REQUIREMENTS FOR LAW STUDENTS ON ERASMUS PLACEMENTS: WRITING THE LL.D. THESIS

The Faculty of Laws encourages law students to pursue Erasmus placements as it considers this experience as one that enriches their intellectual development. However, as the practice has been in the past that law students attend Erasmus placements during the first semester of the LL.D. third year of studies, not all students during this semester are keeping in constant contact – even if by e-mail – with their respective Supervisor.

Indeed, for students to produce a well researched and argued thesis they should submit written work to their Supervisors for correction starting from the beginning of the first semester of the third year of the LL.D. degree. Otherwise, if written work is submitted only during the second semester, this would make it very difficult for the Supervisor to provide a speedy feedback, especially if s/he is inundated with student chapters flowing in all during the second semester of the third year of the LL.D. course. Moreover, students will not have sufficient time to absorb the Supervisor’s feedback and to take it on board in their work. Again, thesis writing should not be postponed to the second semester as this is a time consuming exercise which requires critical evaluation.

Failure to comply with the above requirements might entail that students end up submitting the bulk of their work to their respective Supervisor a few weeks, if not less as well, before the due date of theses submission. As Supervisors have other University business to address, it might not be possible for the Supervisor to provide detailed feedback in such a short time span. In these cases, the Supervisor will regrettably not be in a position to certify that in his/her opinion the thesis can be presented for examination and the Board of Examiners will be informed accordingly. There thus should be adequate and constant interaction between students and their respective Supervisors throughout the whole academic year.

It is in your interests to ensure that you comply with these requirements so that you will not end up producing inferior quality work or even fail in the viva.

In order to produce a good quality thesis students are requested to abide by these requirements if they intend to proceed to an Erasmus placement during the LL.D. third year:

1. students are to notify their Supervisor that they will be participating in an Erasmus placement well before their actual departure from Malta. Students must inform at all times their Supervisors of their actual whereabouts and provide their respective Supervisors with a valid e-mail address to enable continuous communication;

2. students are to ensure that well before their actual departure from Malta they have already agreed with their respective Supervisor as to how they intend to tackle the thesis question and thesis structure and to have agreed with their respective Supervisors on a time management plan;

3. once abroad, students should carry out research on their thesis topic at the academic institution they are visiting and start writing their thesis. They should keep in constant contact via e-mail with their Supervisor. This means that students should write and submit on a regular basis, by e-mail, their work for correction.