



THINKING OUTSIDE THE GERMAN BOX – MY LL.M. AT LSE

After the marathon of seven years of German legal education, I was looking forward to a long-planned project of mine: a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in a common law legal system. I chose to go to the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

I value the thoroughness of the German legal educational system, but its approach can also be quite technical and formalistic at times. Therefore, I was looking for something completely different at LSE – an expectation that was definitely met. LSE follows an interdisciplinary approach. Many of the subjects are taught from a historical, political or sociological perspective. According to my interests, I was able to choose courses in criminal law and public international law. The deep engagement with literature and academic scholarship, and the discussions in small seminar groups have been benefits that I was unable to experience at my law school in Germany or during my legal clerkship.

An important impression and lesson I will take away from my time here is that German legal academia should put much more effort into being heard internationally. Rarely have I seen German speakers at public events or have I discovered German authors in my reading lists. This is a shame, as I believe that German scholarship has a lot to offer, but seems to isolate itself from the dominant Anglo-American one by not publishing articles in English. The imbalance carries forward into international organisations, in which Germany is often underrepresented, given its size and financial contributions. The opportunity for real, worldwide exchange and collaboration should not be left untaken.

Apart from academics, it goes without saying that my time at LSE has also been a great cultural experience. I have met hundreds of people from all over the world, all studying and living together. This is in stark contrast to some of the world's current political developments – not least Brexit, the dominant topic of the city in which I chose to study. The personal encounters I am having this year make me hopeful that nationalism and isolation are not the future, and convince me that it is my generation's responsibility to ensure this.

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