



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



The European Law Students' Association
MAYNOOTH

Maynooth University

ELSA Society

Constitution

Date Passed: 26/04/2022

1. Name of Club/Society:

1. The name of the Society shall be the “European Law Students’ Association Maynooth Society”, which may be abbreviated to the “ELSA Maynooth Society” hereafter referred as “the Society”.

2. Core Principles & Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 ELSA Maynooth shall be a local group of ELSA International and shall by extension be a Member of ELSA Ireland.
- 2.2 ELSA Maynooth shall be a society of Maynooth Students’ Union.
- 2.3 This Constitution shall be construed as being in compliance with any obligations falling on the Society as a necessary condition of its status as a recognised society to Maynooth Students’ Union and, in the event of any clash between this section and the rules of the Students’ Union Capitation Committee, the latter shall prevail.
- 2.4 Without prejudice to the preceding sub-section, this Constitution shall be construed as being in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Statutes and Standing Orders of ELSA International and the Statutes and Standing Orders of ELSA International shall prevail in the event of any clash with this section.
- 2.5 Without prejudice to sub-sections 2.2 and 2.3, this Constitution shall be construed as being in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Statutes and Standing Orders of ELSA Ireland shall prevail in the event of any clash with this Constitution.
- 2.6 This Constitution shall fully replace any constitutional documents of the Society pre-existing at the time of their enactment and shall, without prejudice to sub-sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, form the sole constitutional documents of the society.
- 2.7 In accordance with the core principles of ELSA, ELSA Maynooth shall be non-political and shall thus not take stances on political issues, though it may facilitate the discussion of political issues for educational objectives in a neutral and non-partisan manner.

- 2.8** The aims of ELSA Maynooth, shall, in accordance with those of ELSA, be to promote, establish and develop mutual understanding, co-operation and personal contacts between law students and young lawyers from different states and legal systems, thereby equipping them for professional life in an international environment.
- 2.9** With respect to the realisation of the above aims, ELSA will be guided by the following philosophy statement:
- (i)** Vision:
A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity.
 - (ii)** Purpose:
To contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding and to promote social responsibility in law students and young lawyers.
 - (iii)** Means:
 - (a)** To provide opportunities for law students and young lawyers to learn about other cultures and legal systems in a spirit of critical dialogue and scientific co-operation.
 - (b)** To assist law students and young lawyers to be internationally minded and professionally skilled.
 - (c)** To encourage law students and young lawyers to act for the good of society.
- 2.10** In order to reach its aims as set out above, ELSA Maynooth's main fields of activity shall be, as those of ELSA:
- (i)** The Student Trainee Exchange Programme (STEP), providing opportunities for law students and young lawyers to gain work experience in a foreign legal system while learning about other cultures.
 - (ii)** Seminars and Conferences (S&C) involving the acquisition of knowledge through exposure to professionals and foreign cultures.
 - (iii)** Academic Activities (AA) involving the development of legal knowledge through guided practical activities.

3. Membership:

- 3.1** Full membership of the Club/Society shall be open to all registered students of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth (MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY);

St.Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM); the Pontifical University and National Seminary of Ireland upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the Club/Society and in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Clubs and Societies Committee. As indicated - [Committee Resources - MU Life Clubs & Societies](#)

- 3.2** Full members of the Club/Society shall be:
- i) Entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Club/Society
 - ii) Eligible for election to the Club/Society's Governing Executive Committee
- 3.3** The Club/Society recognises the importance that staff and graduates of MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY and SPCM can play in the development and long term success of a Club/Society. It shall therefore endeavour to maintain contact with such former members who wish to retain their connection with the Club/Society.
- 3.4** To this end the Governing Executive Committee of the Club/Society shall be empowered to create a class of "Associate Member" of the Club/Society.
- 3.5** Associate Membership shall be open to all staff and alumni of MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY and SPCM upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the Club/Society in consultation with the MU Clubs and Societies Committee. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.
- 3.6** Associate Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Club/Society. Eligibility of Alumni to compete on behalf of Maynooth University/SPCM will be determined by the relevant National Governing Body.
- 3.7** Associate Members shall not have voting rights and are ineligible for election to the Club/Society's Governing Executive Committee.
- 3.8** All other rights of Associate Members shall be determined by Maynooth University Clubs and Societies Committee.
- 3.9** The rights of an Associate Member shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Club/Society.
- 3.10** All members shall be bound by this constitution and guidance documents (resources on MU Life) and decisions of MU C&S Committee

4. Governing Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Club/Society shall have a Governing Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as the “the committee”) which shall be elected annually by the membership.
- 4.2 The committee shall run and direct the ongoing activities of the Club/Society on behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives.
- 4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by the consensus of the committee (where possible), committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting.
- 4.4 A quorum for committee meetings shall be two thirds of committee members.
- 4.5 The Committee shall consist of :
- i) The President
 - ii) The Secretary General
 - iii) The Treasurer
 - iv) The Vice President for Marketing
 - v) The Vice President for Academic Activities
 - vi) The Vice President for Competitions
 - vii) The Vice President for Seminars and Conferences
 - viii) The Vice President for the Student Trainee Exchange Programme
- 4.6 Assistant positions shall be filled by co-option by the committee as the need arises.
- 4.7 Sub-committees may be co-opted where the need arises and at the discretion of the committee.
- 4.8 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one year running from 1st July until the 30th June of the following year.
- 4.9 A person shall not hold the same office for more than 2 successive years.

5. Election of the Governing Executive Committee

- 5.1 The committee members shall be democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Club/Society.

- 5.2 Club/Society AGM's and committee elections, where possible, should be held before the end of semester 2 of a given academic year in accordance with Clubs and Societies Committee rules.
- 5.3 To seek election to the committee, each candidate must have 2 nominations by current members of the Club/Society.

6. Duties of Governing Executive Committee

- 6.1.1. The President shall be the chief officer of the Society who shall be responsible for the areas of Board Management, Expansion and External Relations and whose functions shall include chairing all meetings of the Board and officiating at meetings of the Society
- 6.1.2. The President shall have an ordinary vote at Board meetings and meetings of the Society. In the event of a tied vote on any matter she or he shall have the casting vote.

- 6.2.1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the Supporting Area of Internal Management and his or her function shall be to deal with all correspondence and records of the Society, as well as to organise all meetings in accordance with the decisions of the Board and with these Statutes.
- 6.2.2. The Secretary General shall keep minutes of all Society meetings, including Board meetings and general meetings, as well as any other meetings relating to the business of the Society when requested by the Board.
- 6.2.3. The Secretary General shall give notice of the Society's meetings, events and functions to all members.
- 6.2.4. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the keeping and administration of all records of the Society, other than those falling under the responsibility of the Treasurer.

- 6.3.1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the Supporting Area of Financial Management and his or her function shall be to administer the funds of the Society and to maintain accounts and budgets.
- 6.3.2. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decisions of the Board and in compliance with the regulations set down by the Capitation Committee.
- 6.3.3. The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the Society. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised expenditures and shall issue receipts.
- 6.3.4. The Treasurer shall sign all cheques and for all withdrawals from the Society's bank account.

- 6.3.5.** Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated person may sign cheques and for withdrawals for the Society on consultation with the Capitation Committee.
- 6.4.** The Vice President for Marketing shall be responsible for the Supporting Area of Marketing.
- 6.5.** The Vice President for Academic Activities shall be responsible for the Key Area of Academic Activities.
- 6.6.** The Vice President for Moot Court Competitions shall be responsible for the Key Area of Moot Court Competitions.
- 6.7.** The Vice President for Seminars and Conferences shall be responsible for the Key Area of Seminars and Conferences.
- 6.8.** The Vice President for the Student Trainee Exchange Programme shall be responsible for the Key Area of the Student Trainee Exchange Programme.

7. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

- 7.1.** Written notice of any resolution to seek the dismissal from office of a Board member must be signed by 10% of the membership of the society or two thirds of the Board and submitted to the Secretary General. Upon receipt of such notice, the Secretary General shall notify the member of the Board concerned and then the rest of the Board as soon as possible and shall then submit it in writing to the Secretary General of ELSA Ireland and seek an affirmation from the Secretary General of ELSA Ireland that the motion has been considered by the National Board and that the National Board has given consent for said motion to be brought before the membership of ELSA Maynooth for debate.

Upon receipt of such notice of consent, the Secretary General shall notify the Board and shall then notify the membership of the Society at least four working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.

Where no such notice of consent is received or until such is received, no such motion shall be brought before a general meeting of the society for debate.

- 7.2.** A member of the Board may be dismissed from office only when a resolution has been put before the membership of the society as set out in the preceding sub-Article and approved by a simple majority of the general meeting concerned.

- 7.1.1** A Board member wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing declaring that intention to resign to the Secretary General, who shall immediately inform the Board as a whole.
 - 7.1.2** The responsibilities of a Board member who resigns shall be shared among the other Board members until a by-election can be held to elect a new person to the position.
- 7.3.** Where the Secretary General is the subject of any motion for dismissal or resignation under this Article, his or her function may be fulfilled by the President, or, where the President is also subject to such motion for dismissal or resignation, any other Board member who is not so subject.

8 Meetings

- 8.1** There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year.
- 8.2** The AGM shall be held no later than in the final month of the Academic year where the main committee members will be elected (where possible).
- 8.3** Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at this meeting.
- 8.4** A quorum of the meeting shall be 3 Governing Executive Committee members and 10% of the ordinary membership
- 8.5** The business of the AGM shall include elections of relevant Executive Governing Committee as well as any annual reports or handover documents from the outgoing Governing Executive Committee (which should include a Treasurer's report on the finances of the Club/Society).
- 8.6** An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if:
 - i) 10% of the ordinary membership of the Club/Society request such a meeting in writing.
 - ii) A quorum of the Governing Executive Committee requests such a meeting in writing.
 - iii) A vacancy on the current committee occurs and there is a need to elect a replacement.
- 8.7** Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at the AGM or EGM (where relevant).
- 8.8** Notice of all meetings shall be given to the membership at least 5 working days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 8.9** At a meeting, a member may propose a resolution relating to the business of the Club/Society. The resolution shall be voted on by a show of hands and a declaration of the President that the resolution is carried (unless a secret ballot is demanded by any 5 members) shall be conclusive evidence that the resolution has passed or failed.

- 8.10 In the event that the President's resolution (8.9) is challenged, a recount of the votes will be administered in which a number of appropriate people will be appointed by the committee as "tellers" to count the votes. The result will be announced by the President or the Vice-President (where requested by the general meeting).
- 8.11 No resolution may contravene Maynooth University policy or Clubs and Societies Committee policy.

9 General

- 9.1 There shall be a Honorary President of the Club/Society who shall be a staff member in compliance with the regulations set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee. The Honorary President's term of office shall be for one academic year. Honorary Presidents shall be entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Club/Society. Honorary President shall not have voting rights and are ineligible for election to the Club/Society's Governing Executive Committee. The rights of an Honorary President shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Club/Society.
- 9.2 The membership fee for the Club/Society shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Clubs and Societies Committee
- 9.3 Each member of the Club/Society shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution, on demand, free of charge.
- 9.4 In the event of a clash with the Clubs and Societies Committee rule and regulations, the Clubs and Societies Committee rules and regulations shall take precedence above this constitution and is subject to Clubs and Societies Committee Policy at all times.
- 9.5 In joining the Club/Society, members agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Club/Society as laid down in this constitution and by the Governing Executive Committee. Members violating these rules and regulations shall be answerable to the committee and may have their membership revoked and no monies refunded, for persistent breaches or extremely serious breaches, as deemed by a majority of the committee. In the event that the committee cannot resolve a dispute with a member(s), the Clubs and Societies Committee shall rule on the matter and it's decision shall be final.

10 Amendments to this Constitution

- 10.1 All amendments to this constitution need to be approved by the Clubs and Societies Committee in advance of notifying members. Notice of a proposal to seek an amendment to this Constitution shall be given to the members at least 4 working days prior to the meeting at which such a proposal shall be considered
- 10.2 A proposal to amend this Constitution must receive the approval of 2/3s of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.