



Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi

ESADE
Law School
Ramon Llull University

Freie Universität  Berlin

UPEC
FACULTÉ
DE DROIT

 Maastricht University



THEMIS

The International Legal Network of Excellence



Lifelong
Learning
Programm
(LLP)

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WELCOME

THEMIS is a network made up of five top European Universities: Università Bocconi (Milan, Italy), ESADE Law School (Barcelona, Spain), Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, Germany), Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne (Paris, France) and Maastricht University (Maastricht, the Netherlands).

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. Graduate-level law students who are selected to participate in this program will be given the opportunity to widen their intellectual and academic 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 (Combined Bachelor and MSc in Law from Bocconi, Grado en Derecho from ESADE, Erst Jurustusche Prüfung from Freie Universität Berlin, Master en Droit from Université Paris-Est Créteil or Master of Laws LLM from Maastricht University) but also the International THEMIS Certificate.



ESADE (Barcelona, Spain)

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 center where important legal issues could be examined and debated.

ESADE Law School is an educational institution which is recognized for its intellectual rigor, 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-recognized 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 organizations requires not only knowledge, but also the ability to use this knowledge.

More information:

www.esade.edu

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(araceli.domenech@esade.edu)

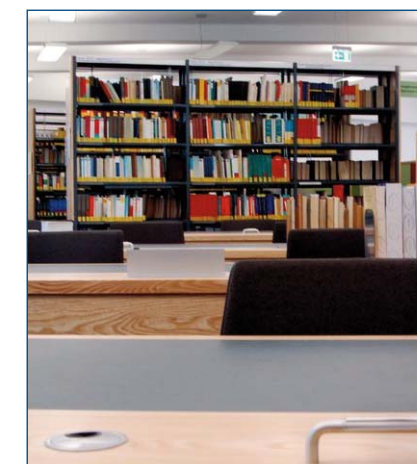


Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, Germany)

Freie Universität Berlin is a leading internationally-oriented university which always ranks among the top 10 universities in German national comparisons and always achieves first place in terms of the number of placements among the top ten universities in a range of rankings.

The University offers more than 100 courses of study in all discipline groups of a classic full university. Freie Universität Berlin is also 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 global competition among universities. The foundation of the University 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 has established connections from its geographical 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 and is a drawing card for international researchers. The University's guiding mission is derived from two sources. 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 in the responsibility it entails for the world, in its openness for cooperation within and outside the Berlin region, and in its modern organizational structures.

More information:

www.fu-berlin.de

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THEMIS Partners

Maastricht University (Maastricht, the Netherlands)

The Faculty of Law at Maastricht University aims to provide excellent education and research that meet international standards. Education and research provisions focus on demands from the national, European and international labor markets: one faculty for Dutch, European and international lawyers; one faculty where diversity in research and education plays a central role. The educational structure is naturally designed to meet national and international standards. Lawyers must possess all of

the relevant skills: they can competently and creatively handle matters pertaining to national, European and international law, as well as comparative law and all of its myriad interactions. Resolution skills and language proficiency (both in the native language and in English) are essential. Research also focuses on these interactions as well as on the Europeanization and internationalization of the legal profession. It concentrates on pre-selected topics, European common law (Ius Commune) and the globalization of law and civil rights.

The Faculty of Law at Maastricht University consists of approximately 2,500 students and 250 faculty members. The faculty is located in an imposing building in the city center, and it is fully equipped with all electronic and other facilities.

More information:

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl

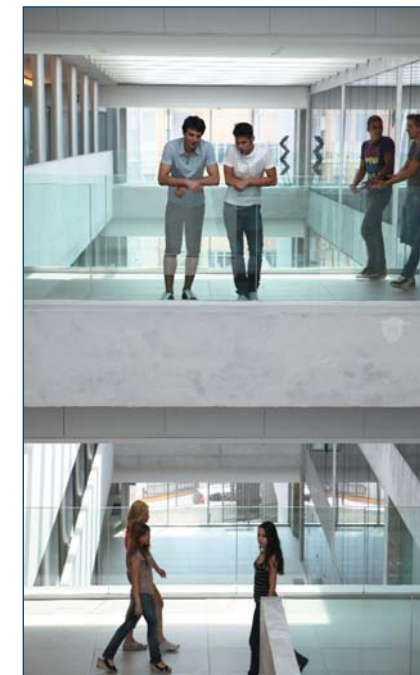
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Università Bocconi (Milan, Italy)

The Bocconi School of Law was established to provide students with appropriate means to face the growing complexity so typical of the legal field. To fully comprehend today's evolving scenarios, it is essential for a law student to acquire a solid, formal understanding of the fundamentals of law as well as to be aware of the economic effects of the current institutional legal framework and the effects to be expected under a different legal regime. A better understanding of the interaction between law and economics may thus improve the quality of the legal system. For this reason the Bocconi School of Law aims to provide students with the legal knowledge and models of thinking required to undertake traditional legal practice as well as the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into economics, accounting and statistics. This adds value to their abilities in the areas for which Università Bocconi is renowned both in Italy and abroad. Exchange programs with other countries, along with an international outlook in terms of Faculty and course content place an



emphasis on training students to become highly-skilled legal experts in a globally competitive world.

More information:

www.ir.unibocconi.eu/themis

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Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi



THEMIS Partners

Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne (Paris, France)

Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne welcomes approximately 27,000 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 originally known as “Faculté de Droit de Paris- Saint-Maur”. The Law Faculty receives some 3000 students each year, out of which a certain percentage come from foreign countries, primarily from Europe (Erasmus students and students taking part in double degree programs organized with the UK, 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 programs are held in collaboration with legal professionals (such as judges, barristers and notaries). Members of the teaching faculty are well-known in France and abroad.

More information:
www.u-pec.fr



The THEMIS experience contains three core elements:

- ▶ a semester abroad
- ▶ an international internship
- ▶ the THEMIS seminar

Semester Abroad

The semester abroad offers students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in an international context. The actual duration of the student exchange is one academic semester (fall/winter semester).

Students choose courses from among a specific list of courses approved by the THEMIS network; students may choose to register for courses offered in English or in the local language of the partner school.

During the semester abroad **students are required to take courses for at least 30 credits and to pass at least 24 exam credits of business law classes and/or international law classes in order to validate the semester for the joint certificate.**

Students are allowed to follow one course (up to six credits) offered at the partner school which is not a THEMIS-accredited course. The 30 credits for the THEMIS program may not include credits for language classes.

Internship

The internship is considered to be an integral part of the THEMIS educational path. Internships give students the chance to put their academic knowledge into practice and begin developing their professional career. Students selected for the THEMIS program are required to participate in an international law internship.

In order for the internship to be considered valid for the joint certificate it **must have an international focus and, if full-time,**

it must last for a minimum of six consecutive weeks (minimum eight weeks if part-time).

If the student is unable to participate in an internship in a foreign country, then the internship must be conducted at an international law firm, the law department of an international company, an NGO with an international focus or an international organization.

Student home and host universities are available to assist participants in the internship search, however they cannot guarantee a place to all participating students.

THEMIS Seminar

The THEMIS seminar provides students with a chance to delve deeper into an area of international law relevant to their academic career. It will focus on a different subject each year and will be conducted in English.

The seminar is usually held in the spring and is taught by professors of the host and partner schools, as well as relevant local personalities.

The seminar is hosted by the partners on a rotating basis, and **students are required to attend one THEMIS seminar during their participation in the THEMIS program.** Travel, board and lodging expenses are the responsibility of each individual student.

The THEMIS Curriculum

Please note: At the end of the program, upon fulfillment of all the academic requirements, students will receive an International THEMIS Certificate attesting to their unique educational and intercultural experience. This certificate will be awarded to students when all course requirements of the home university have been met, as well as all THEMIS program requirements.

Past THEMIS Seminars

- 2011-2012 Litigation, ESADE
- 2010-2011 International Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Università Bocconi
- 2009-2010 Summer School in Law, Berlin
- 2007-2008 International Contract Design; Recent Developments in European Law, Université Paris-Est Créteil
- 2006-2007 Corporate Governance, ESADE



Selection

Each partner school will select its own students to participate in the **THEMIS program**, in accordance with the guidelines jointly defined by the partners.

To enter the program, students must demonstrate a superior level of academic performance, strong linguistic ability with a certified English proficiency at the C1 level (as defined by the Common European Framework) as well as a desire and motivation for an international experience.

Student selection usually takes place in the spring and students start the program during the fall semester of the following year.

For further details and application procedures students should contact their local THEMIS Office.

Costs

During participation in the program, students continue to pay regular tuition and fees to their home university. Each partner school may require students to pay an administrative fee for participation in the program. Participants should check with each local school office. Travel, board and lodging expenses will be covered by each individual student.

Erasmus Scholarship

Students selected for the THEMIS program can apply for European Union –LLP grants (Erasmus) through their home school. The Erasmus program offers students the opportunity to receive a monthly grant for one semester abroad and for undertaking a curricular internship at enterprises, research centers and training centers.

The general criteria to be eligible to receive the Erasmus Scholarship are:

- ▶ students must be **citizens of one of the 27 EU Member States** (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta (participation suspended from 2010), Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom), **citizens of the countries participating in the program** (Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey) or **citizens of other countries, regularly enrolled in a EU institute of higher education**

- ▶ the exchange/internship period must take place in one of the countries mentioned above

Please note: Students who have received a previous Erasmus (or any other EU) grant for an exchange or an internship period abroad are not eligible. Students may only receive a total of two Erasmus grants: one grant for a study period and one for a placement period. Students can apply for both study and internship Erasmus grants but overlapping between the study and internship periods is not allowed.

How to Apply

Students must contact the international office and / or Erasmus Office of their home university. The office will inform her or him of the modalities to get an Erasmus student placement and to receive an Erasmus grant for it.

Amount of Scholarship

Students should contact their local THEMIS Office for information on the amount of the grant.

For further information and details about application procedures for Erasmus scholarships, please contact your local THEMIS Office or see the website <http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp>

Useful Information

Student Testimonials

“ESADE Law School is certainly one of the most well-known institutions in Europe. An international environment located in the Pedralbes Hill, its campus, faculty, students and administration all meet the standards one expects from a top European institution”.

Villy de Luca, Università Bocconi
THEMIS 2009-10
ESADE

“Taking part of the THEMIS program and doing my exchange term at F.U. Berlin was a great academic and personal experience. It allowed me to study and later to work in a completely international environment as well as meet people from all around the world”.

Susana Gallego, ESADE
THEMIS 2010-11
Freie Universität Berlin

Domenico Garofalo

Università Bocconi
THEMIS 2010-2011
ESADE Law School

I was lucky enough to study at one of Europe's leading law schools – ESADE – in a truly cosmopolitan city – Barcelona – within one of the best study abroad programs offered to law students at Bocconi – the THEMIS program.

My experience as a THEMIS student at ESADE was extremely enriching both culturally and academically. With quite a small and diverse student group, every class offered endless opportunities for debate over differences and similarities in legal systems and cultures. Many courses required students to make presentations in class or work in groups on case studies. In those cases, professors would prompt a discussion over the content of the presentation or the solution to the case study, and students would usually challenge what was presented in class or the solutions offered by other students. Those activities generally accounted for a part of the final grade.

Classes were taught in English or in Spanish. I chose to take most of my classes in English because I wasn't confident enough about my Spanish proficiency, but I was amazed at how rapidly my Spanish improved. I found Spanish relatively easy to learn for speakers of Romance languages and I saw people come to Barcelona with barely any prior knowledge of the language and leave with a good command of it in daily conversations. The pleasant and extrovert temperament of the Spanish students played a major role in this, as did the one-week intensive Spanish course

offered by ESADE to all incoming students. In fact, the small number of students and the friendly atmosphere at ESADE made it quite easy to meet Spanish students, allowing foreign students to enjoy both the possibility to interact with the locals and the international and the multicultural environment of the university and the city. In addition, ESADE boasts an excellent language center offering courses in English, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic.

I can't finish my description without a final word on Barcelona. I was absolutely impressed with how many people from all over the world I met. Barcelona attracts an enormous amount of students and workers from North America, Europe, Asia and, of course, South America, just to name a few of the most represented areas. Apart from this, the city has a wonderful climate, excellent sport facilities, an efficient transport system and an exciting nightlife. Barcelona isn't just for fun, though. The city is home to many museums, historic buildings and monuments – from the Museum of Contemporary Art to the numerous works by Gaudí, including Parc Güell and Sagrada Família – and has an incredible network of public libraries.

In conclusion, I can say my study abroad experience was indeed uniquely special and has had a tremendous impact on my life. It has shaped my mind-set and broadened my horizons in a way that I will never forget. It is really something you need to experience for yourself.

Since the very beginning of my studies I was deeply aware of the importance of spending an exchange period abroad as part of my University degree.

The THEMIS program is the result of common efforts to build up an excellent law network made up of prestigious European universities. The program is structured into three “steps”: a semester abroad at one of the partner universities, a seminar and an international internship. As part of the program, last year I applied for Freie Universität in Berlin, well-known as one of the highly-ranked German universities and known for its great exchange program and international atmosphere.

Freie's campus is located in an amazing residential green area just outside Berlin, easy to reach thanks to efficient metro service. Founded during the Cold War as a “free world” university and financed by the US, it still has a strong link with leading American universities.

My host university gave international students the possibility to study both international and German law: during my semester in Berlin, I attended 5 courses both in public and private law. Our courses, organized on weekly basis or in block classes, were taught by eminent professors from Freie and other THEMIS universities, along with external experts. All classes were attended by a small number of international, German and PhD students (more or less 20 per course). We had to work on setting up power point presentations and on drafting papers, dealing with different topics. Moreover, during classes the environment was really friendly and professors promoted discussions and sharing opinions.

Besides that, Freie Universität is very well-organized: it provided a dedicated introductory week and assistance to fulfill bureaucratic needs. Afterwards we were able to live 100% on campus. International students also have a great opportunity to learn German thanks to an intensive

language course organized in small classes and “tandem partner” conversation opportunities.

Everything was really great: the recently-renovated law faculty library, very modern PC pools and a wide choice of sports...and I won't go so far as saying that even the food was great, but I was really surprised by the campus canteen and its delicious lasagna!

Therefore, do not forget that Freie Universität means Berlin, which should not be considered just the capital of Germany. Berlin is cheap (I became addicted to street food such as Turkish kebabs and Chinese noodle boxes), green, bike friendly, trendy, young and international. It's simply the place to be for a short term exchange program! It's a city where you really breathe recent history like nowhere else, but it is also modern, with a lot of weird parties and events going on every night. Anyone will really enjoy their stay in Berlin seeking out hundreds of underground bars, clubs and “Wohnung” parties in shared apartments. In addition, it has to be said that hanging out is really safe and public transportation runs all night long during weekends, which is necessary if the temperature is -15 °C in January as I experienced!

The THEMIS program, as I previously mentioned, also includes a seminar attended by all students from partner universities involved in the program. Last year the seminar was hosted by Università Bocconi and held in Milan: we had very intensive courses taught by famous Italian and international professors and lawyers and an amazing advocacy contest with students from different universities mixed into teams competing with each other. This three-day seminar was a great opportunity to socialize with other students and share our experiences from our exchange period.

I can definitely conclude that my THEMIS studies and my six months spent in Berlin were a unique experience that I will never forget and that I would really recommend to all law students.

Matteo Giangaspero

Università Bocconi
THEMIS 2010-2011
Freie Universität Berlin

Salvatore Graziadei

Università Bocconi
THEMIS 2006-2007
Université de Paris XII -
Val de Marne

I participated in the THEMIS program in Paris in 2006-2007. The program provided me with many opportunities both educationally and culturally and it was 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 program was held was Paris XII - Val de Marne University. I found this University to be a great place to study. In particular the faculty of law where I took all of my courses was very well-organized and is located in a new building which is very functional. The classrooms are large, well-equipped and comfortable for listening to lectures and taking notes. Moreover, the library was a wonderful place to study and meet new people. The University also offers a wide range of courses and the quality of courses was very high

and they are very well-taught. All of the classes were in French, so it was very important to have good knowledge of the language. I organized 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”. In my experience, the mix between international courses and French law courses allows students to enter into a very international context characterized by French students and other international students who come from all over the world. As a result, I had the chance to meet new people and learn about new cultures.

Paris XII – Val de Marne University is located in Créteil, a little city near Paris. Students can decide to live in Créteil near the University or in Paris and come to the University every day by the metro. The metro is very well-organized in Paris so it is very simple to use and I chose to live in the center 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 just a few words, I can only say that my days spent in Paris were the best in my life.

Generally, I think that THEMIS is a great opportunity for anyone who wishes to enter into an international program, and in my personal experience THEMIS was a great time for both cultural and personal growth.

I participated in the THEMIS exchange program in the winter of 2010-2011 at Freie Universität Berlin, located in Steglitz-Zehlendorf.

On the first day I participated in the Erasmus welcome meeting with about one thousand exchange students. The meeting was mostly in German, but I recommend all participants to attend this meeting. The Internationaler Club was introduced, as well as the importance of the “tandem partner”, and also the free speaking courses organized by the speaking center.

I have to stress that course work is slightly different from France, but with a little work it is possible to complete the “schein” (certificate) with an acceptable grade.

In addition, the moot court is a very interesting experience because it provides the opportunity to learn more about European rules throughout a case whose facts resemble a plausible case before the European Court of Justice with other passionate students. But it requires a huge amount of time, good knowledge of German since the team often discusses in their native language, and little contact with the current THEMIS students. This is why I suggest people willing to be part of this team to think about their expectations.

I rented my room in advance with the Studentenwerk services. It was what the German call Wohngemeinschaft (W.G.), a shared apartment in a student dormitory. My room was clean and in order, with a corridor I shared with my German neighbor Stefan. The shared-apartment was like a remake of the well-known French film “l'Auberge Espagnole” because everyone in my co-tenant came from a different country (China, Uzbekistan, Poland, Indonesia, etc.).

The THEMIS exchange program, shared with Erasmus students, is very well-organized. Before the beginning of classes in September, it is possible to take a German language course. I

recommend taking advantage of this offer because it is a high-quality course with a very dynamic teacher. Then, depending on your level, you will be enrolled in a class which meets for 4, 8 or 12 hours a week at the speaking center located in the Silberlaube building (where the remarkable Philologische Bibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin is located) for the entire winter semester. Moreover, it is a great opportunity to meet other exchange students from all over the world.

The diversity of the classes which are offered during the THEMIS program is very large. The great advantage is the possibility to choose regular classes in English while at the same time following lectures in German in order to learn and practice German at an academic level. The size of the classes allows and facilitates active student participation, especially the International Public Law lecture with Paul Dubois. I have to stress the fact that the level of knowledge of my colleagues was excellent. Finally, it is possible to complete an internship with the THEMIS program in a law office in Berlin for intermediates in German.

Studying at Freie University broadened my views on law in general and especially in European Company Law. The THEMIS seminar on Arbitration at Bocconi in Milan was very interesting and was an exclusive moment to share my experience with my THEMIS colleagues. Generally, I think that the THEMIS program is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to enter into an international program. In my own opinion, the THEMIS program has been a moment of cultural and personal growth in a wonderful city. It is a life experience I will never forget.

Victor Jollivet

Université Paris-Est Créteil
Val de Marne
THEMIS 2010-2011
Freie Universität Berlin

Juliane Olga Moulganova

Freie Universität Berlin
THEMIS 2007-2008
ESADE Law School

During my law study at Freie Universität Berlin, I spent one study abroad semester in Barcelona in 2007-08.

The main capital of Catalonia is a fantastic city and exciting for anyone interested in art, nightlife, fashion and a unique architecture which is significantly affected by Antoni Gaudí. Furthermore, I enjoyed the sunny weather and the sea and I was able to spend my first Christmas at the beach.

I also loved getting to know the University Ramón Llull de Barcelona, which has a faculty of law with an excellent reputation and connections with leading international firms and institutions.

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

As you can imagine, the interesting discussions between

students from Spain, Italy, France, USA, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany produce very interesting results.

Since many lectures in law are held in English for THEMIS students, the semester abroad is a great opportunity for improving language skills, particularly in the field of jurisprudence which today is an essential vocational topic for lawyers.

The joint certificate in International and Business Law and the time spent in a foreign country is an ideal foundation for an International Master in Law. It is great for your CV but it is also an unforgettable experience.

I would also recommend anyone deciding to spend a semester in Barcelona to take advantage of the ESADE Spanish language course, which is quite important for daily communication, even for advanced speakers.

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



When I decided to apply for the THEMIS program in 2010-2011, I had the choice to study at one of four top universities in Europe. I chose ESADE in Barcelona and I can assure you that I do not regret my choice!

First, Barcelona is amazing and wonderful. This is such a unique city, bordered on one side by mountains and on the other side by the sea. The climate is excellent all year round and, above all, Barcelona is such a dynamic town, a meeting place where students come from all over the world. You can imagine how festive the city can be at night! But Barcelona is also wonderful especially for its unique architecture (thanks to Gaudí) and its unusual places of the old Gótico and Raval barrios.

In addition, the cost of living is affordable and accommodation is easy to find.

Concerning the university, ESADE is located in Barcelona, more precisely in the upscale neighborhood of Pedrables, which is about 15-20 minutes from the center by metro or bus. The school has all the facilities you may need for studying. In addition, the organization is very well-managed. In fact, the school has an intranet, where all relevant information about courses, but also student life and associations, can be found easily. And you also have the ability to view and apply for internships offered by law firms directly from the intranet, like all ESADE students.

There is a wide variety of courses to choose from both in English and Spanish (Castilian) in areas such as Legal Ethics, Legal English, Competition Law, Mergers and Acquisition, etc. The head of the program may also be flexible in course choices and if a course you are interested in is not on the “THEMIS list”, you can request to take a different course and explain your reasons. For instance, I was able to follow the course of *oratoria*, which is a class where you learn how

to act and speak in public. It was perfect to help me improve my Spanish!

In addition, the learning system is interesting, and it's certainly very different from the French system at my home university. Indeed, the lessons take place in small classes, of only about 20 to 30 students. Teachers focus on interactivity and sharing in class. This is not an ordinary lecture; participation is valued, as are oral presentations.

Last but not least, ESADE has a great international reputation, and prestigious students from well-known universities study there. There are students from Harvard, Cornell, Boston College, Bocconi, Jerusalem University and so on. Participants can make new connections and create an international network.

As you may guess, the THEMIS program was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to meet people, discover another legal system and discover a new culture. It opened the door to new horizons. Not to mention the very interesting seminar I attended on international arbitration led by famous lecturer, Emanuel Gaillard.

If you have the chance to go to Barcelona, you should take it — you won't regret it!

Rebecca Nahon

Université Paris-Est Créteil
Val de Marne
THEMIS 2010-2011
ESADE Law School

Joel Schroeder

Freie Universität Berlin
THEMIS 2006-2007
ESADE Law School



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

The THEMIS exchange program at ESADE is well-organized. The university communicates with students via intranet where all relevant information is presented and additional Spanish language classes are also offered, which take place two weeks before the official start of the semester. These courses are fully recommendable, especially since they offer the great opportunity to meet other exchange students from all over the world during the first days of your stay in Barcelona.

There is a wide variety of law classes offered to THEMIS students. The great advantage is the possibility to choose classes in English such as Comparative Law or Legal Ethics, while at the same time taking classes in Spanish. This is very attractive for anyone who would like to improve their English skills especially in professional terms with courses like Legal English and classes like Organizaciones Internacionales can be used to learn and practice Spanish at an academic level. The size of the classes allows and facilitates active participation of the students in class. This caused very fruitful discussions in the class Comparative Law in which students from all different law systems participated.

Thus, studying at ESADE broadened my view of law in general, especially International Law. Moreover, I took the

opportunity to do the mandatory internship of the THEMIS program at 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 mix 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 events for every taste. The highlight of the cultural life in Barcelona is the local festival "La Merce" which always takes place at the end of September. Barcelona offers a great amount of famous and impressive architecture and art. In addition, Catalonia is a beautiful region with very beautiful places like Sitges or the Dalí museum in Figueres.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that it was a fruitful experience to participate in the THEMIS program and it has helped me in my academic career. It was one of the main criteria for successfully applying to the position of an assistant at the chair of Professor Armbrüster at Freie Universität Berlin. As a consequence, I am still very involved in the THEMIS program, organizing annual meetings with current THEMIS students from my home university before they go abroad, as well as welcoming incoming THEMIS students to Berlin. Moreover, I am still in touch with former THEMIS students from Milano, Barcelona and Paris in order to create a THEMIS Alumni network which should serve as a forum for European scholars and lawyers.

For the whole semester, from the very beginning of September up to the end of February, I was one of the three proud members of the team representing Freie Universität in the European Law Moot. The moot is 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 was 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 the ELMC and THEMIS may well build a perfect match, as far as the focus on internalization and a comparative outlook are concerned. It is surely interesting to take courses on European Consumer Protection, European Company Law or European Contract Law, but they risk being only small pieces of a far larger portrait: participation in the moot serves exactly the ambitious but, in the long term, the necessary goal of sketching a more comprehensive image of the EU phenomenon.

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

But participants should also be careful. This path is full of hurdles, especially the huge amount of time it requires: three rather intensive meetings per week are considered normal and no predetermined duration is established, which requires lots of flexibility and patience. Moreover, a few hours every single day must be devoted to the case study, because all information provokes a number of questions that are only discovered during preparation for the moot.

In addition to the time feature, it must be kept 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 are happy to discuss matters in their native language. Last but not least, the abovementioned improvement of professional skills and the fine-tuning of the said spiritual approach to EU law are not assured nor achieved by the end of the moot itself: it is only a tool that must be used extensively to become a true, European lawyer.

On many occasions I have almost regretting applying, especially when I happened to see friends enjoying free time which, to be honest, tended to be lacking during my own THEMIS experience. And, generally speaking, I am still convinced that any international experience whatsoever, may it be the prestigious THEMIS or any Erasmus program, should offer a balanced blend of work and other, more interesting ingredients. In this respect, the European Law Moot Competition surely contributes to striking the balance widely in favor of intense work rather than social life.

In light of this, please start by considering what you really expect from you stay: do you want a fresh and appealing mix? Then enjoy your THEMIS courses and delve into the magic of the city. If you feel more original, however, then the European Law Moot Competition may be the right choice!

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