licenciado en Derecho from ESADE, Diplom-Jurist by Freie Universität, Master en droit by Paris 12) but also the international THEMIS certificate. At the end of the program, upon fulfillment of all the academic requirements, the students will receive an international THEMIS certificate attesting to their unique educational and intercultural experience. This certificate will be awarded to the students when all course requirements have been met as well as all THEMIS program requirements: completion of a semester abroad, an internship (preferably international), and participation in the THEMIS program seminar. Students are required to take 30 course credits and obtain a minimum of at least 24 course credits during their semester abroad.

FUNDING

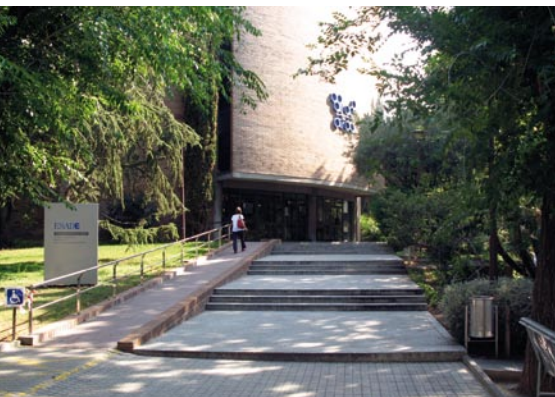
The semester abroad is funded by the EUROPEAN Union LLP – Student exchange Program (ERASMUS). Through the Student Mobility Placement Program, the Erasmus Program offers students the opportunity of receiving a monthly grant for the internships that take place in Europe. Please check the exact monthly amount with your local THEMIS-Office.

ELIGIBILITY

Here are the basic requirements that must be satisfied in order for students to be eligible to receive an Erasmus grant:

1. Knowledge of English sufficient to follow advanced degree law courses.
2. Knowledge of the internship working language (as required by the host institution);
3. Nationality of one of the EU member states or of the other countries participating to the program (i.e. 27 member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Hungary; 3 EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway; 1 candidate country: Turkey); in alternative the student may be a permanent resident in Italy, a refugee or a stateless person;
4. The intern must not have received any other Erasmus Student Placement or Leonardo da Vinci grant in the past, or receive any other EU grant for the duration of the internship
5. The intern must maintain the student status for the entire duration of the internship (either undergraduate or graduate).

For further details and application procedures please contact your local THEMIS office.



ESADE



Prof. Dr. Beatriz Añoveros,
International Relations Director
of ESADE Law School

ESADE is a modern, outward-looking academic institution, which contributes to the development of competent, critically minded individuals. Through its historical links with the corporate world and society, it has become a lively platform for debate and social involvement.

The ESADE Law School was established in 1992 in response to demand from the professional world for soundly trained jurists capable of rising to the new challenges of the legal profession. It also set out to become a centre where important legal issues could be examined and debated.

ESADE Law School is an educational institution which is recognised for its intellectual rigour, its critical awareness and its academic excellence.



Since its beginning, the Law School has been especially concerned with developing connections with members of the legal profession. It is the only Law School in Spain to have a Professional Council made up of representatives from all of the legal branches and from more than 30 internationally recognised legal firms.

ESADE has developed a pedagogical model of its own, in which the most diverse and innovative methodologies create a highly personal training project; a project in which the experience of learning is as important as its ultimate aim.

Research reinforces the natural mission of teaching, nourishing it with knowledge and contributing to its diffusion. The growing complexity of today's professional world and its organisations requires not only knowledge, but also the ability to use this knowledge.



More information: www.esade.edu

Freie Universität Berlin

Freie Universität Berlin is a leading internationally oriented university which always ranks among the Top 10 universities in German national comparison and always achieves first position in terms of the number of placements among the top ten universities in a range of rankings. Freie Universität offers more than 100 courses of study in all discipline groups of a classical full university.

Freie Universität Berlin is a leading research institution. It is one of nine German universities successful in all three funding lines in the federal and state Excellence Initiative, thereby receiving additional funding for its institutional future development strategy. Freie Universität can thus take its place as an "international network university" in the global competition among universities. The foundation of Freie Universität Berlin was facilitated through international support, and international impulses have shaped its research ever since. In order to survive, both on an academic and an intellectual level, Freie Universität established connections from its geographically position in West Berlin to organizations and personalities in Western



Germany, Europe, and the world beyond. What began as a necessity rapidly evolved into a successful strategy: currently, Freie Universität has over 130 partnerships with scholarly institutions worldwide. The university is a drawing card for international researchers.

The university's guiding mission derives from two sources. As one of the two successor universities of Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Freie Universität secured Humboldt's ideals for the city of Berlin in 1948, expressed in particular in the integration of teaching and research and especially in the principle of academic freedom. The second source is its founding act itself: justice, truth, and freedom were the guiding principles which the university was and is to serve. They are realized not least in the university's international orientation and the responsibility it entails for the world, in its openness for cooperation in and outside the Berlin region, and in its modern organizational structures.



More information: www.fu-berlin.de



Università Bocconi

Founded in 1902, Università Bocconi is one of Italy's most prestigious universities for economic, business, and law studies. Attention to cultural change, an international outlook, the courage to innovate, academic rigor and strong ties to Italy's entrepreneurial community were the bases on which Bocconi was built. For over a century now, it has played an important cultural role in Milan and Italy as an open, pluralistic institution that cherishes its academic and financial independence.

The University promotes both economic advancement and civic values, by providing students with solid intellectual and professional training, so that they can contribute to the innovation and development of Italian and European businesses. Accordingly, Bocconi is committed to nurture both an analytical and an ethical mindset in its graduates. Bocconi views culture and science as the cornerstones for the moral and economic renewal of Italy. Bocconi increasingly interacts with Europe and the world in a continuous process of international exchange and comparison that sustains the vitality of

all its initiatives. In keeping with the ideals of its founders, Bocconi University seeks to address the research and education needs of the national, European, and global economic system, by assiduously favouring cultural progress, international exchange, and economic integration.



*Prof. Dr. Giovanni Iudica,
Dean of the Faculty of Law*



Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi

More information: www.ir.unibocconi.eu



Université de Paris 12 – Val de Marne

Université de Paris 12 Val de Marne welcomes approximately 27,000 thousand students and offers nearly all the major disciplines. The Law Faculty is one of the most important of the University Faculties. Founded in 1969, it was known as "Faculté de Droit de Paris- Saint-Maur". Upon moving to new the premises not far from University headquarters, it adopted its current name of "Faculté de Droit de Paris 12". The Law Faculty welcomes some 3000 students each year, out of which a certain percentage come from foreign countries, primarily European (Erasmus students and students taking part in double diplomas programs organised with Great-Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain). The Law Faculty prepares students for the Licence Diploma (3 years) and the Master Diploma (2 additional years). Students may choose from seven Research Masters and fourteen Professional Masters dealing mainly with Business Law and European Law. These formations are given in collaboration with Law professionals (such as judges, barristers, and notaries...). Members of the teaching staff are well known in France and abroad.



More information: www.univ-paris12.fr

CARLA CASALS SAN MIGUEL

THEMIS 2006/2007

Freie Universität Berlin

I enrolled in the Themis programme that took place during the academic winter quarter 2007-2008, and chose the Freie Universität Berlin as my destination university, in order to get to live in this giant lively city and work on my language skills and my knowledge of International Law.

Spending your semester abroad at the Freie Universität Berlin gives you the chance to get to know this incredible european capital, and experience its singular nightlife, cultural offer, great parks and lakes, amongst many others; all at very economic prices.

Finding a place to stay is neither a problem, nor expensive, and the wide public transport net is enviable, and gets you to any part of this great

city comfortably and

»People are nice and always willing quickly. Museums, to help you and show you around.« theatre, restaurants,

clubs, etc. are also

far more than affordable, and the offer is never-ending.

Furthermore, the possibility of taking Law courses at the university in German or English is also great, and gives you the chance to use, practice and perfection both languages. Even for students who don't speak any German at all, it would give them the possibility to learn German extracurricularly and take all their courses in English, without having to pass on this wonderful offer of being able to experience this wonderful city.

Moreover, the university offers language courses for all levels, or you can ask the specific academic service to find you a "tandem-partner" which will contribute to mutual perfection of

your respective language skills and will give you the chance to meet native Germans or Berliners and "insiders".

Besides that, you will always have a reference person at the university which will make sure you have no problems during your stay and will be open for any of your questions, which can always come in handy when you are in a foreign country, or have any kind of bureaucratic or academic problem getting settled, or even later during the academic quarter. This person will also help you to find an internship in a law firm in Berlin if wished, which can be very good professional experience for the future.

The Freie Universität is also huge and has a beautiful campus, with an outstanding library. You will also be receiving a Newsletter in your mailbox from the university which will keep you updated on what's going on in Berlin, or you can choose to join any of the sport, dance, theatre, poetry and other activity groups which are organized for the students at a very symbolic price by the university. So you won't have to worry about getting bored!, besides the huge quantity of new people you'll be constantly meeting.

For those of you with a traveler spirit, Berlin is also very near by train to other beautiful German (Leipzig, Dresden, Hamburg...) and non-German cities (Prague, Krakow...), and you can travel within a short period of time to any of the many countries which have a common border to Germany.

For all the above given reasons, and many others, I strongly recommend the Themis Programm at the FU.

SALVATORE GRAZIADEI

THEMIS 2006/2007

Université de Paris XII – Val de Marne

I participated in the THEMIS programme in Paris in 2006/2007. The programme provided me with many opportunities both educationally and culturally. It is an experience which I always remember with pleasure. In fact, this was the first time that I lived abroad in a real international context.

The University in which the THEMIS programme takes place was Paris XII – Val de Marne University. I found this University to be a very comfortable place in which to study. In particular the faculty of law where I took all of my courses was very well organised and is located in a new building which is very functional. The classrooms are large, well-equipped and comfortable to listen to lectures and take notes. Moreover, the library was a wonderful place to study and meet new people.

Furthermore the University offers a wide range of courses. The quality of the offered courses was very high and the courses are very well taught. All of the courses were in French, so it was very important to have good knowledge of French. I organised my plan of courses so that I could take both international and French law courses. In particular, I chose international courses such as "Droit des étrangers", "Espace judiciaire Européenne" and "Droit de la concurrence Européenne" and French law courses such as "Droit public de l'économie". According to my personal experience, the mix between international courses and French law courses permits students to enter into a very international context characterised by French students and others International students who come from all over



the world. As a consequence of this, I had the chance to meet new people and learn about new culture.

Paris XII – Val de Marne University is located in Creteil, a little city near Paris. Students can decide to live in Creteil near the University or in Paris and reach the University every day by the metro. The Metro is very well organised in Paris so it is very simple to use.

I chose to live in the centre of the city. Paris is a very exciting city and a wonderful place to live. It offers a lot of cultural and enrichment opportunities. It is too hard to describe Paris in a few words, I can only say that my days spent in Paris were the best in my life.

Generally, I think that THEMIS constitutes a great opportunity for anyone that wishes to enter into an international programme, and in my personal experience THEMIS has been a great moment of cultural and personal growth.

KIRSTEN LEUBE

THEMIS 2008/2009

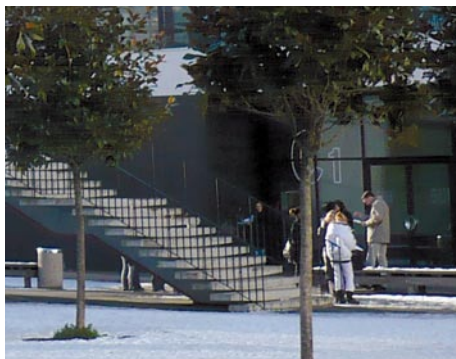
Université de Paris XII – Val de Marne

It was off to Paris for me when I decided to participate in last year's Themis program at the Université de Paris XII which is situated in Créteil just outside of Paris. During my stay in Paris I had the opportunity not only to get a sense of french culture, enhance my language skills and excel on a personal level but I was also able to get an insight into the french legal system and compare the french law student's life with what I am used to in Germany.

The law faculty of the Université de Paris XII offers a variety of interesting courses in French as well as in English. This gave me the possibility to take a glance at different areas of study. The class sizes are wide in range and can either be as low as twenty students, such as the class on "American contract law" or as high as two hundred students as in "droit des sociétés". In "Fondements du droit français" I was able to get a broad idea of the French legal system where one is guided from constitutional law over civil law to penal law all in one speedy semester. "Droit international privé" on the other hand gives the foreign student an excellent occasion to get introduced to the French perspective on international private law. The Themis program at the Université de Paris XII even allows students to take advantage of courses offered at the faculty for economic sciences. Finding one's way around the faculty and arranging classes might seem like a test at first but M. Pons who is in charge of all incoming students is always willing to give advice and will gladly assist with any problems whatsoever even on how to fix broken windows.

Not only university life brings adventures with it but also the city itself. Paris. What need one say more? For this reason I would recommend living in the city itself rather than in the outskirts. Public transportation is great in Paris which makes it easy to get from the city to the university. Apartments in Paris are a real adventure. From tiny apartments to grouchy room mates: one should be prepared to find most anything. But the city and its people itself make up for all of the minor inconveniences one might encounter. Paris bursts with culture, good food and eye-opening tidbits at every corner. My stay in the city of bon vivants was filled to the brim with intellectual outings, starting with a stroll to the Louvre, over to the Eiffel tower, a visit to the Opera or simply enjoying cocktails at Bastille, just to name a few highlights.

The semester abroad helped me not only to evolve intellectually by getting to know and experience a whole different legal system but also to understand a different culture and broaden my horizon.



FEDERICO LONGOBARDI

THEMIS 2008/2009

Freie Universität Berlin

On the south frieze of the Pergamon altar, superbly and magnificently reconstructed in the homonymous museum here in Berlin, Themis, the goddess of natural justice, is standing between her alleged father Ouranos, god of the Sky, and her sister Phoebe, goddess of Light: they, together with many other inhabitants of the Olympus, are fighting against the arrogant Giants, and the myth tells us that the former will succeed. It is self-evident that it is difficult to comply with such ideal, superhuman tasks and no one should expect the Themis program neither to be enlightened by a holy, celestial light nor to be a means of defeating ignorance and brutality. It remains to be assessed whether, on a far less ambitious ground, it reaches the goal of helping students in following the thoughts and values the original Themis intended to spread among human beings.

The Freie Universität is an outstanding cultural institution; it has its roots in the growth following the Second World War and in the project of affirming the values of freedom and liberty as opposed to the oppression of dictatorships. In this respect, it could well be the right place to let Themis come back to earth and get her message across to new generations.

The courses offered, especially (*but – note! – not exclusively*) to Themis students are focused on European Law, including, *inter alia*, Consumer Protection Law, Company Law and Contract Law. As far as I am concerned, I also decided to follow the course in *Römisches Privatrecht*, authoritatively and passionately held by prof. Cosima Möller, and the whole package is, all

considered, such as to convey a good basic knowledge of recent developments in EU law: the original Themis approach, extended outwards beyond all boundaries, is thus safe, at least in principle.

Some important features, however, are missing. First of all, Themis was the goddess of natural law, of equity, of fundamental principles, thus opposed to Nomos, god of Law: the time of *jus naturale* has surely passed and it would neither reasonable nor useful to teach it anew; however, I expected the program to help us understanding the common core of private law and so to identify some sort of basic principles of existing, positive laws. Unfortunately, the comparative element proved quite poor: the German view has been constantly represented as the most advanced or, at any rate, has deserved most of the attention by the professors. The active participation of students and thus their possibility to submit national, dissenting solutions have been confined to few minutes for each lesson: in my view, this depended on two concurring factors, namely the scarce time devoted to each course, in comparison with the subject-matter, and the (*rational?*) apathy of us students.

Moreover, Themis also held the prophetic oracle of Delphi, following Gaia and preceding Apollon: this suggests a rather obscure, problem-oriented approach, which – *absit iniuria verbis* – has been quite common in a considerable number of lectures and in some of the slides provided for self-study.

Finally, Themis was often represented on coins together with Athena, holding a scale and a cornucopia, symbols of balance and richness respectively. As the former feature is concerned, I must admit that the variety of courses and the free time available were well balanced, even tending in favour of the latter; with respect to richness, the suggestion is the same as above.

To sum up, if Themis happened to become a natural person for one single day, she would probably claim damages for harm to her own personality.

However, this does not mean that taking part to the Themis is pointless. In my view, there are four factors that should suggest to each of you to give it a second chance.



- (i) None of the defective features is permanent: attention to comparative law may be enhanced, active involvement of students may be achieved, for example by organizing *ad hoc* seminars or requiring papers to be submitted during the courses; moreover, depth of analysis may be obtained simply by increasing the number of lecture hours, from two to four per week.
- (ii) Berlin is an amazing city, full of history and capable of surprising those who walk across it; it is wide enough to require a whole semester to visit it properly, but it is not giant enough to force those who live there to waste hours and hours to go across it. If you love taking photos, please consider the opportunity to buy a new camera for this very experience: I will shoot a lot!
- (iii) The FU Law library is quite rich, especially if compared with the famous hall H of Bocconi library; it may be a good source for the so-called *Nachlesen* after your lectures, but it may prove even excellent if you happen, by chance or by (*honestly questionable*) choice, to write your thesis on international topics involving the German legal system.

Last but not least, it is worth recalling what the great German physician Max Planck once wrote: “*auch eine Enttäuschung, wenn sie nur gründlich und endgültig ist, bedeutet einen Schritt vorwärts*”. If it is so, why should you give up before having a try?

JULIANE OLGA MOULGANOVA

THEMIS 2007/2008

ESADE, Barcelona

Within the frame of my jurisprudence study at the Freie Universität Berlin I spent one semester of studying abroad in Barcelona in 2007/08.

The main capital of Catalonia is a fantastic city and exciting for all who are interested in art, nightlife, fashion and a uniqueness architecture which is significantly affected by Antoni Gaudí. Furthermore I enjoyed the sunny weather and the sea and I spent my first Christmas at the beach.

Besides I loved to get to know the university Ramón Llull de Barcelona which got a faculty of law with an excellent reputation and connections with leading international chambers.

The university has a great atmosphere, the classes are very small and you get easily in contact with students and professors. The profs are called by their first names, so you will get to know the “very British” Legal English teacher John and the open-hearted Yannis from Greece, he is teaching Competition Law.

Well, as you can imagine the interesting discussions between students from Spain, Italy, France, USA, Denmark, Sweden, Swiss and Germany are getting to very absorbing results.

Since many lectures in law are held in English for the Themis students, this semester abroad is a great opportunity to intensify the language skills, particularly in the field of jurisprudence which is nowadays an indispensable vocational condition for lawyers.

The Certificate in International and Business Law and the time in a foreign country is an ideal foundation for an International Master



in Law, it is great for your curriculum vitae but it is also an unforgettable experience.

Furthermore I recommend to those who decide to spend a semester in Barcelona not to miss the ESADE Spanish language course, which is quite important for the communication also for advanced speakers.

Finally it was fascinating to discover the Spanish educational system and student life, to become friends with people from all over Europe and to meet them in Paris during the Themis seminar.

ANJA SASSE

THEMIS 2008/2009

Université de Paris XII – Val de Marne

You need to face the fact, that Creteil is a part of Paris' *"banlieu"*. It is not at all the beautiful city of Paris or a nice little suburb. Luckily, the faculty is very modern and has the latest standards on everything (*even air condition and great, new classrooms*).

The semester starts quite early, officially the first week of September and you will have classes until the first week of December (usually! Other arrangements made in class, excluded). After that officially one week to *"prepare"*, one week exams and the vacation until January. Until the end of the second week, again, the possibility to write exams. The third week is the beginning of the summer term. Though, it can always happen that some exams will take place the end of January.

The cafeteria looks better then the food actually is, but that is a matter of taste and since we are pretty much spoiled with ours in Berlin, I should not focus on that. If you are hungry, be sure, you will not die starving, unless there are too many people sharing your needs.

In Paris, not only in the faculty, you need patience. Everybody seems to love standing in line and nobody complains about it. So it might happen, you are standing and waiting there for quite a long time with lots of people around you, until someone realizes, that either this line should actually not exist or, if you made it through, you are asked to please go to the other line right over there, since this is not the right one.

On the contrary, the library seems quite deserted. What stroke me most: closes after 19:00 during the week and does not even open the

week-ends. Nothing compared to our Saturday until 22:00 in Berlin! Though the books are quite new and they are not badly equipped, there is not a single book written in English. Also, there is no real need to go there, when you are in the first few years (until Master 1 or 2, depending on you ambition). The French teaching system is more that of a strict high-school. Students are sitting and listening/writing. At first you try writing everything yourself with your actual hand, but pretty soon you realize: I'd rather bring my laptop in order to really be able to write down EVERYTHING! It makes you feel very awkward. I always felt like on out of thousand little monkey typing the hell out of the poor little laptop... . But in the end, it should pay off, if you had the time to learn all these writings by heart. Since the professors will only asks the things they mentioned in class. Depending on the language, English should not be problem, but for the classed held in French there is no need to be scared asking the French students for their notes. It never happened that they refused that. In xxchange, you might have the *"joker"* of offering them your notes in English, since most French students have quite..., well, difficulties with that language. Mostly orally.

So, you learned everything by heart for the exams. Then, you should not be scared, since there is always the possibility of a *"ratrappage"* in the summer term. Additionally, the type of exams cannot be compared to those held in Berlin. Yes, you have to study a lot and it is not easy to sit down since you are in a different place and there is always something more interesting then



"la theorie quantitative" (economie politique) or *"la loi de police"* (droit international privé).

The exams are either *"oral"* (a rather short questioning with 10 minutes time to prepare or a presentation you have to prepare in advance and actually, like all the other French students, simply read it out aloud...), *"oral-ecrit"* (2-4 rather short questions which you answer in writing having 1,5 h), a *"QCM"* (a multiple-choice-test, but never really used except in *"economie politique"*) or a *"dissertation"* (which is a very very complicated long exam, not really comparable to anything, since there exists a seemingly simple structure (I understood it!!!) but in the end it is incredibly complicated to use it while writing because for every part of this structure, the content still is important but not as much as the number of lines you use...).

This structure obsession is another typically French *"truc"*. No matter what you read, hear and write, it is ALL structured. You find yourself in a system with Part 1, Chapter 2b, paragraph 4, sous-titre xyz ... if your not lost, congratulations! This is the perfect example for an *"over structuring"* that in the end makes it all more complicated. The professors are not god, though they might think so... . Sometimes, they get lost themselves

in their structure. So your little *"monkey-like-typed"* notes will not always be the key.

As a THEMIS-Students you are blessed if you like French but kind of prefer the English language. All the French students have to stick to what classes are offered for their semester. Other exchange students either have that restriction too or can choose between some levels (due to the recognition of the exams at their university of origin) but as a THEMIS, you have ALL the possibilities. That is why I had classes from L1 (the first year) up to M2 (the last year), the CAJ (*"Certificate Anglais Juridique"*, a special qualification for French students) and even a *"real"* Master's Programm from the Business Faculty. I attended in and had exams for 9 classes, of which 7 were in English (which really is only possible if you do this program). Quite a lot of work, but the recommended 30 credits can easily be filled up. I even had to throw out some classes that were interesting since you always have to keep on mind the time you need to prepare/work on your notes. Also, it is better to really stick to the 30 ECTS, since everything else is just too much work! Remember the typing, learning by heart and maybe some free-time you'd like to have left!

I really was blessed to listen to Mr Emmanuel Gaillard's lectures. He is an expert and very well known in the context of arbitration law. He is the chairman of the Paris office of "Shearman and Sterling". There, the other THEMIS student and I were able to participate at the "Annual International Arbitration Day" in the Paris' office, which was a great experience.

The other professors (I even had 2 female professors!) were good. Still some have little problems with organization or structures, or brevity of remarks..., but all in all, and respecting the different teaching method, I was lucky to be thought next to Prof. Dr. Gaillard, by Prof. Cuniberti, Dr. Matthew Guillen, Mrs Claire Marzo, Mme Ansel and Mr Kolev (from the Business class).

I met a student who did not understand a word and that is not fun at all! Since at least all

the administrative things will have to be done in French! Your coordinator, Mr Pons, which is a very caring but sometimes a little confused man, will talk to you in French. Don't worry, you will reach a higher level in French, no question. But only sitting in class, writing, will not help. You cannot, or you simply are not supposed, to talk in class. The "travaux diriges" are different, but only for French students. Others have to be quiet and let the French students have their opportunity to participate... That is why you should be a least a little prepared, that the "shock" of suddenly actually being required to talk in French, will be huge.

All the contracts you actually subscribe are in French, and we jurists are aware that within that fact resides a certain risk. I guess I made that clear: be quite fluent in French! The rest will come, promise!

This leads to the "place to live". Again, this depends on what you prefer, but even then you might not find what you are looking for. The Paris estate market is one of the worst and most expensive ones. So starting to look for a place already in Berlin, about 6 month before I left, right after I got my admission for the program, I figured: well, 400 € per month... quite a lot. Let's try to find something for about 200-350 €. Not a bit of it! The more e-mails I wrote and the more not being answered or, the more rooms already where occupied, the more the threshold in my head rose. I ended up with an apartment for 770€ per month, electricity excluded. Cold water



is for free, yay! I admit, it is a lot. But I lived in a very pretty area (Marais) which is located quite in the centre (3E Arrondissement) and literally allowed me to walk to all the great places.

Also, the government is aware of the estate market's prices and has pity for all the students and, which is great, even those from other countries (because we live in Europe and discrimination due to nationality is permitted!). You can apply for "CAF" (Collocation Familiale). The procedure is quite simple and everything can be done online. The sum depends on the area, the surface, the actual rent,... . Now you don't even need to show a contract anymore, but you will need the signature of your tenant, which, if he does not want to make the letting official, might be likely to refuse. So be sure, your tenant is a real, serious one! Also, you will need a paper/card from your insurance and a French bank account. Which is useless if you would only need it for that purpose. In that case, simply have your bank in your home country prepare a paper with all the information for an international/European transaction on your bank account and you should be fine. This is all. You really have a legitimate claim, so make the best out of it.

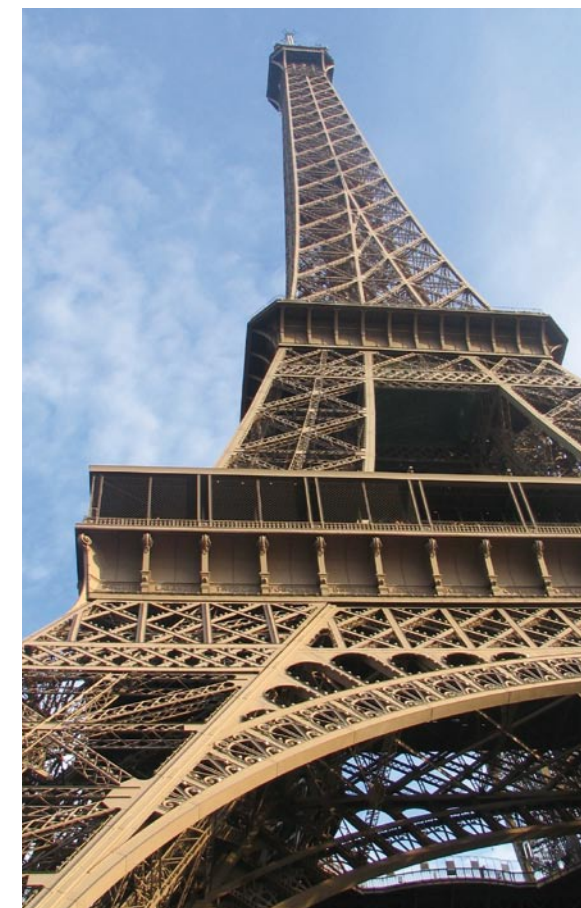
Also helpful, always try to start a conversation in French! That will help opening the door. Then they decide if they might offer you to talk in English, which happens quite frequently and then it is up to you to insist on French or not. They will be glad to see, when you are really trying to adapt.

I end this report with the words that I read in all those papers that I went through before I

applied for the program: this is one of the greatest experiences of your life. And it is true!

No matter of what, you grow, as a person, concerning your skills,... . But at the end of the day (how one of my professors used to say), what counts is, what you make out of it. Try to "découvrir ton Paris" and this will pay off for everything!

If this raised any questions, I'd love to share more experiences with you. Feel free to contact me!



JOEL SCHROEDER

THEMIS 2006/2007

ESADE, Barcelona



I participated in the Themis-programme in 2006/07 at the ESADE in Barcelona. The ESADE is an excellent university in the north of the wonderful Barcelona. It was a very enriching to study at this university in this city because it combined professional and cultural experiences in a very international context.

The Themis exchange programme at the ESADE is well organized. The university communicates with the students via Intranet where all information are presented. Before the beginning of the studies it is possible to do a Spanish language course to which one has to apply before. I recommend to take advantage of this offer because the courses have a high quality. Moreover it is a great opportunity to meet other exchange students from all over the world in the first days of the stay in Barcelona.

The diversity of the classes which are offered to the Themis-students is very large. The great advantage is the possibility to chose classes in English like Comparative Law or Legal Ethics and at the same time to do classes in Spanish. That is very attractive for those who like to deepen their English skills especially in profes-

sional terms with courses like Legal English and use classes like Organizaciones Internacionales to learn and practice Spanish on an academic level. The size of the classes allows and claims active participation of the students in class. That caused very prospered discussions in the class Comparative Law in which students from all different law systems participated. Thus the studies at the ESADE broadened my view on law in general and especially on International Law. Moreover it is possible to do the internship of the Themis-programme in a law office in Barcelona.

Barcelona is a wonderful city especially for exchange-students. There is a big community of Erasmus-students from every part of Europe who intermix with students from all over the world. It is easy and exciting to get in contact with so many new people and sometimes the conversations end in an incomprehensible mixture of different languages.

The city of Barcelona has a prospering cultural life which offers interesting programmes for every taste. The highlight of the cultural life in Barcelona is the local festival "La Mercè" which always takes place at the end of September. Barcelona offers a great amount of famous and impressive architecture and art. Moreover Catalunya is a beautiful region with very nice places to see like Sitges or the Dalí museum in Figueres.

As conclusion I want to ensure that it was a fruitful experience to participate in the Themis-programme and that I developed my personality and broadened my mind by staying abroad.

MARIA CHIARA TONIOLO

THEMIS 2008/2009

Freie Universität Berlin

I would like to look at my semester in Berlin from a slightly different perspective: I will not describe what the Themis in itself is about – the reports of my friends and colleagues will suffice; on the contrary, I will rather focus on the opportunity to be enrolled at the FU Berlin connected thereto and on the benefits that such a chance may confer on whoever is keen on European law.

For the whole semester, from the very beginning of September up to the end of February, I have been one of the three proud members of the team representing the FU in the European Law Moot, a rather young but highly esteemed international competition focused on EU law, involving students from almost a hundred different universities all over the world. Our team has been recently selected for the semi-finals and there I will play the role of Advocate General, pleading before teachers and judges and asserting an independent, objective point of view on the case at stake.

Although this is not part of the Themis program, it must be noted that ELMC and Themis may well build a perfect match, as long as the focus on internalization and on a comparative outlook are concerned. It is surely interesting to take courses on European Consumer Protection, on European Company Law or on European Contract Law, but they risk being only small pieces of a far larger portrait: the participation in the moot serves exactly the ambitious but, in the long term, necessary goal of sketching such a more comprehensive image of the communitarian phenomenon.

By analysing a case whose facts resemble to a great extent those of a plausible, real case before the European Court of Justice, you will have not only the opportunity to learn, directly on the field and together with other passionate law students, more and more about the applicable rules, but also to enter gradually in the idea of Europe that this set of rules embodies. You may get familiar with the case-law of the Court, with the subtle distinctions of Advocates General and with the shifting evaluations of such decisions expressed by scholars; that is obviously a treasure that may prove helpful or even decisive in the professional life. But, beyond and above this, you will develop, day after day, a truly European approach to the subject-matter: as a matter of fact, mastering EU law does not have to do only with knowledge, but, more generally, with skills and, so excessive this may seem, with spirit.

But beware! This path is full of hurdles, first of all the huge amount of time it requires: three rather intensive meetings per week are considered normal and no predetermined duration is established, so that one must be quite flexible and patient. Moreover, every single day some hours must be devoted to the casestudy, at least because each and all facts give rise to plenty of questions that are found out, step by step, only in the course of the preparation for the moot. In addition to the time feature, it must be borne in mind that, even though the official languages of the competition are both English and French, good knowledge of German is highly recommended, since tutors and members of

the team are normally from Germany and do not find it neither unpractical nor impolite to discuss in their own language. Last but not least, the abovementioned improvement of professional skills and the fine-tuning of the said spiritual approach to EU law are neither assured nor may they be achieved within the end of the moot itself: the latter is only a tool, that one will have to use extensively to become a true, European lawyer.

In many occasions I have had the temptation to regret my application, especially when I happened to see friends enjoying free time that, to be honest, tended to lack in my own Themis experience. And, fairly speaking, I am still convinced that any international experience

whatsoever, may it be “our” prestigious Themis or a common Erasmus, should offer a balanced blend of work and other, tastier ingredients. In this respect, the European Law Moot Competition surely contributes to strike the balance widely in favour of intense work rather than of social life.

In the light of the foregoing, please start by considering well what you really expect from you stay: do you want a fresh and appealing cocktail? Then enjoy your Themis courses and delve yourself in the magic of the city! Is your taste somehow original and you do not get bored with drinking always the same? Then the European Law Moot Competition may be the right choice!

a work-in-progress, I presented more a problem than a solution, and then asked the students what they thought about it. We had a very interesting debate. They had many ideas, including a few that I had not thought of. As they came primarily from Germany, Spain and Italy, they often offered a different perspective which, again was very useful. We eventually continued the discussion informally around a cup of coffee. As I have long been in charge of international programs at Paris 12 university, I am always interested in discussing legal education in different countries, and this was also a great opportunity to do so. I must say that the overall experience was very enjoyable.

THEMIS Seminar Paris 2008

GILLES CUNIBERTI

Professor of Law, University Paris 12

In March 2008, Paris 12 University hosted the Themis conference. I presented a research paper on European civil procedure. Although my presentation took place on a Saturday morning, I was pleased to see that more than 40 students attended. I had chosen a topic of European law with the hope that the audience would be both interested and ready to engage with my ideas. This is exactly what I got. As my paper was still

Frequently asked questions

What is THEMIS?

A Network of excellent Law faculties offering a structured study program.

When and how can I apply for the program?

Application at your law faculty is done usually between January and April each year.

How do I choose the institution where I will do the THEMIS Program?

You are eligible to spend your semester abroad at any THEMIS Partner-University.

What are the minimum educational requirements to be eligible to apply for the THEMIS?

Having studied successfully at least three years of law at your home Uni.

Do I have to pay THEMIS tuition fees?

You pay regular tuition fees at your home faculty. Administration costs may incur. Costs for the seminar range between 200 and 500 €.

Is there any study grant for the THEMIS Program?

Yes, you are eligible for ERASMUS Student exchange and training grants.

What language is the THEMIS program in?

Classes are offered in English in the fall semester. You may choose further classes in the local language.

Do I have to prove my proficiency in English/German/...? How?

You need to provide proof of sufficient knowledge to follow law classes in English.

Which are the THEMIS curriculum components?

Three elements are required to obtain the THEMIS Certificate: Fall semester abroad, international internship and the Seminar (held usually in spring).

Am I guaranteed an international internship?

Professional placement service at your faculty and your host faculty are willing to help you in finding a place but can not guarantee success. An Erasmus-Grant is available for duration of the internship.

What must I do once accepted?

Provide all necessary data to the host faculty, look for a flight & accommodation.

When do classes start in the THEMIS Program?

You should arrive at the host faculty during the first week of September.

Who should I contact at my home/host law faculty?

Check www.themis-legal.eu for local contacts. The THEMIS Coordinator and /or Erasmus-Office are glad to inform you.

Which academic title will I receive after completion of the program?

“THEMIS Certificate” issued jointly by all faculties that form the THEMIS – Network.

Which is the added value of THEMIS Certificate?

Members of the legal society recognize the outstanding professional value of your international experience gained as a participant of THEMIS.

www.themis-legal.eu