



Universidad
de Alcalá

GUÍA DOCENTE

Legal English/
Inglés Jurídico

Grado en Derecho

Universidad de Alcalá

Curso Académico 2019 /20
Curso 4º – 1er Cuatrimestre

GUÍA DOCENTE

Nombre de la asignatura /Subject:	Inglés Jurídico
Código:	400029
Titulación en la que se imparte:	Grado en Derecho
Departamento y Área de Conocimiento:	Departamento: Filología Moderna Área: Filología Inglesa
Carácter:	Optativa
Créditos ECTS:	6
Curso:	Cuarto Curso – Primer Cuatrimestre
Profesorado:	M^a Dolores Porto Requejo
Horario de Tutoría:	Por deteminar
Idioma en el que se imparte:	Inglés

1a. PRESENTACIÓN / INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this course is for law students to acquire an upper-intermediate level of specialised English for legal contexts in order to give them the language skills they will need for their careers. They will develop their communicative competence through practice involving the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students will also acquire basic knowledge about law in English speaking countries and the necessary vocabulary and strategies to understand and produce different kinds of legal texts and be able to use English in professional contexts.

Prerequisites and recommendations

Students are expected to have a good command of English (B1 level of Common European Framework, at least) when they start the course, which means that students are expected to be able to follow explanations, take notes, and ask questions, as well as provide the answers for the activities in this language.

1b. COURSE SUMMARY

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As a prerequisite, students are required to have a good command of English (B1 level of Common European Framework, at least) when they start the course, which means that they are expected to be able to follow explanations, take notes, and ask questions, as well as provide the answers for the activities in this language.

By the end of the course, students must be able to acknowledge differences between general English and specific Law English, have developed their production and comprehension skills of written and spoken professional English in situations related to the practice of law and acquired a wide range of specific vocabulary for the field, as well as acquired some basic knowledge about law and the legal system in English speaking countries.

2. COMPETENCIAS / COMPETENCES

Generic competences:

1. To develop student's autonomy as learners
2. To improve student's abilities to communicate and work in groups
3. To develop and articulate independent and critical thinking based on supporting evidence
4. To use bibliographic and specialized sources efficiently and correctly
5. To develop the capacities for self-assessment, self-improvement and team work

Specific competences:

1. To acknowledge differences between general English and specific Law English
2. To develop their speaking and comprehension skills of spoken English in a range of situations related to the practice of law
3. To acquire the necessary language skills to understand and produce legal texts in English
4. To acquire basic knowledge about law and the legal system in English speaking countries

3. CONTENIDOS / CONTENT

Bloques de contenido (se pueden especificar los temas si se considera necesario)
Intellectual property
Competition law
Employment law
Contract law
Real property law
Company law
Environmental law

4. METODOLOGÍAS DE ENSEÑANZA-APRENDIZAJE.-ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS / METHODOLOGY

4.1. Distribución de créditos (especificar en horas)

Face to face sessions	48 hours = lectures (whole group sessions)
Autonomous student work	100 hours (preparation of activities and tasks, readings and study time)
Total hours	148

4.2. Estrategias metodológicas, materiales y recursos didácticos / Learning activities, materials and resources

Face to face sessions 3 hours/week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction of concepts, discussion and analysis of readings.- Listening, speaking, writing and reading exercises.
Autonomous work	Readings, written activities, preparation of activities and projects, basic research activities, consultation of sources and

5. EVALUACIÓN / ASSESSMENT: Procedimientos, criterios de evaluación y de calificación

All students will be graded following a process of continuous assessment. Different aspects of the course will be evaluated separately throughout the semester in order to obtain an overall continuous and formative final mark for the course mark. This means that all the students will have to participate actively and effectively in classes. A minimum of 80% attendance is compulsory.

Exceptionally, those students who have been recognized as eligible for final evaluation in accordance with the terms in article 10 of the *Normativa Reguladora de los Procesos de Evaluación de los Aprendizajes* may sit for a final exam that will include questions on all the topics covered in the class and activities to assess on the four basic skills.

Students who fail either the continuous evaluation or the final exam will have to sit for an extraordinary exam which will include questions on all the topics covered in the syllabus as well as practical activities to assess on the four basic skills.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Those students who commit plagiarism in any of the activities will receive a FAIL mark in the corresponding activity.

Assessment procedures and criteria

Evaluation will measure students' proficiency in Legal English according to the following criteria:

- Fluency in the use of English
- Ability to understand a variety of texts, both spoken and written
- Ability to respond to tasks appropriately in the foreign language
- Grammatical accuracy and variety of grammatical structures
- Wide lexical range and appropriateness of lexis used
- Basic knowledge of English speaking countries law sources and systems and specific concepts related to them

Therefore, the following procedures will be followed and assessed:

- Class activities and homework tasks to evaluate the accuracy and fluency of language use in the four skills in legal context– 20%
- Group work and oral presentations to assess oral and spoken language use in legal contexts - 20%

- Progress tests and class activities on specific vocabulary and language functions to assess acquisition and appropriateness of lexis and grammar- 30%
- Written assignments in order to assess the ability to use formal Legal English in its written form, structure and organize different kinds of texts and to use specific vocabulary appropriately - 30%

Grading criteria

SOBRESALIENTE (A):

- Student fully understands the necessary concepts regarding legal English
- Student does not have significant errors of decoding/encoding and he/she has a very good use of English (B2)
- Student can apply the learned vocabulary to practical activities efficiently and appropriately
- Student can understand a legal text in English, both written and oral
- Student can carry out a conversation in a professional legal context in English
- Student can produce a legal text in a professional manner in English

NOTABLE (B)

- Student fully understands the necessary concepts regarding legal English
- Student has up to one important error and has a good use of English - Student can apply the learned vocabulary to practical activities efficiently and appropriately
- Student can understand a legal text in English, both written and oral but may have a few linguistic or format errors
- Student can carry out a conversation in a professional legal context in English but may have a few linguistic or format errors
- Student can produce a legal text in a professional manner in English but may have a few linguistic or format errors

APROBADO (C- Pass)

- Student has some important errors in understanding and putting into practice the necessary concepts regarding legal English
- Student has encoding problems (choice of vocabulary, idioms and register) and / or significant grammatical errors
- Student can apply the learned vocabulary to practical activities in a basic and general manner
- Student can understand a legal text in English, both written and oral in a basic and general manner
- Student can carry out a conversation in a professional legal context in English in a basic and general manner
- Student can produce a legal text in a professional manner in English in a basic and general manner

SUSPENSO (F- Fail)

- Student has severe problems and shows inaccuracies in understanding and putting into practice the necessary concepts regarding legal English
- Student shows persistent serious grammatical inaccuracy and inappropriate choices of vocabulary, idiom and register

- Student cannot apply the learned vocabulary to practical activities in a basic and general manner
- Student cannot understand a legal text in English, either written or oral in a basic and general manner
- Student cannot carry out a conversation in a professional legal context in English in a basic and general manner
- Student cannot produce a legal text in a professional manner in English in a basic and general manner

Those students who do not pass the continuous assessment activities and requirements or the final evaluation will have the opportunity to sit for an extraordinary exam which will cover all the subject contents.

6. BIBLIOGRAFÍA / REFERENCES

Textbook (compulsory): Callanan, Helen & Edwards, Lynda (2010). *Absolute Legal English: English for international Law*. Delta Publishing

Bibliografía básica /Basic references

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