



FACULTY OF LAW AND ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Module Guide

2025/2026

Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.

The Program:

The Mannheim Master of Comparative Business Law (M.C.B.L.) is an advanced academic program providing an in depth understanding of the business law aspects of the Single European and the Global Market.

The program aims at providing students with competence in both comparative and business law, sharpening them in their careers as strategic decision makers in the public as well as in the private sector. It offers a unique combination of traditional comparative law studies (legal methodology and the common/civil law divide) and studies in business law (e.g., competition law, contract law and company law) including trade related aspects. Furthermore, it provides general and specific knowledge of the European Union legal framework and of the actors in international trade law.

The program addresses in particular the practical problems resulting from the co-existence of business law at different levels, i.e., the regional business law of the European Union and its respective Member States with the global (or near-global) trade law of the World Trade Organization.

The M.C.B.L. is a full-time program (one academic year) with daily classes. Courses take place (consecutively) over two semesters, from September until early June. The first term focuses on European Business Law whereas the second term has an emphasis on international business law.

Modules:

The program consists of compulsory, intensive and elective modules. The content of the modules has been chosen carefully. The modules are composed in an order, which ensures the ideal development of both academic and professional competences. **Changes in modules are possible.**

The compulsory modules have a clearly defined focus on comparative legal methodology and the legal sources, actors and means of action. Whereas these subjects of European and International Law are indispensable for business lawyers and thus mandatory, students can also form the program to fit their own interests by choosing from a wide variety of courses which are offered in the intensive and elective modules. These modules cover all main subjects of business law, thus enabling students to gain a depth of study. Moreover, these modules contribute to the coherence of the competences obtained. The program pays specific attention to professional applications, particularly through its teaching methods and assignments. To serve this purpose, the program focuses on a combination of legal theory as well as thorough study and analysis of cases and thus takes advantage of an outstanding and well-developed characteristic feature of German legal education.

All students have to complete a total of 12 courses (20 ECTS per semester) and are required to pass an examination at the end of each course. With regard to intensive and elective modules, students are expected to participate actively in the courses, and they are required to prepare oral and written presentations. In addition, a master's thesis (20 ECTS) on a topic of choice is required.

Study Tours:

In addition to the courses offered in Mannheim, both fall and spring semesters comprise a study tour. Further information will be provided in due time.

The Students:

The M.C.B.L. is a postgraduate program in the field of European and international business law. The program is designed for law graduates, or graduates with a sufficient background in law, who wish to pursue advanced studies to specialize in the area of business law with a comparative perspective. It prepares students for an institutional employment within the EU or domestic administrations on the one hand, as well as for an employment at companies or private practice acting in the global market on the other.

The M.C.B.L. is an academic program in English and open to German and foreign students with at least a four-year degree, (preferably) in law (Bachelor, LL.B., or equivalent). No prior background in comparative law or comparative political studies is expected or necessary.

The M.C.B.L. program is demanding. In just one academic year it offers a thorough and focused education on European and international business law. The M.C.B.L. program therefore is specifically designed for excellent students at an advanced level and for qualified lawyers who wish to enhance their career prospects. Due to the small size of the classes, students benefit from close contact with their professors as well as their fellow students. The students come from all over the world, thus contributing to a truly international study environment.

Language:

All courses and course materials are in English. A very good knowledge of the English language is thus required (please see admission requirements).

The Lecturers:

In addition to professors of European and international business law of the Mannheim department of law, experienced legal practitioners from public authorities and renowned law firms will instruct students and give them important insights into everyday legal practice.

Facts:

- ✓ Master Program, 1 year (60 ECTS), full time
- ✓ Participating university: Mannheim
- ✓ Degree: Master of Comparative Business Law (M.C.B.L.)
- ✓ Tuition fees: EUR 8,500 for the entire program

Part I: Overview of Modules

This overview lists the modules (whether compulsory or intensive/elective) offered during the Master of Comparative Business Law Program.

Abbreviations:

HWS (fall/winter term): Course is offered every Fall/Winter Term

FSS (spring/summer term): Course is offered every Spring/Summer Term

Information on the content of the modules (e.g., lecturers and course descriptions) can be found in Part II of the Module Guide.

Nota bene:

- Every module is to be completed in one semester.
- There are no further pre-requisites to the individual courses.
- Further information on grading can be found under the Link: <https://www.jura.uni-mannheim.de/studium/master-of-comparative-business-law/mannheim-track/>
„Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master’s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L. “.

A. Fall-Winter-Term: European Comparative & Business Law

Modules at the University of Mannheim

1. Compulsory Module

No.	Introduction to Comparative European Law	ECTS	Page
1	Comparative Law I (European Legal Traditions)	4	8
2	Introduction to European Business Law	4	9
3	European Union Law – Institutional Aspects	4	10

2. Intensive Module

No.	The Internal Market	ECTS	Page
4	European Market Freedoms	3	12
5	European Competition Law	3	13
6	European Private Law	3	14
7	International Arbitration	3	14

3. Elective Module

No.	European Business Law	ECTS	Page
8	E-Commerce & Internet	2	16
9	Advocacy Skills	2	17
10	Introduction to German Private Law	2	18
11.	European Tax Law	2	18

B. Spring-Summer-Term: International Comparative & Business Law

Modules at the University of Mannheim

1. Compulsory Module

No.	Introduction to Comparative International Law	ECTS	Page
12	Comparative Law II (The Common/Civil Law Divide)	4	21
13	Introduction to International Business Law	4	22
14	Law & Economics	4	23

2. Intensive Module

No.	The Global Market	ECTS	Page
15	International Trade Law	3	25
16	Corporate Governance II	3	25
17	International Sale of Goods	3	26
18	Private International Law	3	26

3. Elective Module

No.	International Business Law	ECTS	Page
20	International Business Transactions Will not be offered in FSS 2026	2	28
21	Intellectual Property Law	2	29
22	International Investment Law	2	31
23	European Communications and Media Law	2	31
24	Anti-Discrimination Law	2	32

Part II: Detailed Information on the Modules

A. Fall-Winter-Term: European Comparative & Business Law Modules at the University of Mannheim

Compulsory Module: Introduction to Comparative European Law (Introduction Lectures)

Content & conception

The compulsory module has a clearly defined focus on comparative legal methodology and the legal sources, actors and means of action. These subjects of European and International Law are indispensable for business lawyers and thus mandatory. The compulsory module consists of three classes, which provide the theoretical and methodological basis for those courses, which can be chosen from the intensive or elective modules. The compulsory module therefore provides students a profound introduction to comparative law and a good understanding of the basic structures of the European Union.

- ✓ Comparative Law I - European Legal Traditions
- ✓ Introduction to European Business Law (including the "Development of European Business Law through the legal practice of the CJEU")
- ✓ European Union Law – Institutional Aspects

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

The module presents the necessary background for both a comparative law analysis and the basis for understanding the European multi-level system.

Students acquire a general understanding of comparative legal methodology and a good basic understanding of the entire area of law in order to get a good working knowledge on a methodological level for the master's thesis.

Students will become familiar with the most relevant methods of comparative law, their advantages, and disadvantages. Furthermore, they will become familiar with relevant problems and their solutions in major European legal systems and selected other jurisdictions. They will get an overview of the factors relevant for fruitful learning from other legal systems. In addition, they acquire the knowledge of European rule making and EU law, which they need in order to understand European business law thoroughly and, which will hence prepare them for their future careers in international law firms, European institutions and companies.

Students are able to handle complex legal questions and cases addressed in the intensive and elective modules.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
Comparative Law I - European Legal Traditions	2	4
Introduction to European Business Law ()	4	4
European Union Law - Institutional Aspects	2	4
Total Module ECTS		3 x 4 = 12
Course type	Introduction lectures	
Range of application	• Comparative Law I: M.C.B.L., int. exchange students	

	• Introduction to European Business Law: M.C.B.L. students only • European Union Law: M.C.B.L., int. exchange students
Examination and grades	Written examination (3 x 60 minutes = 180 minutes) For passing the module, all examinations must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0) For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master`s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L. “.
Lecturer	Various
Frequency of offer Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	Only in HWS <u>360 h (120 h + 240 h)</u>
<u>Content in Detail</u> <u>1. Comparative Law I - European Legal Traditions</u> This class makes the nature of Comparative Law as well as its functions and aims accessible to students from different legal backgrounds. As studying even one legal system fully is difficult and time-consuming, the course must necessarily take a selective approach to the multitude of legal systems in the world. The class Comparative Law I therefore will focus on European Legal Traditions (in particular the German, French and English Legal Tradition), whose similarities and differences are an important driver of European harmonization. Matching the overall aim of this module the course will focus on private law and business law aspects of comparative law. The course has three main components. The first part will cover the origins and utility of comparative law, its aims, tools and methods. This part will particularly focus on the legal orders, which the participants of the class are most familiar with. The content of the course in this respect will change annually in correspondence with the legal systems represented in class. The main second part of the course will look at common features of generally accepted concepts of both contract law and of building bricks necessary for any business law, such as division of work, liability, tort law and insurance. The different possible solutions for these problems, which appear in different forms in many jurisdictions, will be presented, followed by an analysis of how they are governed by legal orders belonging to different legal families. Lines of influence and hybrids will similarly be covered. Furthermore, the course will give comparative legal insights to laws in transition as well as legal transplants. Whereas former socialist European countries may serve as an example for the first, the adoption of economic concepts in contract law (such as merchandising and franchising from the US in Europe and the respective related problems of integration into European Union law) are paradigmatic for the second. The third part of the course will cover a comparison of legal education and profession (e.g. role of the judiciary and academics), a critical matter for proper delivery of legal services to foreign clients and working effectively with international law partners.	

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Oliver Brand LL.M

Prof. Dr. Oliver Brand LL.M (Cambridge) has studied law at the Universities of Münster and Cambridge (United Kingdom) and political science at the University of Münster. He obtained his doctorate on the international law of interest and usury at the University of Münster, where he also conducted the research for his professorial thesis on compulsory licensing. He is currently a professor of Private Law, Insurance Law, Business Law and Comparative Law at the University of Mannheim, managing director of the Mannheim Institute of Insurance and director of the Institute of Medical Law & Bioethics.

2. Introduction to European Business Law

The importance of European Union Law for business entities has increased dramatically over the past years. This is especially true for companies that primarily operate within Europe, yet, as the lawsuits against Microsoft and other corporations demonstrate, non-EU based companies are also strongly affected by European Union Law. The general objective of this course is to give a comprehensive introduction to European Business Law.

This course will show that the idea of market integration has been crucial for the development of general principles of EU law (such as direct effect or supremacy). The course gives an overview on fields of legal regulation, the competence of the European Union to take action, the main aims of European harmonization with regard to businesses and the sector specific approaches taken. It will focus on the overall aim of the European Internal Market to create a level playing field and analyses the respective measures and their effect on everyday practice of businesses acting in Europe. The respective legal areas will be analysed from the perspective of a business engaged in the internal market.

- ✓ History of the European integration
- ✓ General Concepts of EU Law
- ✓ Market Freedoms
- ✓ EU Competition Law
- ✓ Harmonization of Private and Business Law
- ✓ State Aid Law

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Friedemann Kainer

Prof. Dr. Kainer has studied law at the university of Heidelberg where he also obtained his doctorate. Since 2012, he holds a chair for German and European Private, Business and Labour law. His areas of academic interest include the Law of the Internal Market, European Labour Law and international trade as well as constitutional issues of the European Union. He is a Member of the European Community Studies Association and Senior Member of the Mannheim Centre for Competition and Innovation. Prof. Kainer has published extensively on numerous issues of European business law and is an advisor to the European Parliament on questions of the internal market for services.

2.1. The development of European Business Law through the legal practice of the CJEU (special part of the course Introduction to European Business Law)

The role and the influence of the CJEU to the development of EU law is outstanding. The CJEU has contributed immensely to the development and current structure of the EU legal system. Its principles of functioning and its role in the EU legal system are unique and the CJEU continues to play a crucial role in creation and development of the internal market and the law of the EU.

This course, as special part of the courses Introduction to European Business Law, introduces students to the methods of reasoning of the CJEU and its contribution to European Business law. Within the course, leading cases of the CJEU will be analysed and discussed in respect to their influence on the nature of the EU and its principles of functioning (e.g., principle of supremacy, direct effect). The course aims to provide students with deeper knowledge on how the European business law has been created and developed through leading cases of the CJEU and what further effects does this development makes to the legal system of European Union. As a result of the course, students will have acquired sound competences in reading and understanding CJEU judgements and applying them to new legal problems.

Lecturer: Dr. Berina Fischinger-Corbo, M.A., M.C.B.L.

Berina Fischinger-Corbo is a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Dean's Office of the Department of Law at the University of Mannheim. She has studied law at University of Mannheim (Doctoral Degree and M.C.B.L. Degree) and University of Sarajevo (Bachelor and Master's Degree). She has obtained State Examination and Bar Examination in Sarajevo and has worked as inhouse lawyer and advisor for the national electric utility company, as well as for the main German development agency. Her research areas focus on the European Union law, European Business law and the law of internal market.

3. European Union Law - Institutional Aspects

The European Union (EU) is an international organization of a supranational character and, as such, part of a multi-level system of government. Traditionally, EU Law has concentrated on the creation and functioning of what is called the Internal Market. The addition of new policies, e.g., in the fields of asylum, border controls or foreign and security policy, has not diminished, but rather increased its impact on all fields of economically relevant law.

EU Law not only interacts with the domestic law of each of the Union's Member States. To a considerable extent, it directly affects legal relations within the Member States' legal spheres, whether they are of a public- or a private-law nature. This holds true both for the EU's "primary law", i.e. provisions of the treaties, protocols and annexes, and for its "secondary law", i.e. legal acts issued by EU institutions, which can take the forms of regulations, directives and decisions as well as opinions and recommendations.

The course will introduce the main sources of primary law (the Treaties, i.e. EU, TFEU), the institutions (esp. European Parliament, European Council, Council, Commission, Court of Justice) and the different means of action (Regulation, Directive, Recommendation, Soft Law). The respective legal sources of secondary law, the procedures for their creation or enactment and their position in the hierarchy of norms as well as their legal effects, their implementation and enforcement will be covered. Further the course will focus on the interplay between European and national law, analysing, inter alia, the need for harmonized interpretation and the mechanisms – such as preliminary rulings – by which EU Law tries to achieve this aim. Furthermore, the judicial remedies against breaches of EU Law, especially those available to individuals and private corporations (including actions for damages), are of interest.

In this course, students will be equipped with the foundations of EU law and the defining features of the EU legal order. The sui generis nature of the EU legal order is explored and illustrated with case-law of the EU Court of Justice.

- ✓ Foundation of the European Union: nature, structure and development
- ✓ Sources of European Union Law
- ✓ The organizational structure: EU institutions (e.g. European Parliament, European Council, Council, Commission, Court of Justice) their creation and functioning
- ✓ Court of Justice of the European Union: Means of judicial protection; uniform interpretation of EU Law; the interpretative guideline of effet utile
- ✓ Types of legislation and other means of action
- ✓ Implementation of EU Law in the Member States' domestic legal orders
- ✓ Effects of EU Law on rights and obligations of individuals

Lecturer: Roland Klages

Roland Klages is a *référéndaire* in the chambers of the First Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union. Prior to this, he has worked in legal and management functions at the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the European Court of Auditors. He has studied in Heidelberg (First State Exam Baden-Württemberg), Geneva and Bruges (LL.M.) and has received his practical legal training in Rheinland-Pfalz (Second State Exam). His areas of expertise are EU budgetary and institutional law and legal remedies as well the law of the internal market, data protection and the external relations of the EU. He has published and lectured widely in these domains.

Intensive Module: The Internal Market (Advanced Lectures)**Content & conception:**

The intensive module focuses on the one hand on the regulatory framework set up by the harmonized law of the internal market. On the other hand, problems will be tackled, which result from the parallel existing (to date) 27 national legal orders that together make up the internal market.

The intensive module offers four classes, of which students have to choose two. This flexibility serves in particular the module selection, thus complementing the basic knowledge students have already acquired in the course of their preceding programs.

- ✓ European Market Freedoms
- ✓ European Competition Law
- ✓ European Private Law
- ✓ International Arbitration

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

The module is intended to give the students a thorough grounding in the substantive provisions on the internal market. Also, they will understand the specific economic approach to the application of competition law, especially of how competition law affects business decisions. They will be familiar with original decisions by the EU Commission and the European Courts dealing with competition aspects. The module also aims at training students to discuss cases critically and to enhance their skills of dealing with new and yet unknown problems of substantive European Community law by applying the generally acknowledged methods of interpretation.

Furthermore, the intensive module promotes critical awareness for the complex ways in which domestic private and procedural law are subject to Europeanization. In addition, the module intends to provide an

overview of the state court and arbitration as alternative means to resolve disputes and familiarize the students with their respective advantages and disadvantages, which are indispensable for an informed choice.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
European Market Freedoms	2	3
European Competition Law	2	3
European Private Law	2	3
International Arbitration	2	3
Total Module ECTS		2 x 3 = 6
Course type	Advanced lectures	
Range of application	• European Market Freedoms: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MMM, int. exchange students • European Competition Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MWR, MMM, int. exchange students • European Private Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • International Arbitration: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students	
Examination and grades	Written examination (2 x 60 minutes = 120 minutes) For passing the module, both examinations must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0). For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master’s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.“.	
Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	<u>180 h (60 h + 120 h)</u>	
Lecturer	Various	
Frequency of offer	Only in HWS	

Content in Detail

1. European Market Freedoms

All private persons or companies upon entering one of the EU Member States not only come under this single State’s national legal order. They are immediately affected by “European Law”, the law of the European Union granting them certain rights and privileges but also requiring them to comply with certain duties and obligations. The internal market is one of the essential cornerstones of the European Union. The Market Freedoms lie at its heart. The free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is essential for unifying the markets while ensuring competition and trade within Europe. The freedoms grant direct effective rights to private persons and legal persons, which can be enforced before national courts, and guarantee the freedom of contract in a transnational perspective.

The course will focus on a systematic survey of the market freedoms by the means of studying the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.

- ✓ General concept of the market freedoms
- ✓ Development and aim of market freedoms
- ✓ Leading cases of the European Court of Justice
- ✓ Function of market freedom fostering integration
- ✓ Further development of market freedoms
- ✓ Impact of market freedoms (compliance)

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Jens-Uwe Franck, LL.M. (Yale) and Prof. Dr. Michael W. Müller, LL.M. (Cambridge)

Jens-Uwe Franck has studied law at the University of Halle and the London School of Economics. He earned a further law degree (LL.M.) from Yale Law School and a doctoral degree (Dr. iur.) from the Humboldt University of Berlin. Jens-Uwe Franck has clerked at the European Court of Justice in Luxemburg for Judge Egils Levits and has worked for the Advisory Service to the Legal Reform in Beijing in China. Before joining the law department at the University of Mannheim he held a post-doc position at the University of Munich. His academic specialties include private law, commercial and competition law. He has published numerous articles in these fields.

Michael W. Mueller holds the Chair for Public Law, European Economic Law, and Legal Philosophy at University of Mannheim. Michael Mueller studied law and philosophy at LMU Munich. He earned an Academy Diploma in the Law of the European Union from the European University Institute, an LL.M. degree from University of Cambridge (Wolfson College) and a doctoral degree from LMU Munich, where he also completed his habilitation. He was a Post-Graduate Research Fellow of the Bavarian American Academy at Harvard Law School and a Visiting Fellow at Duke Law School and at the European University Institute. His research focuses on German and European public law, with a particular interest in economic regulation and public finance, and on legal philosophy.

2. European Competition Law

Over the past 70 years, the rules on Competition Law (Antitrust) in the EU have developed into a substantial body of law. They constitute directly applicable rules for enterprises, and as such they are of immediate concern to them. The European Commission and National Competition Authorities jointly enforce those rules. Contracts in violation of the rules are unenforceable, and huge fines are imposed in case of infringements while parties that suffered damages may litigate before a national civil court.

This course offers an introduction to main areas of EU competition law illustrated by practical examples from recent case law. Core elements of EU competition law treated include the prohibition of agreements that restrict competition (Article 101 TFEU) and the prohibition of the abuse of a dominant position (Article 102 TFEU). The course will also dive into recent developments, in particular in digital markets and include basic outlines of European merger control.

It is the aim of the course to provide the participants with a solid basis for the practice of competition law which offers interesting job opportunities in private practice, civil service and academia. The course will cover the main features of the EU rules both from a substantive and a procedural perspective, including the relationship between EU and national competition law as well as the economic principles and procedures concerning merger control.

Lecturer: Dr. Johannes Persch

Johannes Persch studied law at the University of Mannheim, graduating in 2016 best of his class, and the University of Chicago Law School. He is a qualified to practice law in Germany (Volljurist). Currently, Johannes Persch works as a policy officer at the European Commission's Directorate General for Competition in the Directorate for Policy and Strategy where his responsibilities include the coordination with National Competition Authorities, private enforcement of EU competition law and the coordination with national courts.

3. European Private Law

The course will provide a framework for an advanced comprehension of European private law in comparative perspective, with an eye on the impact of Union legislation and adjudication on national legal systems.

Institutional aspects of EU law and its interplay with national law as well as the relevant directives and regulations harmonizing national private laws will be covered, as well as general structures and core concepts of European private law. This will in particular relate to contracts as the most important means to create and organize legal environments on the one hand and the restraints on party autonomy in favour of the weaker party and the means for its protection (i.e. consumer law) on the other.

- ✓ Development of European private law
- ✓ The different layers of legal sources
- ✓ Methods of unification on the European level
- ✓ Specific regulations and directives

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer, LL.M. (Osgoode)

Andreas Maurer is professor at the University of Mannheim. He studied Law at the University of Frankfurt, Germany and completed his studies with his first state exam (LL.B. equivalent) in 2003. From 2003 until 2005 Andreas Maurer articulated at the Oberlandesgericht (Higher Regional Court) Frankfurt, Germany and finished his articling service with the second state exam (bar exam). He was admitted to the bar of Frankfurt in 2006. In the academic year 2006/2007 Andreas Maurer studied at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, Toronto, Canada and obtained his LL.M. in 2008. He also was a fellow at the Nathanson Centre for transnational Crime and Security at York University. After he returned to Germany, Andreas Maurer started his Ph.D. studies at the University of Bremen and received the Ph.D. in 2011 with his thesis on the "Lex Maritima", a transnational maritime law. His research focuses on private law, international trade law, transnational law, transport and maritime law, and legal theory.

4. International Arbitration

This course provides an introduction to the law and practice of international arbitration, which has become the predominant method for resolving international commercial disputes. Rather than focusing on the laws of a particular country, the course will consider general principles of international arbitration and the framework established by the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, and arbitration rules that are of relevance in jurisdictions around the globe. The course will be of particular interest to students seeking careers in dispute resolution or as in-house counsel in an international business environment.

The course will cover the following topics:

- ✓ Suitability of arbitration for international disputes
- ✓ Drafting arbitration agreements
- ✓ Widely-used arbitration rules (ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, Swiss Rules, DIS, SIAC, HKIAC)
- ✓ Initiation of arbitration proceedings

- ✓ Conduct of arbitration proceedings
- ✓ Enforcement of arbitral awards (New York Convention)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Lea Tochtermann

Lea Tochtermann has been a Junior professor for Civil Law and European Patent Law since September 2016. She studied law in Heidelberg and Paris (Sciences Po), completed her legal clerkship in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and received a doctorate degree from the University of Mannheim with a thesis on the topic of "Sukzessionsschutz im Recht des Geistigen Eigentums" ('Effects vis-à-vis third parties in Intellectual Property Law'). In her research she focuses on intellectual property protection – in particular patent law and the interrelations with private international law and international civil procedure – trade secret protection and arbitration law. Prof. Tochtermann teaches general civil law, arbitration law and international sale of goods (CISG), as well as patent and competition law.

Elective Module: European Business Law (Specialization Lectures)

Content & conception

The elective module has its focus to build on the knowledge gained in the compulsory and intensive modules. This module offers a broad variety of specific areas of law from a comparative and European law perspective applying the methods and techniques already acquired from existing (national) rules and cases decided by the ECJ and national courts. A special focus lies on interpreting the law, developing arguments and solving cases. The elective module offers three classes, of which the students have to choose one.

- ✓ E-Commerce & Internet
- ✓ Advocacy Skills
- ✓ Introduction to German Private Law
- ✓ European Tax Law

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

The Elective Module offers the opportunity of applying the competencies and skills gained in the Compulsory and Intensive Modules in another area of law. Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of structures and rules of German and European law to the field of e-commerce and shall be enabled to audit the requirements for e-commerce projects and to solve legal problems, which have resulted in the course of e-business. Also, the students will be able to gain deeper understanding of both the EU system of fundamental rights protection and its relationship with the national and international human rights systems. Students will learn to address and critically assess fundamental rights issues and will gain familiarity with the major techniques of fundamental rights adjudication. They will, in addition, will be acquainted with the overall structure of German private law and the German Civil Code as its main source. They will acquire the necessary skills to find the respective legal sources, analyse whether a specific intended business action appears admissible or may imply legal risks.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
E-Commerce & Internet	2	2
Advocacy Skills	2	2
Introduction to German Private Law	2	2
European Tax Law	2	2

Total Module ECTS		1 x 2 = 2
Course type	Specialization lecture	
Range of application	• E-Commerce & Internet: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • Advocacy Skills: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • Introduction to German Private Law: M.C.B.L., int. exchange students • European Tax Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MMM, MWR, int. exchange students	
Examination and grades	Oral (10-20 minutes) For passing the module, one examination must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0). For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master`s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.“.	
Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	<u>60 h (30 h + 30 h)</u>	
Lecturer	Various	
Frequency of offer	Only in HWS	
Content in Detail		
<u>1. E-Commerce & Internet</u>		
The course gives a thorough introduction to the major legal aspects of Online Business, including platform based activities, AI support and marketing tools on Social Media. ✓ Electronic and Mobile Commerce ✓ Platforms and Social Media, Intermediaries ✓ Utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) ✓ Advertising online and on Social Media ✓ Copyright and Internet ✓ Domains ✓ Cross Border E-Commerce The chapter on electronic and mobile commerce will inter alia cover formation of online contracts, General Terms of Business, consumer protection, mobile commerce (incl. “App-stores”), seller ratings and auctions. The class on platforms and social media outlines the principles of liability of intermediaries, including WIFI-providers and platforms. It discusses liability for hyperlinks, user generated content and the enforcement of the law fighting hate speech. The stage Online Advertising and Data Protection introduces to rules of unfair competition, imprint information, the use of cookies and the ban of spamming. It also focuses on specific business models as the online sale of pharmaceutical products, ad blockers and influencers. Additionally, the European data protection law is outlined. The section on copyright law focuses on copyright restrictions for the presentation of content (including framing, file sharing, streaming		

and hyperlinks on protected content). The regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and IP-related issues of operating and using AI are discussed. The section on domains explains the domain name system and its implications on trademark law and unfair competition law, including enforcement aspects. The course concludes with a discussion of jurisdiction for online cases, applicable law and the country-of-origin-principle.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Markus Köhler

Prof. Dr. Köhler is equity partner and head of the IP practice group at the Stuttgart based law firm of OPPENLÄNDER. He practises in IP litigation, arbitration and complex infrastructure pricing cases. He is specifically experienced in advising the establishment of online shops. He has studied at the University of Mannheim and has been research assistant to the chair of Professor Dr. Hans-Wolfgang Arndt. He is honorary professor and lecturer for trademark law and internet law. Prof. Dr. Köhler serves as member of the Executive Board of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Intellectual Property (IZG) and is member of the Special Committee for Trademark and Unfair Competition Law in the German Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (GRUR). He is Co-Editor and Author of Müller-Terpitz/Köhler, Digital Services Act and Member of the Board of Editors of the professional journal "Zeitschrift für das Recht der Digitalwirtschaft".

2. Advocacy Skills

This course is dedicated to the art and science of communication as a lawyer. How do you convince a judge that your client is in the right? What can you do to really impress in a courtroom or as a speaker at a conference? How do you draft a memo so that it is easy to understand? How do you prevail in a negotiation over a multi-million Euro contract? The answers to these questions are crucial for a successful career as a lawyer. The art of effective communication in a highly professional context requires mastery of the full range of advocacy skills taught in this course. As a first step, the course is designed to give the students a general idea of what advocacy is all about. It will then go into detail and present a set of concrete guidelines for persuasive written and oral presentations. The highly interactive course will focus on the "how" (structure and style of presentations) and conclude with a solid introduction to negotiation psychology.

- ✓ Heuristics: How our brain ticks and makes decisions
- ✓ The art of writing: to explain, to convince or to confuse
- ✓ Do you have PowerPoint or something to say? – Present professionally!
- ✓ Crisis communication
- ✓ Finding out the truth: Open questions & active listening
- ✓ Interrogating witnesses: their story or your story?
- ✓ Competitive and cooperative negotiation
- ✓ Negotiation psychology

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Jörg Risse, LL.M. (Berkeley)

Jörg Risse has studied law at the University of Heidelberg where he earned his doctorate in 1997; in the same year, he completed his postgraduate studies for "Master of Laws" at the University of California at Berkeley. Since 2002, Jörg Risse is a partner of the international law firm Baker McKenzie in Frankfurt am Main; as such, he represents his clients in state court proceedings as well as large-scale arbitration proceedings and frequently serves as arbitrator or CEDR accredited mediator. Jörg Risse is widely considered to be one of the leading arbitration practitioners and most-in-demand arbitrators in Germany (Chambers, Who's Who Legal, Legal 500, Juve).

3. Introduction to German Private Law

The module is designed to give a comprehensive survey of German private law, i.e. general rules of private law, commercial law, and civil procedure.

An important structural decision of German private law (sic!) is already displayed by the fact that the Civil Code is the 'law book for citizens' - today including consumers - whereas particular rules for businesses are comprised in the commercial code, corporate law, and various other codifications.

However, both general private law, and commercial law are enforced by the same rules of civil procedure. The German Civil Code is of paramount importance for understanding German law as its concept and system has impressed the legal thinking of generations of German lawyers. Students will be acquainted with both its sources, and its general principles. In the course of the class students will learn to work with the German civil code, understand the underlying system, influences on the Civil Code from the European Union (EU), and the accepted methods of interpretation.

- ✓ Introduction to German Private Law
- ✓ The division between public law, general private law and commercial law
- ✓ The German Civil Code
- ✓ Influence from the EU
- ✓ Basic concepts and means of interpretation
- ✓ Function and Content of the General Part
- ✓ Law of obligations (contracts, torts, and unjust enrichment)
- ✓ Property Law
- ✓ Law of succession and company law (including partnerships and corporations)
- ✓ The system of law enforcement

Lecturer: Dr. Stefan Zeyher

Dr. Stefan Zeyher is a partner of Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz. He was admitted to the bar in 2006. In his practice he focuses on representing his clients in litigation and arbitration matters as a counsel; he also has experience as an arbitrator. Furthermore, Dr. Zeyher advises his clients on corporate law, group law, public and private M&A and commercial law. Dr. Zeyher studied at the Universities of Constance, Mannheim (Dr. iur.) and St. Gallen, Switzerland (Executive Master of European and International Business Law). Dr. Zeyher authored publications in the fields of corporate law, M&A, capital markets, civil procedure law and arbitration.

4. European Tax Law

European Union Law has an increasing impact on the taxation of private individuals and companies conducting business in Europe. Although the European Union does not have original tax authority, its laws have a major influence on national tax laws.

The module will begin with an introduction, repeating some basic principles of European Union Law, particularly its legal system, the Four Freedoms of the single market and the prohibition of state aids. The main focus of the course will then lie on the impact of European Union Law on the national tax laws of member states. First, we will examine the concept of negative integration: Through prominent case law from the European Court of Justice, we will analyse how the Four Freedoms and European State Aid Law shape tax laws of member states. Subsequently, we will study several European Directives (including the Parent-Subsidiary-Directive, ATAD and VAT-Directive) to comprehend the concept of positive integration in both direct and indirect taxation. The module will conclude with an excursion into the taxation of the digital economy – a highly debated topic in recent years. That includes in particular the recently enacted directive on a global minimum tax.

- ✓ Revision of basic principles of European Union Law (basic knowledge of European Union Law is required or must be acquired in self-study)
- ✓ Role of the European Union in the area of taxation
- ✓ Harmonisation of national tax law by negative integration (Four Freedoms, state aid law)
- ✓ Overview of important case law from the European Court of Justice
- ✓ Harmonisation of direct and indirect taxes through positive integration (European tax directives)
- ✓ Taxation of the digital economy (including Digital Service Tax, Global Minimum Taxation)

Students will develop a fundamental understanding of the relation between European Union Law and national tax laws. They will learn how European Union Law influences and limits national taxation. Students will be required to analyse the significance of the Four Freedoms for taxation in Europe. Moreover, the discussion of the relevant case law will enable them to classify and evaluate decisions of the European Court of Justice. Students will also be able to apply tax-relevant directives enacted by the EU.

Lecturer: Dr. Christoph Kiegler

Christoph Kiegler is a partner of Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz. He studied Law at the University of Heidelberg, Germany and completed his studies with his first state exam (LL.B. equivalent) in 1999. From 2000 until 2002 Christoph Kiegler articulated at the Oberlandesgericht (Higher Regional Court) Karlsruhe, Germany and finished his articling service with the second state exam (bar exam). He was admitted to the bar of Frankfurt in 2003 while working at KPMG in Frankfurt, Germany, with a focus on M&A tax and international tax advice. In 2007 he passed the tax advisor exam (Steuerberaterexamen). Christoph Kiegler is advising clients in cross-border reorganizations, financing and licensing structures as well as M&A transactions and tax litigation. He is also a lecturer for International Tax Planning at Mannheim Business School and examiner for the tax advisor exam at the Ministry of Finance Baden-Württemberg.

B. Spring-Summer-Term: International Comparative & Business Law

Modules at the University of Mannheim

Compulsory Module: Introduction to Comparative International Law (Introduction Lectures)

Content & conception:

The compulsory module has its focus on the worldwide market and intends to provide students with deeper insight into the international context and to prepare them for corporate decision-making and legal consulting. In this respect, the module aims to provide students with the theoretical and methodological basis of law.

The compulsory module consists of three classes, which (together) provide the theoretical and methodological basis for those courses, which can be chosen from the intensive or elective modules.

- ✓ Comparative Law II - The Common/Civil Law Divide
- ✓ Introduction to International Business Law
- ✓ Law & Economics

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

In order to supplement and to further enhance the contents of modules taught during the Fall-Winter-Term, the module will offer students a further understanding of differences and common features of the world's two major legal families, Civil law and Common law. The aim is to provide students with the necessary analytical background allowing them to carry out sophisticated comparative legal analysis of individual problems in their respective further fields of studies.

On the other hand, the module aims at providing students with an integrated and thorough understanding of the core principles, concepts and sources of WTO law and to familiarize them with economic rationales for the regulation of international commerce and its potential to remedy both market and governance failures by providing international public goods.

Finally, students will obtain a sound understanding of how economic methodology can be applied to legal problems and will learn to employ economic efficiency criteria as arguments for resolving legal cases as consideration for policymaking.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
Comparative Law II – The Common/Civil Law Divide	2	4
Introduction to International Business Law	2	4
Law & Economics	2	4
Total Module ECTS		3 x 4 = 12
Course type	Introduction lecture	
Range of application	• Comparative Law II: M.C.B.L., int. exchange students • Introduction to International Business Law: M.C.B.L. students only	

	• Law & Economics: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MWR, MMM, int. exchange students
Examination and grades	Written examination (3 x 60 minutes = 180 minutes) For passing the module, all examinations must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0). For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master’s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.“.
Lecturer	Various
Frequency of offer Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	Only in FSS <u>360 h (120 h + 240 h)</u>

Content in Detail

1. Comparative Law II - The Common/Civil Law Divide

The class Comparative Law II – The Common/Civil Law divide will focus on the Common/Civil Law divide and in particular compare aspects of the legal systems in continental Europe on the one hand, and the United States on the other hand. Methodological differences between the Civil law and the Common law systems will be pointed out, and subjects of particular importance for daily business, such as formation of contracts, agency, contract interpretation and liability for others will be treated in greater detail.

The course has three main components. The first part of the course will consider the origins and utility of comparative law, its aims, tools and methods. The second part of the course will review and analyse the two main legal traditions in the world, Common Law and Civil Law. The objective will be to understand differences and similarities between these two ways of understanding law and organizing legal institutions and procedures, on the other hand. In this context, an overview on the differences with regard to the rule of law, judicial review and the legal profession will be provided. The third part of the course will focus upon applying comparative legal analysis to actual cases and international disputes and show how the results differ depending on which legal order is applied. Several topics in contract law and tort law will be discussed in a comparative assessment, including third party rights, negotiorum gestio, unjust enrichment, strict liability, liability for others, compensation of non-monetary losses and collective actions.

- ✓ Basic features, tools and methods of comparative law
- ✓ Development and current status of Common Law and of Civil Law as legal families
- ✓ The education and role of lawyers
- ✓ Judges and judiciaries, lay judges and juries
- ✓ Legal reasoning
- ✓ Statutes and their construction
- ✓ Judicial precedents
- ✓ Particular legal institutions and instruments in a comparative assessment

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Oliver Brand

Prof. Dr. Oliver Brand, LL.M. (Cambridge) has studied law at the Universities of Münster and Cambridge (United Kingdom) and political science at the University of Münster. He obtained his doctorate on the

international law of interest and usury at the University of Münster, where he also conducted the research for his professorial thesis on compulsory licensing. He is currently a professor of Private Law, Insurance Law, Business Law and Comparative Law at the University of Mannheim and managing director of the Mannheim Institute of Insurance as well as director of the Institute of Medical Law and Bioethics.

2. Introduction to International Business Law

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the international institutions, the basic rules and principles, and many practical aspects of international economic integration, focusing on the numerous contemporary issues arising from the globalization of the world economy. The objective of the course is to provide students with knowledge of the institutional framework underpinning international and regional economic cooperation, and to equip them with basic understanding of the substantive rules and principles in the main areas of international economic integration: trade, investment, finance and development. The course is designed with a focus on issues of practical importance for lawyers, such as rules of origin, adjusting value chains to optimize the possibilities offered by international economic integration, and assessing the interconnections of dispute settlement mechanisms for addressing contentious issues. The course offers practical exercises of various nature to provide students with first-hand experience in addressing questions that arise in the field of international economic law and Issues raised by global economic governance.

The course covers, *inter alia*:

- ✓ introduction to economic globalization and theories of free trade
- ✓ history and evolution of international economic cooperation
- ✓ international organizations and institutions in the area of international economic law
- ✓ basic introduction to the role of the IMF and the World Bank
- ✓ introduction to the WTO: functions, institutional structure, membership, covered agreements
- ✓ overview of the main disciplines in the GATT 1994: tariffs, non-tariff barriers, non-discrimination (most-favoured-nation and national treatment principles), general exceptions
- ✓ overview of the main disciplines in free trade agreements (with a focus on rules of origin)
- ✓ overview of international investment law: main concepts and treatment standards, investor-State dispute settlement
- ✓ dispute settlement in international economic law: overview of dispute settlement in the WTO, in FTAs and in the area of international investment law
- ✓ economic sanctions

The course also includes practical exercises and a moot court exercise (simulation of a WTO dispute settlement proceeding).

Lecturer: Dr. Jenya Grigorova

Dr. Jenya Grigorova, LL.M. (NYU) is a Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the Legal Affairs Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO). She holds a PhD in International Law (*summa cum laude*, Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University), an LL.M. in International Legal Studies (New York University, Dean's award and Salzburg Cutler Fellow), a Master of Laws (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University), a Master of Laws (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski), and a Bachelor of Laws (University Nancy 2 / University of Lorraine).

Jenya was Research and Teaching Assistant to Professor Joseph H.H. Weiler at NYU, Teaching Fellow at Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University, Junior Lecturer at Evry Val d'Essonne (Paris-Saclay) University and Visiting Lecturer at Sciences Po (Nancy). She served as Assistant Editor for the European Journal of International Law (EJIL). Jenya gives various regular and guest lectures at the Universities of Düsseldorf, Melbourne, Bern (World Trade Institute), Rennes, and Geneva. Her research interests include international trade law, in particular WTO law, issues related to energy regulation on both international and regional

levels, international investment law and treaty interpretation. Jenya has published on various pressing issues in international trade relations, international investment law, public international law and EU law. Before joining the WTO, Jenya worked in private practice as associate with Sidley Austin LLP (Brussels). She interned at the European Commission's Legal Service and the WTO Appellate Body and worked as Research Fellow at the Energy Charter Secretariat. Jenya is admitted to the New York Bar.

3. Law & Economics

The course provides an introduction to “law and economics” (also known as the “economic analysis of law”), i.e. the application of concepts and methods from economics to legal problems.

Legal methodology does not offer the tools to describe or predict human behaviour. When interpreting legal provisions in light of their real-world purpose or when conducting functional legal comparisons, knowledge on how the law affects human behaviour is indispensable. Economics provides a behavioural theory to predict how people respond to legal rules. In this course, we will apply this theory to central areas of private law (tort law, contract law, property law). This will allow us to fine-tune the interpretation of legal provisions to the goals that the law promotes or the purpose it serves.

Foundations of law and economics

- ✓ What individuals strive for: Utility maximization under constraints
- ✓ What society strives for: Pareto and Kaldor-Hicks efficiency

Tort law

- ✓ Why we need tort law: Minimizing accident costs
- ✓ Comparing the effects on behaviour of negligence liability vs. strict liability

Contract law

- ✓ Why we need contract law: Minimizing transaction costs
- ✓ Why we need laws against fraud: Avoiding a Market for Lemons
- ✓ The effect of legal remedies on contract performance: The concept of efficient breach of contract

Property law

- ✓ Why we need property rights: The Coase Theorem and the Tragedy of the commons
- ✓ Why we need intellectual property rights: Fostering innovation

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Erik Röder

Erik Röder studied law at the Universities of Bayreuth (2000-2003 and 2004-2006; first state examination) and Montesquieu – Bordeaux IV (2003-2004; maîtrise en droit). He obtained his doctorate in law from the University of Bayreuth in 2009 and passed the second state examination in 2010. From 2011 until 2022, Erik Röder was a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance in Munich. In 2018, he completed his habilitation at LMU Munich. Since 2022, Erik Röder has been holding the chair for Private Law, Business Law, and Tax Law at the University of Mannheim. His research is marked by a comparative and interdisciplinary approach.

Intensive Module: The Global Market (Advanced Lectures)

Content & conception

The focus of the intensive module is on international business transactions and intends to provide the students with the necessary skills to negotiate and implement international business contracts. The intensive module offers five classes, of which the students have to choose two.

- ✓ International Trade Law
- ✓ Corporate Governance II
- ✓ International Sale of Goods
- ✓ Private International Law

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

This module aims to provide students with an understanding and working knowledge of the various legal principles and their sources that govern the mechanics of the trade in goods and services between and among nations. It also seeks to inform students of the public policy concerns and issues underlying these laws. Students will also obtain a solid understanding of the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of the corporate governance debate and will be able to participate in an informed discussion over corporate governance issues.

In addition, students will be able to ascertain the applicability of the CISG and deal with the most common legal problems arising under international sales contracts. Also, the students will have the opportunity to obtain the insight into most important issues and problems of a private international law. Finally, the students will get an opportunity to obtain the background knowledge of the law of international organizations.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
International Trade Law	2	3
Corporate Governance II	2	3
International Sale of Goods	2	3
Private International Law	2	3
Total Module ECTS	2	3
		2 x 3 = 6
Course type	Advanced lectures	
Range of application	• International Trade Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MMM, int. exchange students • Corporate Governance II: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • International Sale of Goods: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • Private International Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students	
Examination and grades	Written examination (2 x 60 minutes = 90 minutes) For passing the module, both examinations must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0). For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master’s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.“. 180 h (60 h + 120 h)	

Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	
Lecturer	Various
Frequency of offer	Only in FSS
<u>Content in Detail</u> <u>1. International Trade Law</u> The International Trade Law course introduces the students to the multilateral disciplines governing trade, focusing mainly on WTO rules. In this context, it aims to familiarize students not only with the present WTO rules and disciplines but also with the ongoing multilateral negotiations and reform discussions. The specific topics that will be covered in this course will include: ✓ Institutional structure and functioning of the WTO as an international organization ✓ Trade and food: trade in agriculture, food security, regulation of fisheries subsidies ✓ Trade and product safety: the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade ✓ Trade and food safety: The Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ✓ The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures: trade and state aids; protecting domestic industries against the impact of subsidized imports ✓ Dumping and its effect on domestic industries: The Anti-Dumping Agreement ✓ Protecting domestic industries against the impact of increased imports: The Agreement on Safeguards ✓ Services in international trade: The General Agreement on Trade in Services ✓ Dispute settlement: The Dispute Settlement Understanding Lecturer: Dr. Müslüm Yılmaz Dr. Müslüm Yılmaz holds an LL. B degree from Ankara University Faculty of Law (1992) and an LL.M degree from Tulane University School of Law (1998). He holds two PhD degrees, one from Ankara University (2005) and one from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (2015). Both of his dissertations were on trade law. He is licensed to practice law in Türkiye and in New York, United States. Dr. Yılmaz joined the Rules Division of the WTO Secretariat in 2001, and moved to the Legal Affairs Division in 2014, where he is currently working as Senior Dispute Settlement Lawyer. He has served many WTO panels as legal officer. Before joining the WTO Secretariat, he worked for the Turkish Government for eight years, including five years at the Anti-Dumping and Subsidy Investigations Unit. Dr. Yılmaz has several publications in the field of WTO law and other aspects of international law. <u>2. Corporate Governance II</u> The course offers an introduction to the economic theory of corporate governance and its application to corporate law, including aspects of insolvency, securities, and tax law. To obtain a thorough understanding of the economic theory of corporate governance, students are invited to read classic contributions to the corporate governance literature and to discuss them in class. ✓ Key features of business corporations ✓ Historical development of the modern business corporation ✓ Corporate governance as a functional perspective ✓ Economic theory of the firm ✓ Agency cost view on corporate governance: agency costs of equity and debt ✓ Transaction cost view on corporate governance: bargaining over quasi-rents	

- ✓ Legal institutions to minimize the agency costs of equity: constraints on management and dominant shareholders in the public corporation
- ✓ Legal institutions to minimize the agency costs of debt: legal capital; piercing the corporate veil
- ✓ Control transactions and the market for corporate control

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Erik Röder

Erik Röder studied law at the Universities of Bayreuth (2000-2003 and 2004-2006; first state examination) and Montesquieu – Bordeaux IV (2003-2004; maîtrise en droit). He obtained his doctorate in law from the University of Bayreuth in 2009 and passed the second state examination in 2010. From 2011 until 2022, Erik Röder was a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance in Munich. In 2018, he completed his habilitation at LMU Munich. Since 2022, Erik Röder has been holding the chair for Private Law, Business Law, and Tax Law at the University of Mannheim. His research is marked by a comparative and interdisciplinary approach.

3. International Sale of Goods

This course aims at studying the law of international sales agreements based on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), which entered into force in 1988 and today has almost eighty Contracting States world-wide. It is the most important uniform private law Convention in practice, covering potentially more than 80% of global trade. Since the CISG was influenced by both the common law and civil law systems of contract law, the course will furthermore, focus on the basic principles of the law of contract of both systems in a comparative approach, where appropriate.

- ✓ Scope of application of the CISG
- ✓ Hierarchy between the CISG and national sales law provisions
- ✓ Interpretation of the CISG and the aim of uniform application
- ✓ Formation of contracts under the CISG
- ✓ Obligations of the seller and the buyer
- ✓ Remedies in case of non- performance
- ✓ Damages under the CISG
- ✓ Relationship between the CISG and other current/future uniform law instruments

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Lea Tochtermann

Lea Tochtermann has been a Junior professor for Civil Law and European Patent Law since September 2016. She studied law in Heidelberg and Paris (Sciences Po), completed her legal clerkship in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and received a doctorate degree from the University of Mannheim with a thesis on the topic of “Sukzessionsschutz im Recht des Geistigen Eigentums” (‘Effects vis-à-vis third parties in Intellectual Property Law’). In her research she focuses on intellectual property protection – in particular patent law and the interrelations with private international law and international civil procedure – trade secret protection and arbitration law. Prof. Tochtermann teaches general civil law, arbitration law and international sale of goods (CISG), as well as patent and competition law.

4. Private International Law

Dealing with contract drafting and disputes in the context of international business transactions involves the potential applicability of domestic laws of more than one State. This lecture provides an introduction into the relevant issues of conflict of laws in cases with a foreign element, with a particular focus on the fields of contracts, corporations and torts.

This course deals with methods and rules to be applied in such “conflict of laws” scenarios (as the topic is referred to by common lawyers) in order to determine which country’s legal system governs the merits of

such cases. While rules of “Private International Law” (PIL) have traditionally been mostly rules of national (domestic) law, in the field of business law, two comprehensive EU regulations have been introduced in (the “Rome I” and “Rome II” Regulations), which will be at the core of the present course along with the general doctrines of PIL as codified in the German Introductory Act to the Civil Code. In doing so, reference will also be made to general ideas and principles of Private International Law in other European countries and in the United States. In recent years, proliferation of European legislation in the field has marked a considerable shift in the sources of Private International Law. For the time being, questions of property law as well as the law of corporations still underlie the autonomous (national) PIL of the forum state, yet with some impact of EU case law that needs to be considered in the context of free movement of corporations within the EU.

As the student is supposed to take the perspective of a German court or of an attorney seeking the issuance of a German judgement, German PIL and its partial modification through EU case law will be discussed in class.

- ✓ General principles of conflict of laws
- ✓ Europeanization of Private International law
- ✓ Private International Law in contracts cases: The Rome I Regulation
- ✓ The proposal for a Common European Sales Law (CESL)
- ✓ Private International Law in tort cases: The Rome II Regulation
- ✓ Private International Law in property matters under selected domestic laws
- ✓ Law applicable to corporations and free cross-border movement of companies

Lecturer: tbd.

Elective Module: International Business Law (Specialization Lectures)

Contents:

The elective module offers the opportunity to utilize the competencies and skills gained in the compulsory and intensive modules in another area of law, which students share a particular interest in. The elective module offers five classes, of which the students have to choose one. They build on the knowledge gained in the compulsory and intensive modules.

- ✓ ~~International Business Transactions~~ – will not be offered in FSS 2026
- ✓ Intellectual Property Law
- ✓ International Investment Law
- ✓ European Communications and Media Law
- ✓ Anti-Discrimination Law

Learning outcomes and qualification goals:

This module offers a deeper insight into a comprehensive understanding of legal and non-legal institutions governing international business transactions and an opportunity to obtain a basic knowledge on negotiation of an international contract. The students will also be provided with an overview of the principles of intellectual property law and its importance in our knowledge-based society. The module will also provide students with an insight in the diverse labour law systems, their differences and common grounds and enable them to understand the cultural differences that are the reason for these various approaches and help them to work in an international environment. Eventually, students will be encouraged to assess and discuss topics in competition law and policy, to analyse legal developments against the economic, social and institutional background.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>ECTS</u>
International Business Transactions	2	2

Intellectual Property Law	2	2
International Investment Law	2	2
European Communications and Media Law	2	2
Anti-Discrimination Law	2	2
Total Module ECTS		1 x 2 = 2
Course type	Specialization lectures	
Range of application	• International Business Transactions: M.C.B.L., LL.M., MMM, int. exchange students • Intellectual Property Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • International Investment Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • European Communications and Media Law: M.C.B.L., LL.M., int. exchange students • Anti-Discrimination Law: M.C.B.L., int. exchange students	
Examination and grades	Oral (10-20 minutes) For passing the module, one examination must be graded with at least 4,0 (grading system amounts 1,0 – 5,0). For grading see „Study and Examination Regulations of the University of Mannheim for the Master’s program Master of Comparative Business Law – M.C.B.L.“.	
Working effort (contact hours + self-study time)	<u>60 h (30 h + 30 h)</u>	
Lecturer	Various	
Frequency of offer	Only in FSS	
<u>Content in Detail</u>		
<u>1. International Business Transactions – will not be offered in FSS 2026</u>		
The course addresses the particularities and pitfalls of international trade transactions. It focuses on international aspects of business transactions and their legal and commercial backgrounds and allows students to get an initial understanding of what legal advice in practical terms is like. In this context, the course will focus on legal as well as on non-legal institutions that can help solving problems of cross-border transactions. At the end of the course, students will participate in a simulated negotiation of an international contract.		
✓ Pitfalls of cross-border transactions ✓ The role of contracts in international business ✓ Legal and non-legal means of contract enforcement ✓ Financing of international transactions ✓ European regulations on cross-border trade ✓ International Conventions related to cross-border trade		

- ✓ Transnational Law
- ✓ Dispute resolution
- ✓ The enforcement of court decisions and arbitral awards
- ✓ Distribution networks
- ✓ Regulatory issues in international business
- ✓ Accountability in international trade

The course will scrutinize processes of contract drafting and highlight the institutional framework, national and international as well as legal and non-legal, of international business transactions.

Students will learn to analyse pitfalls from an interdisciplinary perspective and create sustainable solutions for cross border trade. The course will give a comprehensive overview over legal, ethical, political, economic, environmental, societal, and strategic questions of international trade. Students will acquire skills to negotiate, develop, design, finance, and implement sustainable business partnerships.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer, LL.M. (Osgoode)

Andreas Maurer is professor at the University of Mannheim. He studied Law at the University of Frankfurt, Germany and completed his studies with his first state exam (LL.B. equivalent) in 2003. From 2003 until 2005 Andreas Maurer articulated at the Oberlandesgericht (Higher Regional Court) Frankfurt, Germany and finished his articling service with the second state exam (bar exam). He was admitted to the bar of Frankfurt in 2006. In the academic year 2006/2007 Andreas Maurer studied at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, Toronto, Canada and obtained his LL.M. in 2008. He also was a fellow at the Nathanson Centre for transnational Crime and Security at York University. After he returned to Germany, Andreas Maurer started his Ph.D. studies at the University of Bremen and received the Ph.D. in 2011 with his thesis on the "Lex Maritima", a transnational maritime law. His research focuses on private law, international trade law, transnational law, transport and maritime law, and legal theory.

2. Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual property is an indispensable tool to foster innovation and assure protection of achievements. It is an important factor for remaining competitive in the global knowledge-based economy. The shift from corporal goods to intellectual property however has many implications for today's businesses: they have to play the system to gain from it, have to develop new business models, acquire rights by contract and closely watch the market and competitors to avoid liability. The course accordingly is designed to provide an overview on the concept of intellectual property and the practical implications for businesses.

Students will familiarize themselves with the multi-level system of IP-protection on a worldwide (TRIPS and WIPO-Treaties), European (EU-legislation) and national level. With regard to the latter the transformation of international and European requirements into national law, German intellectual property law will be taken as an example. Participants from other jurisdictions however will be encouraged to analyse differences to the corresponding legal concepts in their home jurisdictions.

The course will cover the legal concepts of patent protection and utility models, the rules on the protection of trademarks and designations of origin, the basics of copyright law and of design protection. Where appropriate the course will also highlight certain rules under unfair competition law providing ancillary remedies for avoiding unfair exploitation of work results. The course devotes to the co-existence of national and Community IP-rights. The advantages and disadvantages of the existing unitary Community concepts, i.e. the European Union trade mark and the Community Design as compared to national IPRs will be discussed in the light of relevant case law.

Furthermore, the conflicting aims of freedom of competition (and in particular free movement of goods) on the one hand and strict IP-protection on the other hand will be tackled. This gives the opportunity to

discuss current trends to narrow the scope of protection by means of compulsory licences, FRAND-licences and similar limitations imposed by cartel and competition law.

- ✓ Concept of IP-law
- ✓ The legal sources (TRIPS, WIPO-Treaties, EU-Regulations and Directives)
- ✓ The distinct IP-rights: patent, utility model, trademark, design & copyright
- ✓ The impact of competition law on intellectual property protection
- ✓ Contractual exploitation of IPRs (transfer and licence agreements)
- ✓ Enforcement of IP-rights (remedies and procedural strategies)

Lecturer 1: Dr. Simon Apel

Dr. Simon Apel studied Law at the University of Bayreuth. He then pursued graduate studies there on a scholarship from the German Research Society (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*) in the Research Training Group “Intellectual Property and the Public Domain”, receiving a doctoral degree for his thesis on copyright law involving extensive comparisons to US law. In his subsequent attorney training clerkships in Frankfurt am Main, he worked at the Chamber for Intellectual Property and Media Law of the Regional Court of Frankfurt and in the Frankfurt-based IP/IT teams of two international corporate law firms. Since 2012, Dr. Simon Apel has practiced as a lawyer, advising national and international businesses on questions of intellectual property law, IT-related law, and data protection law. He advises clients both in litigation and out of court, primarily on questions of copyright law, software projects, and unfair competition law, with a specialty practice in the field of improper product imitation. Dr. Simon Apel regularly publishes articles on copyright law, unfair competition law, and trademark law in respected scholarly journals. He is a co-editor of the „Biographical Handbook of Intellectual Property“ (*„Biographisches Handbuch des Geistigen Eigentums“*) and teaches copyright law at the University of Mannheim.

Lecturer 2: Dr. Jérôme Kommer, LL.M. (Berkeley)

Dr. Jérôme Kommer, LL.M. (Berkeley) is an attorney and partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan’s Mannheim and Munich offices. His expertise covers all aspects of complex patent litigation, including the coordination of international litigation efforts. He represents his clients both in infringement and invalidity proceedings across a range of technologies, including telecommunications, IT, automotive engineering, medical products, and pharmaceuticals. He studied Law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Lund and obtained an LL.M. degree from the University of California in Berkeley. Dr. Jérôme Kommer will take over the patent law part of the course which will introduce students to the basic concepts underlying the protection of technical inventions and the enforcement of patent rights in Germany and other jurisdictions around the world, based on real world examples.

Lecturer 3: Dr. Martin Schmidhuber

Dr. Martin Schmidhuber is an equity partner at the law firm RITTERSHAUS in Mannheim and is heading the firm’s IP/IT practice group. He advises clients on all issues concerning intellectual property, where he specializes in trademark and labelling law. Being at Task Force leader with the International Trademark Association (INTA) and having access to a worldwide network of correspondent law firms, he focuses on giving strategic advice on and defending trademark portfolios (litigation) with a national and international orientation. Martin Schmidhuber will take over the trademark-related part of the lecture “Intellectual Property Law”, where he will teach students about the protectability of all kinds of designations as trademark rights as well as the enforcement of such rights.

3. International Investment Law

This course, of both significant practical and academic relevance, focuses on international law governing the protection of foreign investments and the settlement of investor-state disputes through international arbitration. Students will gain an overview of the evolution of international investment law and the development and characteristics of legal instruments designed to promote and protect investments in foreign states, including international investment treaties, domestic investment laws, and investor-state contracts.

Through the study of landmark investment arbitration cases, students will become familiar with international investment treaties, their protection standards, regulatory and public policy approaches, and the procedural mechanisms used to resolve investor-state disputes through arbitration. The course will also explore some of the most significant and evolving issues in the field, including investor-state disputes related to the environment, climate change measures, natural resources, energy transition, and human rights, as well as the approaches of the EU and other international or regional organizations to investor-state dispute settlement.

Lecturer: Dr. Bajar Scharaw, LL.M. (UQ)

Dr. Bajar Scharaw, LL.M. (UQ) is a disputes counsel at CMS and a specialist in investment arbitration, investment protection, and public international law. He has extensive experience representing both corporate clients and states in investment arbitrations under international investment treaties. His recent work includes a wide range of complex cross-border disputes, including arbitral proceedings under the ICSID Convention as well as the ICC, Swiss, LCIA, SCC, HKIAC, DIS, CIETAC, and UNCITRAL Rules. Bajar has appeared as counsel in advocacy and cross-examinations before various commercial and investment tribunals, including oral hearings at ICSID in Washington, D.C. Bajar holds a PhD (Dr. iur.) in international investment law and investment arbitration and is admitted to the bar in Germany. Prior to joining CMS, he worked in the arbitration groups of London- and U.S.-based international law firms. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Mannheim in Germany and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the National University of Mongolia, where he teaches international investment law and investment arbitration. He regularly speaks and publishes on these topics.

Bajar has been engaged by the U.S. Department of Commerce as an arbitration expert. He has also been appointed to the Panel of Arbitrators at select arbitration institutions, including ICSID, and is an accredited mediator, trained in London and recognized by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb).

4. European Communications and Media Law

The communications and media system has always fulfilled an important dual function: on the one hand, it is “par excellence constitutive” for a democratic community and, on the other hand, an important economic factor. Traditional public and private broadcasting, print media, but also the modern platform economy (Facebook, Google, TikTok, X, YouTube, etc.) stand as examples for this.

For a long time, communications and media regulation was the domain of the EU Member States. Accordingly, the EU had limited its legislation to internal market-related aspects, e.g. laid down in the E-Commerce Directive (2000) and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (2007). However, due to the increasing digital convergence of the communications and media sectors and the democratic distortions that recently have been observed in some EU Member States, the EU has significantly expanded its legislation in communications and media matters since 2020. Important and directly applicable EU regulations have been adopted, particularly in the shape of the Digital Services Act (2022), the Digital Markets Act (2022) and the European Media Freedom Act (2024), which put the communications and media regime in Europe on new pillars. In legal science, this development has been described as the emergence of a European communications and media law.

Against this background, the course's aim is, inter alia, to provide an insight and overview of the following legal issues:

- ✓ Fundamental rights protection of communication and media (Art. 10 ECHR, Art. 11 CFR)
- ✓ EU's powers to legislate in the area of communication and media
- ✓ Applicable legal framework of primary and secondary law (including competition law, state aid law, copyright law and the above-mentioned directives and regulations)
- ✓ Relevance of online platforms such as search engines and social media for communications and media processes and their legal treatment (keywords: fight against insults, hate speech and fake news, accessibility to communications and media content)
- ✓ Relevance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for communication and media and its legal treatment (keywords: generation of communications and media content via AI, effects of AI on accessibility to communications and media content and its reimbursement, Big-Techs as new media content providers?)

The course will be interactive and face-to-face. Court decisions and case studies will be included. Active participation and preparation of the respective lessons by reading court decisions or cases is expected. Apart from this, there are no further requirements for participation.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Ralf Müller-Terpitz

Prof. Dr. Ralf Müller-Terpitz is Professor of Law at the University of Mannheim, Germany, where he holds a Chair of Public Law, Law of Economic Regulation and Media. Furthermore, he is Director of the Institute of German, European and International Medicine Law, Health Law and Bioethics (IMGB) of the Universities Heidelberg and Mannheim and a member of the Commission on Concentration in the Media (KEK) in Berlin. His research interests include the areas of information and communications law (in particular media, media concentration and internet), regulatory law (particularly energy and telecommunications) and medical law as well as general constitutional and administrative law.

5. Anti-Discrimination Law

The importance and impact of Anti-Discrimination Law have increased significantly in German and European legal systems in recent years. This course covers the main aspects of Anti-Discrimination Law in the European Union and will offer an opportunity to take a comparative perspective on various topics from different legal systems. The course will focus on European legislation on Anti-Discrimination and provide a foundation for the comparative analysis of specific topics. International legal framework will also be covered. In the class, we will discuss the prohibited grounds of discrimination as well as means of justification and examine them through case law especially from the European Court of Justice and European Court for Human Rights. The course will conclude with examining selected specific topics on Anti-Discrimination law, along with discussions on current issues and controversial legal questions. Active participation is expected. Students will have the opportunity to present prohibited grounds of discrimination from the perspective of their own country's legal system. The cases and topics will be assigned in the class, and students will have time to prepare in advance.

Lecturer: Dr. Berina Fischinger-Corbo, M.A., M.C.B.L.

Berina Fischinger-Corbo is a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Dean's Office of the Department of Law at the University of Mannheim. She has studied law at University of Mannheim (Doctoral Degree and M.C.B.L. Degree) and University of Sarajevo (Bachelor and Master's Degree). She has obtained State Examination and Bar Examination in Sarajevo and has worked as inhouse lawyer and advisor for the national electric utility company, as well as for the main German development agency. Her research areas focus on the European Union law, European Business law and the law of internal market.

C. Master's Thesis

<u>Master's Thesis</u>	
Contents: Following the successful completion of the instructional components of the program, students are required to complete and submit a thesis on a topic of their choice. It must address and analyse a substantive issue of European or International Business Law. The thesis can be either comparative or restricted to a single paradigm. It is supposed to investigate and present new and innovative findings in areas, which have already been defined, and should not be merely descriptive. Ideally, the thesis is of publishable quality.	
Learning outcomes and qualification goals: With the master's thesis students prove their ability to work profoundly and scientifically on a legal issue with a comparative perspective.	
Total Module ECTS	20
Duration and type of examination	December– April (4 months), or June – October (4 months) Thesis
Lecturer	1st supervisor to be contacted by students
Language	English