

HWR Berlin Summer School 2026

How Europe Works: Institutions & Law in the EU (ILEU)

Overview

This business law programme is a unique blend of business, law, politics and culture, offering students the chance to undertake a demanding, in-depth study of the European Union (EU) and its legal workings.

Date

28 June – 18 July 2026

Course Content

- European Governance
- EU Foreign Policy and Labour Rights under European Law
- EU Corporate Law

The course programme also includes:

- Study visits to companies
- Module on German culture and society from an intercultural perspective

Course Language

English. Proof of English proficiency (TOEFL iBT 90 or equivalent) is required.

Prerequisites

Upper undergraduate students of law, business and public administration, international relations and related fields (after two years of study) or graduates with good standing.

Number of Participants

20–25

Course Fees

€ 995 (without accommodation)

This includes tuition and programme fees, health, accident and liability insurance, study visits, most parts of the culture and leisure time programme.

Credits

- 6 ECTS: Business Law Programme
- 1 ECTS: German culture & society module
- Up to 7 ECTS credits

Accommodation

- Student hotel (double room)
- Arrival 28 June (move-in), departure 18 July (move-out)
- Optional booking upon request

Culture and Leisure Time Programme

The summer school team offers participants a wide variety of optional cultural and social events in Berlin and surrounding area (e.g. museums, boat trip, palaces, trips to Potsdam and Sachsenhausen) about twice a week.

Registration Deadline

- 1 April 2026
- 15 March 2026 for nominated students from partner universities
- Early-Bird 10% by 10 March 2026

Contact, Enquiries and Registration

HWR Berlin Summer and Winter School

Email: summer@hwr-berlin.de

www.hwr-berlin.de/summerschools

Syllabus

Students will better understand the workings of the EU through an analysis of the political processes and legal structures that underpin it. During the course they will explore the process of European integration; EU labour law; and corporate governance and competition law. This exploration will help students to understand the EU's interactions with the wider world, the relationships between EU member states and the challenges that the EU faces going forward.

For a more detailed syllabus, please email summer@hwr-berlin.de

Lecturers

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Aden, Prof. Dr. Torsten Tristan Straub, Prof. Dr. Johannes Schäffer and others.

Week 1

Day European Governance

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is governance – what is European governance?• Governance and multi-level governance in the EU; diversification of governance |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The entrepreneurial process The EU institutions and their role in the EU multi-level system• Law-making in the EU |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judicial governance: the European Court of Justice, national courts and litigants• Federal states in the EU multi-level system: the impact of Europeanisation on the German Federal Council (Bundesrat) |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study visit to the German Federal Council (Bundesrat)• EU multi-level governance 1 – internet, data protection and artificial intelligence law and policy |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU multilevel governance 2 – environmental policy and climate change: laws and new environmental policy instruments• Assessment: written test |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Corporate Law: European legislation, decisions of the ECJ |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Social Responsibility: history of CSR and ESG• Anglo-American approach, EU approach, hard and soft law |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Governance models in the European Union: One-tier and two-tier system• Different approaches of member states of the European Union |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study visit to a local court• Case Studies: supply chain, corporate governance models in different member states of the EU, CSR- and ESG activities of a company |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment: written test |

Weeks 1–3: Additional Module

German Culture and Society: Intercultural Perspectives

- Students will be exposed to various aspects of German culture and society through a series of site visits and reflective papers
- The reflective papers (one per study week) should be related to an aspect of German culture and society and/or students' intercultural experience

* Course content/lecturers may be subject to change

Last but not least: Get more out of your Summer School experience!

Combine this programme with our add-on "Cross-Cultural Management"

Week 2

Day EU Foreign Policy / Labour Rights

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU's Foreign Policy Framework under the Lisbon Treaty• EU Economic Sanctions• Case Study: Sanctions Against Russia |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Football Slavery" and the FIFA / UEFA as cartels under EU Law |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unveiling? Religious Clothing and Labour Rights under European Law• Whistleblower protection under European Law |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foreign Policy vs. Trade Policy? |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study visit: The Representation of the EU in Berlin• Assessment |

Week 3

Day EU Corporate Law