The European Law Students' Association

ELSA LAW SCHOOLS
SELECTION CRITERIA

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES 2026/2027

ELSA LAW SCHOOLS PARTICIPANT SELECTION GUIDELINES

The Winter and Summer ELSA Law Schools are among the flagship projects of our Network. Organising them requires extensive logistical work as well as a careful and well-structured selection of participants. To support this process, the ELSA International Law Schools Team developed a ranking system that helps National and Local Groups make informed and consistent decisions on participant acceptance. The system is non-binding and serves only as a guideline.

Each Applicant is graded from 1 to 7 in three categories. The weighted average of these three grades is the Applicant's final grade. The categories are:

a) The Curriculum Vitae (35%)
b) The Motivation Letter (35%)
c) ELSA Experience; knowledge and contribution to ELSA's activities and its mission (30%)

Created by (2019/2020):

Xanthi Agoraki
Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences of ELSA International 2023/2024

Dario Schönbächler
Director for ELSA Law Schools 2023/2024

İlayda Menevşe
Assistant for ELSA Law Schools 2023/2024

Josef Levy
Assistant for ELSA Law Schools 2023/2024

Paula Bačić
Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching 2023/2024

Updated by (2026/2027):

Adamantia Lora
Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences of ELSA International 2026/2027

Stefania Vryoni
Director for ELSA Law Schools 2026/2027

WELS
Winter ELSA Law Schools

elsa
The European Law Students' Association

SELS
Summer ELSA Law Schools

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Curriculum Vitae (35%)	**Absence of CV:** The Applicant did not provide a CV.	**Inadequate level of CV:** The presented CV is not complete and lacks relevant experience, educational and professional background.	**Insufficient level of CV:** The presented CV is complete but lacks relevant educational and professional background.	**Medium level of CV:** The applicant enclosed a complete CV, but the experience mentioned lacks relevance for the ELSA Law School. The applicant did not mention any extracurricular activities linked to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**Medium-High level of CV:** The applicant attached a good CV with a relevant educational or professional background for the respective ELSA Law School and extracurricular activities linked to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**High level of CV:** The applicant has attached a high-level CV, which contains a relevant educational and professional background for the respective ELSA Law School, with various extracurricular activities (two or more) linked to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**Outstanding level CV:** The applicant has attached an outstanding-level CV, which contains a relevant and complete educational and professional background for the respective ELSA Law School, with numerous extracurricular activities (four or more) linked to the topic of the ELSA Law School.
Motivation Letter (35%)	**Absence of Motivation:** The Applicant did not provide a Motivation Letter. The Motivation Letter was entirely made by an AI.	**Inadequate level of Motivation:** The motivation letter lacks interest of the Applicant in the ELSA Law School, in its topic, its academic programme or its social programme. The majority of the Motivation Letter was written by an AI.	**Insufficient level of Motivation:** The Motivation Letter presents the Applicant's interest in the ELSA Law School; however, it provides a vague interest of the Applicant in the topic, its academic programme or its social programme. A significant part of the Motivation Letter was made by an AI, although some original content and personal input are evident.	**Medium level of Motivation:** The Motivation Letter presents the Applicant's clear interest in the Law School as well as in the topic and the academic and social programme of the ELSA Law School. The Motivation Letter was developed through a combination of AI-generated content and the applicant's own writing.	**Medium-High level of Motivation:** The motivation letter presents the Applicant's interest in the ELSA Law School as well as in the topic and the academic and social programme of the ELSA Law School; it does not demonstrate how the ELSA Law School would benefit the Applicant academically or professionally. The applicant primarily wrote the motivational letter, using AI for certain ideas or substantial improvements. It is at least 250 words long and does not exceed 500 words.	**High level of Motivation:** The Motivation Letter presents the Applicant's interest in the ELSA Law School, in the topic, and in the academic and social programme of the ELSA Law School. The Motivation Letter also shows how the ELSA Law School would benefit the Applicant academically or professionally. The Motivation Letter was almost entirely written by the applicant, with AI used only for minor assistance such as proofreading, grammar or wording suggestions. It is at least 300 words long and does not exceed 500 words.	**Outstanding level of Motivation:** The Motivation Letter presents the Applicant's interest in the ELSA Law School, in the topic of the relevant session and details one or more relevant curriculum activities supporting this interest. The Motivation Letter also shows how the ELSA Law School would benefit the Applicant academically or professionally. The Motivation Letter was entirely written by the applicant. It is between 300 and 500 words long.

ELSA Experience (30%)	**Absence of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows no knowledge of ELSA and has not been involved in any ELSA activities.	**Inadequate level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows very limited knowledge of ELSA and has not participated in any ELSA events.	**Insufficient level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows basic knowledge of ELSA and has participated in one ELSA event not related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**Medium level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows good knowledge of ELSA, its mission and projects, and has participated in two or more ELSA events not related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**Medium-High level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows good knowledge of ELSA, its mission and projects, and has participated in several ELSA events, at least one of which is related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**High level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows very good knowledge of ELSA and is actively involved in ELSA (e.g. as an Officer or OC member), and has participated in two or more ELSA events related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.	**Outstanding level of ELSA experience:** The Applicant shows excellent knowledge of ELSA, has made a significant contribution to the network (e.g. as a Board or International Team member, or OC member of an international project), and has participated in numerous ELSA events related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.

Example of an Applicant evaluation:

Applicant A:

- **Curriculum Vitae - Grade 6 (High level):** The Applicant submitted a high-level CV with an educational and professional background relevant to the topic of the ELSA Law School (e.g. for an ELSA Law School on Maritime Law, the Applicant is pursuing a Master's degree in Maritime Law). The CV also lists two or more extracurricular activities linked to the topic, such as two seminars and a webinar on Maritime Law.
- **Motivation Letter - Grade 4 (Medium level):** The Motivation Letter clearly expresses the Applicant's interest in both the ELSA Law School and its topic. However, it does not meet the formal requirements because it exceeds the maximum word limit, so it cannot receive a grade higher than 4.
- **ELSA Experience - Grade 5 (Medium-High level):** The Applicant has good knowledge of ELSA, its mission and its projects. They have attended five ELSA events: three not related to Maritime Law, and two (a seminar and a webinar) directly related to the topic of the ELSA Law School.

Final score: $0.35 \times 6 + 0.35 \times 4 + 0.30 \times 5 = 2.1 + 1.4 + 1.5 =$ **5.0** *(out of a maximum of 7)*

Final Remarks:

1. **Word limits:** The Motivation Letter should not exceed 500 words. It is recommended that a Motivation Letter exceeding 500 words, or shorter than 250 words, does not receive a grade higher than 4, and that a Motivation Letter shorter than 300 words does not receive a grade higher than 5.
2. **Use of AI:** The extent to which the Motivation Letter was written with AI tools should be assessed according to the descriptions in the grading table.
3. **Final grade:** The final grade is the weighted average of the three category grades, rounded to two decimal places.

These guidelines aim to support a fair, transparent and consistent selection process across the Network. Organising Groups are encouraged to adapt them to the specific needs of each ELSA Law School, while keeping in mind the shared goal of welcoming motivated participants who will both contribute to and benefit from the experience.