Comillas Pontifical University Semester Exchange Program (Madrid, Spain)

Program Dates: One semester (credit-bearing program)

Fall Semester 2017: September 4th to December 22nd (depending on exam schedule)
Orientation for International Students: 3 weekdays before classes start

Spring Semester 2018: January 15th to May 23rd (depending on exam schedule)
Orientation for International Students: 3 weekdays before classes start

Summary
The International and Graduate Affairs Office of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and Comillas Pontifical University have partnered to provide an exchange opportunity for students in both universities. To create opportunities for students to gain exposure to international law, comparative legal issues, and the systems and cultures of other nations. Global competency and an appreciation for cultural diversity are imperative skills that lawyers need to possess and meaningfully cultivate in order to be effective advocates, thought leaders, and citizens in today’s deeply interconnected world. Through the proposed exchange program, highly qualified law students from the partner schools would be able to sample the vast academic and cultural programs that each school has to offer and would return to their home countries armed with an enriched understanding of the law through a transnational lens.

About the Exchange Program
Comillas Faculty of Law offers a Master’s Degree in International and European Business Law. This program is offered entirely in English, and Moritz College of Law students would take courses during their semester abroad through this program. The program is designed not only for JD candidates at US law schools, but also for students from all over the world who have an undergraduate degree in law. Students take courses that are based in the case method, encouraging students to come to class prepared and ready to engage with classmates and professors through active discussion and debate. These courses are complemented with practical seminars and lectures, visits to law firms and professional seminars, and networking opportunities with leading Spanish and European legal professionals. The Faculty of Law is housed in the Comillas Catholic Institute of Business Administration and Management and offers studies in the area of Law, Business Administration and Management, and Political Sciences and Public Administration. Please read the information for Exchange Students studying law here and the Comillas Program Information Sheet here. Information in these resources are updated each Spring for the following academic year.
About the University
The Comillas Pontifical University is a private Catholic university in Madrid, Spain, founded in 1890 in the small town of Comillas before moving to Madrid in the 1960s. The University has about 8,000 students across both undergraduate and graduate programs, and boasts the honor of being the only university in Spain ranked in the top 100 in the world by the Times Higher Education 2013 ranking. The University has two campuses, Alberto Aguilera and Cantoblanco. The Faculty of Law is located on the Alberto Aguilera campus, which includes academic buildings, a sports gym, cafeterias, and library. Read more about the university on their website [here](#) and in their [International Student Guide](#).

Applicant Eligibility
1L and 2L students are eligible to apply. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA and be in good-standing at the Moritz College of Law. Those students with an interest in International and Comparative Law will receive preference, but all students are encouraged to apply. **Courses are taught in English.**

Program Costs (see details below):
Program Fee: Regular Semester tuition paid to Moritz College of Law
Office of International Affairs Study Abroad program Fee: $150
Housing/Room and Board: approximately $800 per month depending on housing choice
International Travel: approximately $1000
Passport (if needed): approximately $150
Supplemental Health Insurance: approximately $40/month
Financial Aid: Eligible for [Vogel International Fellowship](#) (up to $1,000) and federal financial aid may apply.

Students should also budget additional amounts for miscellaneous expenses, including food, excursions, personal care items, and other living expenses. Please see this [estimate](#) of expenses for a student in Madrid provided by Comillas.

Housing and Room and Board
Comillas will provide assistance and guidance in securing off-campus accommodation in Madrid, since the University does not possess its own Halls of Residence. A large offering is available with families, private residences, and in apartments, with shared rooms or in individual units. The University Information and Accommodation office can help international students find appropriate housing. Please contact the Information and Accommodation Office via e-mail: aloja@comillas.edu. International students should begin their search for accommodation as soon as possible to find adequate lodging for their stay in Madrid. The Information and Accommodation office has also partnered with Students Global Relocation. Please see their [website](#) for more information and to fill out a contact form. Since the search for a flat or apartment is the sole responsibility of international students, and requires time and the signing of a contract, those interested in this possibility should arrive in Madrid at least one week before the start of classes.

Passport and Visa
Spain requires U.S. citizens to carry a valid U.S. passport when traveling to Spain for any purpose. Exchange students without Spanish citizenship should request a *visado especial de estudiante* (special student visa) at the Spanish Embassy or consulate in the US depending on your place of residence. For Ohio, please contact the Spanish Consulate in Chicago. In most cases, the student must deliver the application in person. Citizens of any country in the European Union do not need a residency permit or visa. In order to obtain a student visa, one must have a valid passport, proof of acceptance to a Spanish university, proof of sufficient financial resources to reside in Spain for the duration of the exchange program, proof of medical and health insurance policy, completed visa applications, two passport photos, and a money-order for the exact amount of the visa fee. Please read more detailed information in the [International Student Guide](#) or the [Spanish consulate website](#).

Health Insurance
As an international student in Spain, you will need to show that you have health insurance that meets the minimum insurance coverage under European Union Law. When applying for your student visa, you will need to bring written confirmation that your insurance coverage meets the Spanish and European legal requirements. This includes proof that your insurance is unlimited and that your plan includes the following benefits: medical and drug treatment, prescription drugs and materials, hospital in-patient treatment, rehabilitation treatment, repatriation in the event of an emergency, and pregnancy and childbirth. Please contact your insurance customer service and request a “Certificate of Coverage,” which
must be signed by someone from the insurance company. Please take a hard copy of this “Certificate of Coverage,” along with a print-out of your “Coverage and Benefits Summary,” and your Insurance Identification Card when you request your student visa. If you have OSU student health insurance, please call Health Smart Benefits at 1-844-206-0374 to request a “Certificate of Coverage” and print your “Coverage and Benefits Summary” from here.

Required Supplemental Health Insurance
While participating in an Ohio State study abroad program, students are required to maintain their primary insurance coverage. Students are also required to apply for and purchase supplemental insurance through GeoBlue Services for the duration of the program. Once you are admitted to the program, you will be mailed a link to apply for supplemental health insurance.

Course Selection
Comillas Faculty of Law offers a wide-range of courses taught in both English and Spanish. Moritz students may take courses in the Comillas Master’s Degree in International and European Business Law program, or in the undergraduate Law program. Please see course offerings and descriptions in the Master’s program. The undergraduate program also has many courses offered in Spanish. Students will work with the Office of International and Graduate Affairs and the Comillas Faculty of Law to determine a course schedule that meets both ABA study abroad requirements and Moritz College of Law requirements to ensure the transfer of credit hours and maintain progress towards graduation. The OSU Moritz Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Registrar would be consulted for determinations about the applicability credits for exchange students under their auspice.

Application Requirements
Please submit the following documents to the Assistant Dean of International and Graduate Affairs via email using the contact information below.

1. Program Application found on the Moritz Education Abroad Website
2. 500-word “Statement of Educational Objectives” explaining your interest in the exchange opportunity and what you hope to accomplish and gain through the exchange
3. Official copy of academic transcript

Application Deadline
Applications are due by March 1st for studying abroad in the next calendar year. Once students have been “pre-approved” for the program by the Moritz Assistant Dean of International and Graduate Affairs, students will be asked to fill-out a separate application for the OSU Office of International Affairs.

Decision Timeline
Students will be notified of their acceptance to the program by March 31st.

Optional Summer Program
Students may also elect to participate in a Summer Course program in Business or Law (taught in Spanish) or Summer Course in Spanish language before or after their semester exchange. Please see more information about the Summer Programs here.

Pre-Departure Orientation
All Ohio State students participating in any OSU sponsored study abroad program must attend a pre-departure orientation organized by the Office of International Affairs. Possible dates for this orientation will be shared with students once they are accepted to the program.

ABA Criteria for Approved Study Abroad
The American Bar Association has criteria that must be met in order for study abroad programs established by ABA-Approved Law Schools to be approved. Some of the key provisions are listed on the ABA Criteria for Study Abroad Programs information sheet. The Assistant Dean of International and Graduate Affairs will work with students to ensure that these criteria are met. For further information, please contact the Office of International and Graduate Affairs using the contact information below.
**Contact Information**
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**Universidad Pontificia Comillas Contact Information**
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