



Institute of European and Comparative Law

Faculty of Law



Academic Exchange with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg

You are invited to apply for the academic exchange programme between the Institute of European and Comparative Law, on behalf of the Law Faculty, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg. The exchange is open to Faculty members and graduate research students of the Oxford Law Faculty who wish to pursue research at the Max Planck Institute. Under the agreement, Oxford may send to Hamburg either one eligible person for a six-month period or a number of eligible persons for shorter periods totalling six months. Typically, we send two researchers to Hamburg for three months each (one from April to June, the other from July to September).

The Max Planck Institute will provide **single** accommodation, free of charge, (shared) office space with a computer if possible but failing that a dedicated desk space, and generous library access. There will be no teaching or other formal obligations, although visitors might be asked to give a paper on their ongoing research. Knowledge of the German language is an asset, but is not required in the working environment of the Hamburg Institute. In return, one or two Senior or Junior Research Fellows of the Hamburg Institute per year will stay at the Oxford Institute. They will be affiliated with St Catherine's College. The exchange programme is co-ordinated by the Director of the MPI (Hamburg) and the Director of the IECL (Oxford).

Faculty members and graduate research students who wish to go to Hamburg during the academic year 2026-27 (i.e. **between 1 April and 30 September 2027**) should submit their application via this [Form](#) by 12:00 noon on Friday of Week 0, Hilary Term (15 January 2027).

Applications should include the completed application form, a (short) statement setting out your research project and indicating how a research visit to the Max Planck Institute will contribute to the project, a curriculum vitae and a list of publications. In the case of graduate students, the support of the supervisor is necessary.

Professor Solanke (iyiola.solanke@law.ox.ac.uk), Director of the Institute, welcomes informal enquiries.

The Hamburg Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law

The Hamburg Institute is one of more than eighty Institutes of the Max Planck Society which perform research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and the humanities. The Max Planck Society takes up new and innovative research areas that German universities are not in a position to accommodate or deal with adequately. These interdisciplinary fields of research often do not fit into the university organisation, or they require more funds for personnel and equipment than are available at universities. The standard of the research conducted at these Institutes is world class.

The Hamburg Institute, founded in 1926, is the world leading institution in its fields of research. Previous Directors include Ernst Rabel, Konrad Zweigert and Hein Kötz, arguably the three most influential comparative lawyers of the twentieth century. Today, the Institute's research covers foreign and international private, commercial and economic law, including civil procedure. A strong emphasis is on comparative law, private international law and the unification of private law. The Institute currently has three Directors, Professors Holger Fleischer, Ralf Michaels and Anna Röthel, each of them highly distinguished and internationally renowned experts in their respective fields, and some 55 Research Fellows, approximately 25 of whom are of post-doctoral status.

The Institute publishes a number of journals and series of books. It advises the German legislator and foreign legislatures on law reform, and it is closely involved in the elaboration of supra-national legislative measures. Recent examples include the German legislation on same-sex marriages and capital finance, the Hungarian Civil Code, the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts, or the 'Rome I' and 'Rome II' Regulations of the European Union in the field of private international law. Finally, the Institute advises German courts on foreign private law matters which have to be resolved in a German forum.

The Institute has excellent research facilities. It holds the best foreign law collection in the world. Its holdings in English law (at least in private law and conflicts) are better than those of many faculties in the UK. Many academics from Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and Latin America visit the Institute because they cannot find any library in their own country which is as comprehensive on their jurisdiction as the holdings in Hamburg. Visitors also have access to the libraries of the Law Faculty of the University of Hamburg and to the Staatsbibliothek, the biggest general library in Northern Germany. The Institute has a lively culture of discussion groups and lectures.

For more information see <https://www.mpipriv.de/home>.