

**Global Network at the financial hub Frankfurt:
The LL.M Program at the Institute for Law and Finance (ILF) of Goethe University**

Frankfurt am Main, 12th April 2011.

Competition for the scarce commodity called capital has intensified, the interdependency of the international financial markets is increasing. The need for sensible regulation is correspondingly high. This is evidenced by the worldwide ramifications of the financial crisis as well as the planned merger of Deutsche Börse AG and the New York Stock Exchange.

These challenges must be faced by universities also: A well-grounded international education of the future decision makers in a business and legal respect is needed.

The Institute for Law and Finance (ILF) based in the House of Finance is addressing this concern. Since its inception in 2002 the ILF has established itself as a highly renowned address with employers in the legal and financial industry. Here university teachers together with scientifically versed practitioners are educating – in the midst of a global financial center – among other things in a one-year english language LL.M-program up to 50 students from Germany and abroad. Whoever is committed on location, has access to a two-year part-time program.

Leading on the legal side is Professor Dr. Theodor Baums, who counts as one of the fathers of the German Corporate Governance codex and who is currently acting as the European Commission's adviser in drafting an action plan for the future Corporate Law of the EU. Further legal experts are the university Professors Dres. Andreas Cahn and Manfred Wandt, who is also Dean of the university's law department.

Besides the ambitious interdisciplinary program the ILF offers special opportunities for networking far beyond the program. "The program facilitated practical experience and professional contacts for me, which money can't buy", explains the young lawyer at an international law firm. "Two aspects of the program make it in my opinion unique: First of all the students gain important professional experience with leading international law firms, banks and institutions. Moreover the program is supported by many partners and practitioners of said employers. This enables the students to develop truly valuable contacts."

"Our graduates know exactly, what kind of excellent professional opportunities they open through the program year in Frankfurt am Main," says ILF co-director Cahn. "We are in a privileged situation due to the good connections to banks, leading law firms, the European Central Bank as well as the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin). Through the selection of contributors from the industry we can optimally connect theory and practice."

"The careers of ILF graduates are as diverse as their original countries and their later destination countries" adds Managing Director Dr. Rolf Friedewald. "Thus many colleagues leave the place of their studies, but stick with the financial industry in London, New York, Beijing or in Shanghai. These coming executives are closely linked through their social networks amongst each other and with the ILF and utilize the contact with friends and sponsors of the ILF to further their business activities for their employers." Other graduates by virtue of their degree enhance the expertise of local companies, which grant them reduced hours for the program, without "losing" them to abroad.

Correspondingly many applicants year for year face the rather strict admissions process.

“Indeed we only select those among the interested, of whom we think they can meet the standards of our comprehensive program and who can most benefit from it in their further professional and personal development” as Program and Marketing Manager Shen Dee Kobbelt elaborates.

Background information on the Institute for Law and Finance:

The ILF was founded by the Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main in 2002 as a university foundation in collaboration with supervisory authorities, banks and law firms, it undertakes teaching and research in the field of Law and Finance. The international education of the students as well as the permanent exchange of science and practice at the ILF constitute a perceptible contribution to the advancement of the financial hub Frankfurt am Main and to the strengthening of the German capital market in the European competition. In 2012 the ILF and its graduates will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of this unique program.

The ILF is active in the area of postgraduate education. It among other things organizes the English language program Master of Laws – LL.M (Finance) – which covers the whole spectrum of financial market and corporate law and their economic fundamentals and is aimed at law and business/economics graduates. Participation is limited to at most 50 interested students from typically up to 30 nations, who can choose between 2 full time or 4 part time semesters. The program starts in October of any given year, the application deadline is at the end of July.

Besides this, the ILF offers in Spring and late summer two two-week courses in corporate and banking and capital market law in German language. Target audience for this are young German lawyers, shortly before career entry who want to further their education. Moreover the ILF together with the universities of Deusto, Tilburg and Strassbourg takes a leading part in the Erasmus Mundus Program “European Master in Transnational Trade Law and Finance” which is sponsored by the European Commission. Furthermore among the regularly scheduled events of the institute are the Corporate Finance Summit in May with business and legal panels.

Lecturers of the ILF’s courses are apart from Professors at the Goethe-University numerous representatives of supervisory authorities, banks, law firms and other corporations.

Governing boards of the ILF are the executive board consisting of the university Professors Dres. Theodor Baums, Andreas Cahn and Manfred Wandt, furthermore the academic advisory board, the board of trustees and the Donors’ Committee. Chairman of the advisory board is ECB president Jean-Claude Trichet. Chairman of the board of trustees is the CEO of Commerzbank AG Martin Blessing; other members include Hessian Finance Minister Dr. Thomas Schäfer, BaFin president Jochen Sanio, board member of Deutsche Bank Hermann-Josef Lamberti and university president Professor Dr. Werner Müller-Esterl as well as several partners of business law firms. The donors’ committee also counts among its members, besides bank representatives – among them the Managing Director of the Law Department of the German Bankers’ Association (Bundesverband deutscher Banken) Mr. Throsten Höche – several partners of renowned law firms.

For more information please visit our bilingual home page at www.ilf-frankfurt.de