Contact Us

If you have any questions about the Summer Law Program in Kaunas, Lithuania, please contact:

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Externship Application Deadline: February 15, 2016
Application Deadline: March 15, 2016
Payment of all Tuition and Fee: May 6, 2016
Summer Law Program
Kaunas, Lithuania

Lithuania, a member of the European Union and NATO, is located across the Baltic Sea from Sweden and Denmark. Its deep cultural and historical roots, and current leadership in areas such as energy law, make it a fascinating educational destination.

Lithuania grew to be one of the largest countries in Europe during the 14th century, covering most of the territory that includes present-day Belarus, Ukraine, and parts of Poland and Russia. It suffered under Nazi and Soviet occupation during WWII, and was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1944. It declared its independence in March 1990, becoming the first Soviet republic to do so after the fall of the Berlin Wall. During the years since its declaration of independence, its legal system has experienced vast development in an effort to transition from the Soviet period.

Lithuania joined the European Union in 2004, and European Union law has since become an integral part of the Lithuania legal system.

This program provides students with an incredible opportunity to study political and legal transitions with those who lived through and led these efforts.

The country boasts pleasant summer weather and a low cost of living that makes it an excellent location in which to study, and a wonderful base from which to explore Europe.

A unique aspect of this program is that Lithuanian law students will be in classes with U.S. law students.

Program Dates
Students may choose to attend Session I only, or both sessions. The dates for these sessions are as follows:

Session I: May 28–June 13, 2016
Session II: June 14–30, 2016
Optional Externship: July 4–12, 2016

Program Costs
Application Fee $200
Deposit $100
Tuition
Session I (3 credits) $2,400
Session I & II (6 credits) $4,800
Externship (1 credit) $1,000
Activities Fee
Session I $50
Session I & II $100

The following are estimated costs:
Airfare $1,700
Accommodations
Domus Pacis $450
VMU Dormitory $116-$348
Meals and Incidentals $800
Insurance $60-$90

Housing
Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements during the program, but two options are recommended:

Domus Pacis Guesthouse
Domus Pacis (House of Peace and Stillness) is a renovated 16th Century monastery located in the Kaunas Old Town area (a short walk to the law school, with public bus service also available within two blocks). Amenities include: private bath, work desk, and hard-wired/Wi-Fi internet. Breakfast and lunch is available for an extra nominal charge each day. A washing machine and dryer are provided for extra payment. We anticipate that the rent will be between $350-450 US for the entire program.

Vytautas Magnus University Dormitory
The dorms are located near the city center. Amenities include: private bath, shared kitchen, laundry facility, leisure and study areas, and hard-wired/Wi-Fi internet. The cost for living in the dormitory ranges from $116 to $348.

For further information, please contact pam.yager@ttu.edu.

Refunds
If a student withdraws before the program commences, as permitted in the following section, or if a program is canceled, the student will receive a full refund of all monies advanced to Texas Tech within twenty (20) days after the cancellation or withdrawal. The student may also negotiate with the landlord for a return of monies paid in advance for room and board. If a student withdraws during the course of the program, as permitted in the following section, or if the program is terminated, the student will be refunded fees paid to Texas Tech. The student may also negotiate with the landlord for a partial return of monies paid for room and board.

Cancellation
Texas Tech reserves the right to change or cancel the program for reasons beyond its control, to cancel any individual course due to insufficient enrollment, to adjust class meeting or exam times, or to substitute faculty. Students will be notified of any changes using the email address submitted with their application. For cancellation that occurs after a deposit has been paid, Texas Tech will use its best efforts to make arrangements for each student enrolled to attend a similar program, if the student so desires.

If prior to commencement of the program—or during the program—a U.S. State Department Travel Warning or Alert covering program dates and destinations is issued for the country in which the program will be conducted, all registrants will be promptly notified of the warning and be given an opportunity to withdraw from the program.

If changes are made in the course offerings or other significant aspects of the program, all registrants will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the program.

State Department
Links to the State Dept. Lithuania can be found at www.law.ttu.edu/lithuania (See “Web Resources”).
Faculty

**Professor DeLeith Duke Gossett (Program Director):** J.D., University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, B.S.E., University of Central Arkansas. Associate Professor of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law. Teaches Legal Practice at TTU, and taught International and Comparative Family Law at the 2014 Summer Law Institute at Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico.

**Professor John Watts:** J.D., Harvard Law School. Teaches Torts, Evidence, Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure, and The Laws and Ethics of War at TTU School of Law.

Vytautas Magnus University Faculty of Law (“VMU”) is the host institution for the Summer Law Program. VMU is located in beautiful and historic Kaunas, Lithuania. Founded in 1922, the University is named after Vytautas the Great, the Lithuanian ruler well known for the nation’s greatest historical expansion in the 15th century. VMU has about 8,700 students, including Master and Ph.D. candidates. The Faculty of Law is exceptional due to its unique teaching methods and use of the Socratic Method. Some courses will be taught by VMU faculty. In 2015, there were a total of 25 students who participated in the Summer Law Program: 19 from VMU, five from TTU, and one from another ABA approved law school.

**Facilities**

VMU, including its administrative office, is housed in a modern building in Kaunas. The classrooms provide desk space, wifi, and European standard electrical outlets (students may need a plug adapter). Students should bring their own laptops to the classroom if they wish to use a computer during class. Classrooms are also equipped with computers and A/V equipment for the instructor’s use that are similar to those used in most U.S. law schools.

Students may use the law library or the spacious main University library for study. Free access to electronic academic journal services (e.g., EBSCO, Cambridge Journals Online, etc.) and the Westlaw database is provided by the University. Students can use the library’s resources in preparing for lectures and seminars.

**Applicants with Special Needs**

Applicants with disabilities or other special needs should contact the International Programs Office at Texas Tech University School of Law in advance to discuss arrangements. Although Kaunas and Vilnius are modern cities, they have preserved many of their historical buildings and sites within their ancient city walls, meaning that some locations may not meet U.S. standards for accommodations.
Eligibility

The program is open to law students, lawyers, and other legal professionals interested in studying in Lithuania. Students from foreign law schools, including students from the host institution, VMU, are also eligible and invited to enroll in the program. Enrollment will be limited to 80 students. It is anticipated that students will come from the U.S. and other parts of the world, but especially from Lithuania and neighboring European countries, such as Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine. We expect approximately 20 non-U.S. students for the 2016 program. Students from the U.S. who enroll in the program for credit toward a J.D. degree must have completed at least one year of full- or part-time law study at an ABA-approved law school.

Other students enrolling in the program must have completed at least one year of law study in a program that, after it is successfully completed, will enable them to practice in the main legal professions (judge, attorney, or prosecutor) in their home country. They also must provide sufficient evidence showing their proficiency in English, as all classes will be taught in English.

All students must be in good standing at their home institution. Students from Texas Tech and VMU will not need to furnish a letter from their dean or registrar certifying their good standing, as the registrar at those students' institutions will certify that they are eligible to attend. Students from other schools must provide a letter or certificate of good standing signed by a dean or registrar.

Coursework

Participants in the program can take between 3 and 6 credit hours of courses. These courses will be taught in English and include:

**SESSION I**

**E.U. Competition Law (1 credit):**
Covers restrictive agreements, abuse of dominant position, merger control, and private and public enforcement of competition law. (May 28–June 10 from 4:10–5:20pm; exam on June 13).

**Public International Law (2 credits):**
Covers international treaty interpretation, determination of statehood, nationality of persons and corporations, use of military forces, and sources of international law. (May 28–June 10 from 5:50–8:30pm; exam on June 13).

**SESSION II**

**Legal Environment of Transitional Economies (1 credit):**
Covers legal systems, human rights, business and labor law, and the role of lawyers in transitional economies. (June 14–28 (holiday on June 24) from 4:10–5:20pm; exam on June 30).

**International and Comparative Family Law (2 credits):**
Covers role of international courts and law in shaping family law policies in different countries with special attention to recent trends and developments. (June 14–28 (holiday on June 24) from 5:50–8:30pm; exam on June 30).

Another course includes:

**Family Law (2 credits):**
Covers role of international courts and law in shaping family law policies in different countries with special attention to recent trends and developments. (June 14–28 (holiday on June 24) from 5:50–8:30pm; exam on June 30).

ABA Approval

The Summer Law Program has been approved by the Accreditation Committee of the ABA Section on Legal Education.

Student Performance and Grading

Professors will evaluate students’ performance using a final examination and other standards, such as class participation, that will be set forth in the course syllabus. Each professor will either grade his or her examination, or for objective questions, will provide a key so that the program director or VMU may arrange for grading. Grading will be anonymous. Grading will be on the Texas Tech Law scale and will use a similar curve. Texas Tech uses a 4.0 grading system.

The acceptance of any grade or credits for any course taken in this program, including externships, is subject to determination by the participant’s home school. Each participant carries individual responsibility for determining the transferability of grades and credits earned in this program.

It is unlikely that participation in foreign summer programs may be used to accelerate graduation. Inquiries should be made by the applicant to his/her home institution before application.

Externships

Up to five U.S. students will be selected to participate in a one-credit externship program that will run from July 4–12, 2016. The most likely placements will be with international law firms in Kaunas or Vilnius. Student performance in the externship program will be evaluated on a credit/D or F basis. A determination of the student's grade will be based on the quality of the student's work (based on written and oral feedback from the supervisor), a journal that students will be asked to keep daily, and a short reflective paper in which the student summarizes significant learning experiences and ties the externship program to the academic portion of the course.

Field Trips

The program cost includes field trips to Lithuanian legal, political, and cultural institutions. Visits may include the Lithuanian Constitutional Court and the Seimas (Parliament) of the Lithuanian Republic in Vilnius, and the Presidential Palace in Vilnius. A visit is also planned for a trial court in Kaunas. The program also includes several festive social events and cultural field trips that may include Old Town Vilnius, the Museum of Genocide Victims, the Ploktine Cold War Museum, and Palanga Seaside Resort.