



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

ESCUELA DE PRÁCTICA JURÍDICA

General competences

CG1. Demonstrate ability for analysis and synthesis

CG2. Demonstrate critical and autonomous reasoning skills for problem solving

CG3. Demonstrate ability to generate and transmit ideas and solutions towards concrete problems, both orally and in writing.

3½

CG4. Develop the ability to search, select and manage the necessary legal information, both individually and as a team.

CG5. Demonstrate creativity and ability to apply the knowledge acquired to the formulation and defense of arguments that help to support a position.

GC6. Demonstrate ability for negotiation, conciliation and decision-making.

CG8. Demonstrate ability to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both a specialized and non-specialized audience.

CG9. Ability to project the knowledge, skills and skills acquired in the promotion of a society based on the values of freedom, equality, justice and pluralism.

CG10. Be able to develop initiation skills for research, both individually and as a team.

Specific competences

CE2. Demonstrate the ability to read, interpret and write legal texts and writings in English.

EC4. Demonstrate the ability to handle legal sources in English.

EC5. Demonstrate the ability to identify and apply all relevant legal sources to a specific issue.

CE8. Identify the underlying social values in standards and legal principles.

EC9. Possess the basic ability to use the English language to argue and defend one's interests before a court, using precisely the appropriate terminology and applicable law

EC10. To have the capacity to find alternative solutions in the approach of a problem or in the use of legal resources with diverse approaches.

CE12. Know how to reflect on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues in the field of Law.

Horizontal competences

CT1. The acquisition of knowledge within Social and Legal Sciences.

CT2. Capacity to gather and interpret relevant data within the different areas of Law and, in general, in Social and Legal Sciences, to make judgments that include a reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues, being especially relevant reflecting upon fundamental rights.

CT3. Capacity to defend the principles and democratic values related to the respect and defense of fundamental rights, posing solutions to the problems that are based on these values and principles.

CONTENTS

THEME 1:

I. From general English to Legal English

- European Language Portfolio: auto-assessing tools
- Interest, groups and target objectives
- Specialization and introduction to Legal English
- Main concepts and terms in use
- Glossary of legal terminology

THEME 2:

II. Multilevel international protection of rights

- International jurisdictions within reach: scope, decisions, composition, headquarters, etc.

4½

- Binding legal instruments on which each of the international jurisdictions rely on: international treaties, doctrine and case law.
- Main rulings in each jurisdiction and doctrine developed in recent years: precedent rule
- Similarities and differences between civil law and common law systems.

THEME 3:

III. Setting out your case

- First contact with a case / subject: reading cases and tools for writing a case brief, concept note and legal essays
- Organize and prioritize information: skeleton arguments and charts
- Multiple source information and database; overview of legal research
- Autonomous legal research and preparing Memorials

THEME 4:

IV. Forms of legal reasoning and language skills

- Deductive and inductive reasoning, the heart of legal reasoning
- Legal rhetoric and basic writing rules
- Your audience and different writing styles
- Organization and formalization of a claim before a jurisdictional authority
- Citations to authority

THEME 5:

V. Before you start writing

- Main parties to a lawsuit and admissibility
- Introduction or statement of facts: summary and highlights
- Expression of legal arguments: in favor and against
- Findings and legalisms and rules of procedure
- Basic principles of co-writing and editing work

THEME 6:

VI. Oral presentation of arguments

- Getting familiar with your set of arguments
- Skeleton of arguments, signposting and flexibility
- Main issues and submissions
- Dialogue with the judge and use of authorities

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- John B. Thornton, US Legal reasoning, writing, and practice for international lawyers, Lexis Nexis (2014)
- Jeremy Walenn, English for Law in Higher Education Studies, Garnet Education (2009).
- Garner, Bryan A. Legal Writing in Plain English: A Text with Exercises. University of Chicago Press (2001).
- Alison Riley, English for Law (Professional English Series), Prentice Hall (1995).