

60762 - Professional communication in English

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 60762 - Professional communication in English

Faculty / School: 102 - Facultad de Derecho

Degree: 642 - Master's in Legal Practice

ECTS: 3.0

Year: 2

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

English is the lingua franca in the context of globalization. A specialized branch of English used in the world of law and business is International Legal English, characterized by its particular lexicon, its grammatical specialties and its own locutions and turns of phrase. The subject introduces the Master's student to the basic vocabulary used in the main sectors of legal practice.

2. Learning results

The student, in order to pass this subject, must demonstrate the following results...

- Understands spoken and written English in a variety of realistic contexts, such as those that legal professionals encounter in their daily work (lectures, discussions, interviews, and legal presentations).
- Reads and understands specialized written texts in English (legislation, contracts, procedural acts, business documentation and legal opinions)
- Identifies and reads general works (university manuals) on the different areas of the lawyer's professional activity
- Drafts letters, reports and proposals in the legal field.
- Applies basic oral communication skills in relation to the professional legal environment.

3. Syllabus

Topic 1: Common Law vs. Civil Law

Topic 2: EU Law

Topic 3: The Legal Profession

Topic 4: The Court System

Topic 5: Human Rights

Topic 6: Law of Contracts

Topic 7: Criminal Law

Topic 8: ADRs and Arbitration

Topic 9: Company Law

Topic 10: Antitrust and Distribution Law

Topic 11: Constitutional and Administrative

Topic 12: Issues of Continental Private Law

Topic 13: Public International Law

Topic 14: ICT Law

4. Academic activities

Lectures supported by texts and materials of different types (scripts, annotated texts, concept maps, graphs, glossaries, etc.)

Reading comprehension exercises of original texts with identification of vocabulary and specialized grammatical formulas and turns of phrase

Performance of oral comprehension exercises and short oral presentations of argumentative positions on given factual assumptions.

Direct translation exercises of short texts (contract clauses, normative precepts, extracts of sentences, etc.)

Drafting of brief writings (memoranda) on given factual assumptions or normative generalities.

Development of conversations and one to one dialogues among students around a specific legal case, moderated and corrected by the teacher.

5. Assessment system

The evaluation of the subject will follow the system of a global evaluation test, which will be held at the end of the syllabus and will deal with all its contents. There will be two parts:

1. A written test, which will consist of an exercise of identification, comprehension and/or translation of specialized legal terms.

For the theoretical test the student will not be allowed to handle any auxiliary material. Its duration shall not exceed 60 minutes.

2. An oral test, which will consist of a brief presentation (3 to 5 minutes) by the student on the professional office where they have been doing their professional internship for the master's degree, after which the evaluator may ask the questions they deem appropriate. The maximum duration per student of this test will be 10 minutes.

The overall grade of the subject will be given by the average of the grades of both tests. The value of both of them is 50%. The weighted average will not be calculated if a student does not show up and/or does not pass the two tests that make up the global test.

The following evaluation criteria will be taken into account for the evaluation of the tests:

1- Adequate and precise use of specialized vocabulary.

2- Clarity and formal correctness in writing and/or exposition.

3- Communication skills.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

4 - Quality Education

16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions