

**Dear lecturers of elective courses taught in English at the Faculty of Law, UiB**

In September 2015, the Faculty Board passed a resolution about a new requirement for obtaining the Master of Law degree from the University of Bergen. Students graduating from spring 2017 onwards, have to complete an elective course taught in English, unless they choose to study abroad. The requirement is part of the strategy for “internationalization at home”. To ensure that students will benefit as much as possible from this new requirement, we need help and assistance from you.

Until now the majority of the students in the English taught courses have been international students. These students represent an unexploited resource for Norwegian students to gain international experience, develop an international network and get a better understanding of their own legal culture through learning about other countries' laws and legal culture.

Having fewer students than the mandatory courses, the elective courses allow for exchange of views and discussion between students from different legal cultures. When planning your teaching for 2016/2017 onwards, please keep in mind the potential of students learning from each other across legal cultures. As far as possible and relevant for your course, please arrange for students cooperating and discussing with fellow students from other countries.

If your course includes group assignments, please require that the group should consist of students from a variety of countries. At the start of the course, please ask the students to always sit next to someone from another country in class. By doing this, students will be able to exchange point of views with someone from a different legal background if you ask students to discuss a particular question with the person sitting next to them, before discussing the question in plenary.

Please share ideas and examples of best practice for mixing students and fostering active participation in class learning across legal cultures with the rest of us, both informally and through the regular course evaluation reports.

I am wishing you all the best for the 2016/2017-courses, and hoping for your cooperation in making the new requirement become as beneficial as possible to the students.

Best regards

Bjørnar Borvik