

Ms Janet Cairns,
Quality Assurance Officer
TU Dublin, Park House,
Dublin 7.

11th February 2019

Re: School Response to Q3 Report: Bachelor of Law (LLb) with a Language

Dear Jan,

Please note that the programme structure set out in the Q3 does not precisely reflect the documentation presented to the panel. The programme structure is as follows:

Students take 40 ECTS of Law modules (4 x 10 ECTS) and 20 ECTS of language modules (2 x 10 ECTS) in years one and two. In third year, students study at a European institution (in France, Spain or Germany) and must complete 40 ECTS there of which at least 20 must be law. For the remaining 20 ECTS credits, they also need to pass an online language module in their chosen language, run by the Languages lecturers at TU Dublin (10 ECTS credits) and pass a legal research project on a fundamental aspect of the legal system in their host country (10 ECTS credits). In year four, students return to TU Dublin and take a minimum 40 credits of law and 10 credits of language. They may choose their sixth module from either the law or language options available.

We have considered the two conditions and 13 recommendations and made the following responses.

Conditions

- The language competency (CEFR) level on successfully completing the programme should be clarified. It is currently inconsistently stated within the documentation. The Panel considers that this level should be set at C1, being the minimum requirement for EU employment.

The level has been set to C1 throughout the documentation.

- The minimum entry requirements for the programme should be clarified in line with TU Dublin Level Eight standard requirements.

The minimum entry requirements have been set to a H4 in English and a H4 in the language the student intends to study (see paragraph 2.5 of the programme overview document).

Recommendations

1. The Programme Team demonstrate how Graduate Attributes are encompassed within programme learning outcomes;

A matrix mapping the programme learning outcomes onto graduate attributes has been added between pages 5 and 6 of the programme document.

2. The Team clarify how the First Year Experience for Success is part of the students' learning experience throughout the first year and beyond;

A clarification in this regard has been added at paragraph 9.2.2 of the programme document.

3. the indicative schedule of assessment including submission dates and feedback points should be incorporated into the Student Handbooks;

Noted, an assessment schedule will be provided for student in the student handbook. This is provided to students on all law programmes.

4. the teaching, learning and assessment strategy for the programme should be incorporated into the Student Handbooks;

A graphical representation of the teaching learning and assessment strategy for the programme has been included in the student handbook.

5. a mechanism for formal preparation of students for the third year study abroad should be provided in the year prior to departure, to include an introduction to legal system of the destination country and cultural awareness and to provide an induction for the legal project to be completed within that year;

Noted, the programme team will develop a comprehensive preparation programme for students travelling abroad. This will be delivered during year two and will include an introduction to the legal system of the country they are travelling to and cultural awareness training. An induction to the legal research project will be provided. The specifics of this programme will be developed over the next eighteen months to ensure that all necessary supports are in place when the initial cohort of students enter year two.

6. a formal method for allocating students in partner institutions that is fair and transparent should be included within the documentation;

Details of the method for allocating year students to partner universities has been included in the sample student handbook (page 28) and the year three student handbook

7. the module descriptors should be reviewed to ensure there is greater consistency in terms of the number of module learning outcomes and volume of content included in each field;

The module descriptors are those approved for use on three other level 8 programmes. The core programme in this group (LLB in law) will be the subject of a programmatic review and this recommendation will be taken into account in that process.

8. the reading lists should be reviewed to ensure that the latest editions of all text books is employed;

Noted, Lecturing staff are in the process of updating reading lists on the online module catalogue. The version of the module descriptors, including reading lists, entered in the online catalogue will be included with the student handbook for students commencing in 2020.

9. the programme documentation should be reviewed to correct errors throughout;

Noted, a further review of the documentation has taken place. The student handbooks will be updated and revised to take account of new information before the programme commences in September 2020.

10. the mechanism in the event that a student wishes to transfer to another programme should be clearly stated;

The mechanism by which a student can transfer to another programme is a matter for the programme team of the receiving programme. TU Dublin policy is to facilitate inter-programme transfer in so far as possible.

11. the repeat mechanisms for the study abroad year should be clarified;

Noted, an additional section 3 “If your year abroad does not go to plan” has been added to the year three student handbook.

12. relationships with EU institutions, the embassies of destination countries and the Department of Foreign Affairs should be developed to build awareness of the programme as well as networks for students and graduates of the programme. In this regard, the building of alumni networks is also recommended;

Noted

13. Staff should also be encouraged and facilitated to undertake Erasmus mobility opportunities;

Noted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Irwin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr David Irwin,
Head of School of Languages, Law and Social Science.