

The University of Maryland Carey School of Law Exchange Program  
with Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany

### **Background and Description of Bucerius Law School**

The University of Maryland Carey School of Law has established a student exchange program with Bucerius Law School in Hamburg Germany (the “Exchange Program”). Under the Exchange Program up to two University of Maryland Carey law students per year may study in the fall semester at Bucerius Law School and transfer up to 14 credits toward their J.D. degree. There is a reciprocal right for up to two Bucerius law students.

Founded in 2000, Bucerius is the first private law school in Germany. The school is fully accredited under very strict German accreditation standards for its students to sit for the first state bar examination. Bucerius admits 100 German students per year for a four year required program that has a focus on international business law. Graduates of the school acquire the LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws) degree.

### **Background and Description of the Bucerius Exchange Program**

One of the core aspects of the Bucerius Law School program is a requirement that each German student spend the fall of his or her third year studying law at a foreign university. To facilitate this requirement, Bucerius has established formal student exchange arrangement with over sixty foreign universities throughout the world, about thirty of which are in North America. In return, each of the partner universities is permitted to send up to two students per fall semester to participate in a special “Program in International and Comparative Business Law” at Bucerius. The exchange agreement requires, however, that a rough balance be maintained over time between the students sent and hosted by each respective partner university. The University of Maryland Carey School of Law is one these partner universities.

The Exchange Program is a one-term program of study offered each fall semester (September through December) that focuses, as its name implies, on international and comparative business law. The two-credit courses in the Program are taught in English (but students are also permitted to sit in on regular classes taught to Bucerius students, if their knowledge of German allows). The program is divided into two sessions, from early September through late October and from early November through late December. In addition, some courses run throughout the fall semester, and thus meet half as often per week as those in the two shorter sessions. Each spring Bucerius Law School publishes on its website (<http://www.law-school.de/>) the list of courses to be taught in the following fall semester.

A variety of activities both on and off campus also offer students the opportunity for regular social activity and the change to become acquainted with each other. A week-

long study trip to culturally, historically, and politically significant sites in Berlin is commonly planned for the two-week period between the two shorter sessions.

### **Statement of Educational Objectives**

The goal of the Exchange Program is to permit students from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law to broaden their understanding of the law through comparison and contrast of the U.S. legal system with others from around the world. The goal is for students to gain knowledge and experience both through substantive courses that focus on international and comparative law and from studying with students from different legal, social, and cultural backgrounds.

### **Student Performance and Transfer of Credits**

The School of Law permits students to transfer, with advance permission, up to 32 credits toward the 85 needed for graduation. Students participating in the Exchange Program may transfer up to 14 credits toward their J.D. degree.

Student performance in the courses taken during the Exchange Program will be assessed and graded by the respective Bucerius instructors based on a combination of attendance, classroom participation, presentations, papers, and written exams. Each course also concludes with a final examination. University of Maryland students will be required to achieve a grade of at least “C-” in a course in order for the two-credits for that course to transfer (although the grades themselves will not transfer). Transcripts are provided by Bucerius Law School. University of Maryland Carey law students will also be required to communicate on a regular basis throughout the semester with the Program Coordinator in order to receive credit for the courses. Written reports may also be required in the discretion of the Program Coordinator. For each course at Bucerius, the law school will register the transfer of credits for those courses successfully completed by University of Maryland exchange students.

Other than the transfer of credits, participation in the Exchange Program will not exempt students from any requirements (e.g., the Cardin requirement, the writing requirement) for the J.D. degree at the University of Maryland School of Law.

### **Application and Selection Standards**

The application requirements and standards for selection of the students to participate in the Exchange Program are set forth in the document *Application and Selection Standards for the University of Maryland-Bucerius Law School Student Exchange Program* which is available at the webpage for the School of Law’s international and comparative law program (<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/specialty/international/externships.asp>).