

Miami-Leipzig Seminar

The seminar is inspired by the long standing tradition of US-German friendship and scholarly exchange. Although they share fundamental ideas of freedom and democracy as well as civil and human rights, the two countries' legal systems and societies feature significant differences. The goals of this seminar are to learn about each other's public and private international law systems, to discuss recent legal problems on both sides of the Atlantic, and to improve the understanding of each other's point of view.

Students and teachers from both faculties meet twice a year, January in Miami and May in Leipzig to discuss ten topics, revolving around pairs of presentations by one participant from each side.

Although academics is an essential part of the seminar, it is not the only part! At least one day is reserved for social and cultural events organized by the inviting faculty.

When our last session took place in Leipzig in May of this year, ten students joined Professors Abraham and Barnes on the journey to Germany.

In January 2009, the University of Miami School of Law will have the pleasure of hosting our colleagues from Germany. We hope their stay will be one filled with knowledge, understanding, and fun. They will host us in May.

So, if you like travel, friendly debate, and serious scholarship, do apply to join the program for this year.

Testimonials

The Leipzig-Miami Seminar has been very popular with past participants. Here are some unsolicited comments:

While it was challenging for me as the only 1L in the program to research and write on a topic in international law, the guidance and input of all three of our professors made it not only feasible but also a highly rewarding learning experience. It greatly enriched my law school experience.

Ximena Skovron, Class of 2003

Thanks again for all your work on the seminar. I had a truly fantastic time, and I enjoyed my travels after the seminar ended as well.

Rob Leitner, Class of 2004

...We had a great time with the Leipzig students!! It was also extremely interesting listening to all of the topics - I truly learned quite a bit these past couple of days.

Natalie Barefoot, Class of 2005

Thanks much for your guidance and the opportunity to participate in such a great program--truly one of the brightest highlights of my law school career.

Mark Rooney, Class of 2006

The program was a tremendous experience. I learned quite a bit about international law and made some nice friends. It was "ausgezeichnet!"

Michael Daly, Class of 2008

The Leipzig Program was both the most practical and rewarding experience during my time at University of Miami School of Law.

Meredith Allen, Class of 2008



Submit your application and any questions via e-mail to leipzig09@law.miami.edu by 10am, Friday, October 3rd, 2008



2009 MIAMI-LEIPZIG SEMINAR



University of Miami
School of Law

And

Universität Leipzig,
Juristenfakultät

Course Requirements

UM students will participate in each of the two sessions (Jan. and May), and make an oral presentation in each session on one of ten pre-selected topics of controversy or major difference in perspective between the U.S. and Europe. The student will also write a paper meeting the upper-level writing requirement on one of the two topics. The other side will be presented by selected law students from the University of Leipzig. Presentations and discussions will be in English. UM Faculty will be invited to participate here and Leipzig faculty there. All students will be informed and active participants throughout the sessions and for all presentations.

Credits

Students will receive 3 credits in total for taking part in this program. Two will be for workshop credits (a 700 level course) for the Fall 2008 or Spring 2009 semester. One credit of writing requirement (Law 800) is normally taken over the summer 2009 term, though we occasionally approve other arrangements. Remember that you may not sign up for more than six credits over any summer (or seven if you're not working more than 20 hours a week over the summer).

Background

The first UM-Leipzig exchange took place in 2001 at Leipzig when Professor Williamson was a Fulbright Professor there. Students from Leipzig visited UM in 2002, and in 2003 UM students visited Leipzig. We have expanded the program and now include both locales each year. The program has earned rave reviews from participants.

Timing

The Leipzig students will be in Miami January 27 to 30, 2009, with accommodations in Coconut Grove. UM participants will also host the Leipzig students for social and cultural events. We will travel to Leipzig in May 2009, checking into the University of Leipzig Guest House or a four star hotel for the extent of our stay. Sessions will take place on the Leipzig U. campus over three days. While the exact dates are not yet set, we are aiming to avoid conflict with the Spring exams, and to leave time for students to work or do a summer internship. The UM team will travel over together; those wishing to stay in Europe longer will return from the arrival or other airport on their own and will assume any additional costs. Students will need current passports, and non-American citizens may need visas for Germany and any other countries they may be visiting.

Tourism and Fun

Leipzig was formerly one of the most prosperous cities in Germany. After WW II it became a key commercial center of East Germany. Leipzig suffered from the East's chronic capital shortages and mismanagement but was also spared some of the crasser modernization of the West. Since 1990 Leipzig has moved toward recovering its former glory. Students will have opportunities to assess the changes, and sample Leipzig's outstanding classical music and nighttime entertainment. Students are free to extend their stay at their own expense and can easily visit nearby Berlin, Dresden or Prague.

Eligibility

All JD students in their 2L and 3L years, and all LL.M. students are eligible, but the timing and need for relevant background make it particularly appropriate for 2Ls. The program is limited to a maximum of ten students plus three alternates. Students will be selected based on overall GPA; preparation and grades in relevant law school courses such as international and

comparative law; past experience in international affairs through foreign residence and travel, competitions, work, military or Peace Corps service; undergraduate and graduate education; and scholarly writing. No knowledge of German is required. Because this is such an excellent opportunity and the spaces are limited, admission is by competitive application only. A faculty committee will select from among those who apply.

Costs

The Leipzig program is an excellent value. Students contribute \$450 toward the travel cost (i.e. roughly half) and any increased cost their personal travel plans might entail. The two sponsoring universities cover the rest of the travel expense, lodging, most meals, entertainment, and many incidental costs.

To Apply

Submit an e-mail to Leipzig09@law.miami.edu (put "Leipzig Application" in the subject line) stating:

- Why you want to apply;
- Relevant law school, undergraduate and graduate courses you've taken, and the grades you received in them;
- Your cumulative law school GPA;
- Other relevant international experience and training.

In addition, if you wish, you may include a brief statement of any other matters that might be relevant.

**Application Deadline:
10am, Friday
October 3rd, 2008**