Guidelines for Overseas Study for Law Students

(a) The Macquarie University Division of Law will grant an “Exemption” or “General Credit LAW” for units students wish to study at an overseas university.

(b) Core units cannot be studied because of the NSW Legal Practitioners Admissions Board requirements. Your accredited law degree must be relevant to NSW law.

(c) Units being studied overseas should be part of a recognized law degree taught by an accredited law school or equivalent. However, this rule is not so strictly adhered to as overseas jurisdictions have differing requirements compared to the NSW accreditation requirements for admission to the practice of law.

(d) You can be granted two types of credit for overseas studies. Firstly, an “exemption” where the elective unit studied overseas is the same as an elective unit offered at Macquarie (for example most International Law units at overseas universities are similar to Macquarie’s LAW509 International Law). Secondly, “general credit law” where the unit is not the same as one offered at Macquarie (for example Family Law at the University of Keele in the UK is not the same as Macquarie’s LAW402 Family Law because of the jurisdictional differences).

(e) Both an “exemption” and “general credit law” is expressed on your transcript as “ExLaw” denoting the unit or credit points were undertaken overseas. For an “exemption” the notation on the bottom of your transcript will be “ExLAW500=LAW509”. For “general credit law” the notation on the bottom of your transcript will be “ExLAW400=4cp”. Unit titles will never appear on your transcript.

(f) Credit point values for overseas study depends on whether the unit studied is credited as an “exemption” or “general credit law”. For an “exemption” you will receive the credit point value ascribed to the exempt unit at Macquarie (for example LAW509 is worth 4cp). For “general credit law” the assessment of credit points is based on dividing the credit points for the overseas unit by the total number of credit points required to take out the overseas LLB multiplied by 74 credit points required to take out the Macquarie LLB. For example, if a student has completed LAW359 Family Law worth 4 credit points at the University of British Columbia which requires 92 credit points to take out the UBC LLB, then the calculation would look like this:

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4 \div 92 \times 74 = 3.2\] results in 3 credit points (rounded down) of “General Credit LAW”

(g) You cannot study overseas in their first year of a law program because all law students must complete LAW113 (1st semester) and LAW103 (2nd semester) in their first year or else they will be removed from the LLB program.

You cannot study overseas in the second year of a law program because prerequisite for most elective units is a pass at a 200 or 300 level unit therefore exchanges can normally not take place in the first semester of second year as you will not have satisfied that prerequisite. Otherwise most elective prerequisites require a 200 or 300 level pass. Also, you will split LAW205 and LAW206 Criminal Law and Procedure 1 and 2 which runs over a full year.
You should not study overseas in the third year of a law program because of the splitting of LAW309 Property in Law & Equity and LAW310 Constitutional Law & Administration which are semesterised full year units. Going in first semester means you will have to postpone all their core units for that year until the following year which may add further time to your program.

You should consider studying overseas in your fourth or fifth year only.

(h) It is a University rule that you may only study up to 14 credit points per semester overseas. However, when you have your program of study approved by the Division’s Exemptions Officer, you will probably include more than 14 credit points of study because at the time of applying you may not know whether your selected units will actually be taught overseas because class sizes may not meet the minimum numbers required by the overseas university.

Before the Macquarie Abroad Office approves your program of study you must sign the following certification:

I certify that I have read the above rules and fully understand them and that I will only be credited with a maximum of the equivalent of fourteen (14) Macquarie University credit points per semester to a maximum of two semesters per year for the overseas study I have completed whilst on exchange. I understand that if I choose to study more than the equivalent of fourteen (14) Macquarie University credit points per semester to a maximum of two semesters per year whilst overseas that I do so of my own volition knowing that I will not be credited with any more than the equivalent of fourteen (14) Macquarie University credit points.

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Signature

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Student name and student number

(i) All programs of study must be approved by the Division of Law Exemption Officer:

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