

VALORISATION DURING AND AFTER THE MOOT COURT

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It is very much a common practice that during a moot court competition, students are excused from attending regular classes of obligatory and elective courses. If there is an overlap between the legal issues involved in the moot court and syllabus of any subject taught in the semester when the moot court takes place, usually, students' knowledge about these issues would be recognized without examination. In case there are essays, seminar papers, research, or any other form of semester activities besides exams planned as part of a certain subject activities, these could be recognized as implemented, with the highest points. This is conditioned by a relation between the issue of the moot court competition and the subjects' syllabus. Students could also be excused from exams and given the highest grades if the issue of the moot court correlates in the majority or completely with the subjects' syllabus (usually in cases of elective courses). At some universities, the moot court is recognized as a separate, elective subject. When it comes to dates of the semester exams, students should be able to arrange additional dates for exams, especially if these overlap with important moot court dates. Adjusting exam and class schedule to accommodate the moot court team's competition schedule will help the team balance their academic commitments with their moot court obligations. Participation in the moot court could also be valorised by extra ECTS credits, as an appendix to the diploma.

Finally, students could also be given a diploma or thank you note or any other form of recognition on special occasions like the Day of Faculty or Day of the University. This will not only recognize their efforts but also serve as a valuable addition to their resume. Making an announcement about moot court teams on Faculty's website and social media as well as publishing an article about participation in the moot court, in a legal magazine or local media, will give students visibility and recognition within the university community and public in general. Faculty could also provide networking opportunities to students who participate in moot court competitions. For instance, Faculty could introduce them to legal professionals, judges, lawyers or other experts in the field. This could be done at a special reception for students, coaches but also supporters and donors.

After the moot court, successful competitors could become coaches or even judges at the specific competition. One form of valorisation after the moot court could also be through admission to the master's program. Students who participated in moot court should be given extra points when they apply for the master program if applications are scored and graded.

Also, students could be given a scholarship for their master studies. Finally, students could be granted an internship in law offices that have sponsored the moot court competition. It is important to inform and sensitise potential employers on value of participation in the moot court competition and what kind of extra quality (like developing advocacy skills, confidence building, commitment to learning, researching, and exploring in detail a legal issue, and dedication to the teamwork) does every participant brings at his/her internship and working places.

Regarding the valorisation of the coaching engagement of the faculty staff members, there are various examples from the comparative experience. For example, winning a first, second or third place at the moot court competitions could be equivalent to fulfilling one other criterion relevant to the progression in the academic hierarchy (for example, equivalent to publishing a paper in Q1 Journal). Alternatively, coach engagement could be one of the criteria that would be taken into account when it comes to advancement within the academic hierarchy. During moot court competition, staff members that are engaged as coaches could have the number of their mandatory regular classes reduced. They could also be excused from their membership in ad hoc or temporary administrative working bodies of the Faculty. Finally, coaches could also be valorised by a financial bonus for excellent moot court results.

Faculty's participation in the moot court competitions is also valued by various rankings. One of them is Nica.Team Law School Ranking. Nica.Team ranking methodology is based on two criteria: 1) the weight of the contests they participated in during the year and 2) how far they go in these competitions. The weight of the competition is defined by the law schools participating in it.