**Dr. Noémia Peres De Bessa Vilela, PhD**

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| **Course title:** | **Legal English for practitioners** |
| **Semester:** | 1 |
| **Language:** | English |
| **ECTS credit allocation:** | Contact hours:   * lecture: 15h   ECTS credits 0.5  student's own work:   * current preparation for classes 30 h * -preparing for the completion of the subject 55 h   Total number of hours of student's own work: 85  ECTS credits 3.5  total number of hours 100h  total number of ECTS points: 4 |
| **Verification method of learning outcomes:** | written test - all effects |
| **Description:** | This subject is designed to enhance the Legal English Proficiency of students and future practitioners by developing their ability to understand and use legal terminology, draft legal documents, and communicate effectively in legal settings.  The course focuses on practical applications of legal language in professional contexts such as contracts, litigation, and international law. |
| **Bibliography:** | Basic:   1. Mason, C., & Atkins, R. (2011). *The lawyer's English language coursebook* (3rd ed.). Global Legal English. 2. Krois-Lindner, Amy. *International Legal English.* Cambridge University Press, 2011. 3. Riley, Alison. *Common Law Legal English and Grammar.* Hart Publishing, 2019.   Additional:   1. Williams, Christopher. *Tradition and Change in Legal English.* Peter Lang, 2005. |
| **Learning outcomes:** | **KNOWLEDGE: THE GRADUATE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS**  **K\_W02** - The graduate knows the fundamental principles of legal English and understands its usage in his/her activity as a lawyer across different jurisdictions, in the context of the genesis and evolution of legal thought and international legal institutions.  **K\_W03** - The graduate knows legal terminology and phraseology used in contracts, litigation, and international law and understands their application as essential tools in a lawyer's professional practice in international legal environments.  **K\_W04** - The graduate knows key legal writing conventions and court procedures in English-speaking jurisdictions and understands their application as a lawyer in cross-border legal practice, including methods of legal interpretation in common law systems.  **SKILLS: THE GRADUATE CAN**  **K\_U01** - The graduate can draft and analyze legal documents such as contracts and legal correspondence in English, properly solving complex legal problems that arise in international legal practice through correct identification of factual situations and application of legal norms in cross-jurisdictional contexts.  **K\_U03** - The graduate can communicate effectively in legal settings using appropriate legal English, properly selecting and applying suitable methods and tools of international legal practice, particularly advanced information and communication techniques in multilingual legal environments.  **K\_U05** - The graduate can interpret and apply legal texts and case law in English, formulating and testing hypotheses related to comparative legal research in the field of theory and practice of law application across different legal systems.  **SOCIAL COMPETENCES: THE GRADUATE IS READY TO**  **K\_K01** - The graduate is ready to engage in professional legal discussions and negotiations in English, critically evaluating possessed legal knowledge and recognizing the importance of multilingual competence in solving problems arising in international legal practice.  **K\_K04** - The graduate is ready to apply critical thinking to solve legal language challenges, observing and promoting patterns of ethical and law-abiding behavior of lawyers in international contexts and cross-cultural legal communication.  **K\_K03** - The graduate is ready to adapt legal English skills to various legal contexts and jurisdictions, thinking and acting in an entrepreneurial manner within the limits defined by law, particularly in shaping international legal relationships and cross-border legal practice. |

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| Verification method of learning outcomes: | **written test - all effects** |
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| Learning outcomes: | **KNOWLEDGE: THE GRADUATE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS**  **K\_W02** - The graduate knows the fundamental principles of legal English and understands its usage in his/her activity as a lawyer across different jurisdictions, in the context of the genesis and evolution of legal thought and international legal institutions.  **K\_W03** - The graduate knows legal terminology and phraseology used in contracts, litigation, and international law and understands their application as essential tools in a lawyer's professional practice in international legal environments.  **K\_W04** - The graduate knows key legal writing conventions and court procedures in English-speaking jurisdictions and understands their application as a lawyer in cross-border legal practice, including methods of legal interpretation in common law systems.  **SKILLS: THE GRADUATE CAN**  **K\_U01** - The graduate can draft and analyze legal documents such as contracts and legal correspondence in English, properly solving complex legal problems that arise in international legal practice through correct identification of factual situations and application of legal norms in cross-jurisdictional contexts.  **K\_U03** - The graduate can communicate effectively in legal settings using appropriate legal English, properly selecting and applying suitable methods and tools of international legal practice, particularly advanced information and communication techniques in multilingual legal environments.  **K\_U05** - The graduate can interpret and apply legal texts and case law in English, formulating and testing hypotheses related to comparative legal research in the field of theory and practice of law application across different legal systems.  **SOCIAL COMPETENCES: THE GRADUATE IS READY TO**  **K\_K01** - The graduate is ready to engage in professional legal discussions and negotiations in English, critically evaluating possessed legal knowledge and recognizing the importance of multilingual competence in solving problems arising in international legal practice.  **K\_K04** - The graduate is ready to apply critical thinking to solve legal language challenges, observing and promoting patterns of ethical and law-abiding behavior of lawyers in international contexts and cross-cultural legal communication.  **K\_K03** - The graduate is ready to adapt legal English skills to various legal contexts and jurisdictions, thinking and acting in an entrepreneurial manner within the limits defined by law, particularly in shaping international legal relationships and cross-border legal practice. |
| Topics: | 1. Introduction to Legal English: Terminology and Structure 2. The Legal Professions    1. Working in law    2. Making a claim    3. Areas of Law 3. Courtroom Language: Advocacy and Litigation Vocabulary    1. Sits in Court 4. Legal Writing: Drafting and Editing Legal Texts    1. Common Vrs Civil Law    2. EU Law    3. Contracts Law    4. Employment Law    5. Tort    6. Business Law    7. Company Law    8. Competition Law 5. Legal Correspondence: Letters, Emails, and Legal Opinions    1. The Layout    2. Salutations    3. The body of a letter    4. Putting a letter together    5. The register of letter writing    6. The content of the letter    7. Typical sentences in legal letters |
| Didactic methods: | * Lecture-based discussions * Case studies * Group exercises and practical drafting assignments |
| Methods and evaluation criteria: | Written test conducted on the UMCS Virtual Campus or Microsoft Teams platform.  Consists of single-choice test questions.  A score of 1 point is available for each single-choice test question. Credit from min. 50% of positive answers. |