LL.M. Degree Requirements

The philosophy of the LL.M. program is to offer our students a broad platform on which to design their own course of study within parameters set by the Harvard Law School faculty. All students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 22 credit hours and a maximum of 26 credit hours in one academic year; most students complete between 22 and 24 credits. Students also must satisfy some specific course and written work requirements.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

International LL.M. students are required to take at least one of the following courses in American Law: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Corporations, Criminal Law, Family Law, Legislation and Regulation, Property, Taxation, and Torts. International students also must write a paper of 25 or more pages that involves independent reflection, formulation of a sustained argument and, in many cases, outside research. Both types of papers may be written either independently or in conjunction with a seminar. Finally, we strongly encourage students to take at least one course focusing on legal history, legal theory, policy analysis or legal process.

For students who hold a J.D. from a law school in the United States or Puerto Rico, and who are hoping to embark on a law teaching career, the emphasis is slightly different. These students are provided the opportunity to take a step back and relate the doctrinal areas in which they previously concentrated to broader intellectual, social and cultural traditions and to pursue an extended writing project. Thus students from the United States and Puerto Rico are strongly encouraged to take at least one course that is primarily focused on legal theory or jurisprudence and are required to write a paper of at least 50 pages in length.
LL.M. Requirements

Graduate students are admitted for one academic year in residence, leading to the degree of Master of Laws. To qualify for the LL.M. degree, students must:

- successfully complete at least 18 units of the 24 units required of regular course and seminar offerings (in the Law School or other schools in the University);
- carry a total of no fewer than 12 units of credit per term;
- up to 6 units per year (or 8 units if a candidate takes a first-term ungraded course) may be taken credit/fail only with the consent of the instructor;
- spend at least two terms in residence.

LL.M. candidates can complete up to 6 units of the 24 units required of independent research and writing for credit under the supervision of a Law School faculty member. (With approval, up to 6 units of credit toward the LL.M. degree can be earned in courses in other schools in the University.) They can also participate in student-run programs such as reading groups and law journals.

The LL.M. program runs from September through May and includes a full and spring term; there are no January admissions.
LLM Programs

The nine-month general LLM program offers outstanding graduates of foreign law schools an opportunity to expand their knowledge of American law and legal processes, continue their studies in international law, and engage in comparative legal research.

Graduates of the program represent more than 50 countries and hold prominent positions in many areas of practice. They include attorneys, professors, judges, corporate counsel, consultants, human rights workers, bankers, and civil servants.

Curriculum

Students must take at least 20 law credit hours to earn the LLM degree. LLM students may take up to two co-listed Kellogg courses if space is available. Co-listed courses are Kellogg courses taught by Kellogg faculty and offered through the Law School.

LLM students are free to design their own program of study from the Law School's many upper-level courses and seminars, including commercial and corporate, international, constitutional, and human rights law.

A written thesis is not required, but students with well-defined topics may pursue individual research projects.

During their first semester in residence, students enroll in two mandatory courses. The Common Law Reasoning course, which focuses on the fundamental research, analysis, and drafting skills expected of U.S. trained lawyers, and American Jurisprudence, introducing students to the history and principal characteristics of the American public and private law systems. With the exception of these two courses, LLM students are completely integrated with American JD students.

For further information on planning your curriculum, see Plan Your Academic Career.

Program Admission

Applicants to the LLM degree program must hold a first degree in law from a university or college whose law degree requirements are comparable to Northwestern's. Students must also have a high level of English proficiency. Foreign applicants whose native language is not English must submit an official copy of their TOEFL score report. Refer to the links below for more information about applying.

Tuition and Financial Aid

The Law School awards several LLM fellowship grants based on merit and financial need; these generally cover only part of the tuition. Most applicants request financial assistance, and not all applicants who are in need will receive fellowships. All applicants therefore are encouraged to investigate other sources of support, including employers and government agencies, scholarship funds, and family and personal funds.

Center for Career Strategy and Advancement

LLM students have a dedicated full-time Career Advisor in the Center for Career Strategy and Advancement ("Career Center"). The LLM program does not prepare students for permanent employment in the United States, rather the Career Center will
assist students who wish to seek internships, visiting or foreign attorney positions in the US as well as enhanced employment opportunities at home. We provide training and workshops on all aspects of a job search in the US including "Preparing a US-style Cover Letter and Resume", "Researching and Networking", "Interviewing". In addition, we allow students to develop their practical skills through a Mock Interview Program and Etiquette dinners.

**Bar Eligibility (excluding Accelerated LLM)**

Only some states permit foreign lawyers to take the bar examination, and each state has its own requirements as to prior legal education, coursework in a US LLM program, and other matters. As such, the LLM, LLM IHR, and LLM/Kellogg programs do not guarantee students that they will qualify to take the bar examination or practice law in the United States. Eligibility, however, has been extended in the past in the states of New York and California dependent on meeting some specific criteria. Please refer to the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements at www.abanet.org.

**Related Links**

International Programs Office | Fall LLM Recruitment Events | Apply | Tuition and Financial Aid | Employment Statistics
The LL.M. Program at Vanderbilt Law School

Vanderbilt’s LL.M. program offers foreign lawyers and international students an opportunity to pursue a one-year master's degree program. LL.M. students may choose to pursue one of three options within the LL.M. program:

The Course Track, through which students earn a minimum of 24 credits and may take up to 28 credit hours of course work during their year of study.

The Law & Business track, which includes a foundational core curriculum on which students build expertise in areas of interest by choosing from an extensive range of elective courses. Students enrolled in the Law & Business track are required to take a minimum of 27 credits and may earn a maximum of 30 academic credits.

The Thesis Track, which combines coursework with a major research project completed during the spring semester. Students enrolled in the Thesis Track program earn between 24 and 28 credits.

All candidates for the degree of Legum Magister (LL.M.) must meet the following requirements to receive their LL.M. degree:

- Pursue full-time resident law school study for a fall and spring semester, in that order, during one academic year;
- Earn between 24 and 30 credits;
• Take and earn a passing grade in the required Life of the Law (2 credit) course;
• Take and earn a passing grade in the required Introduction to Legal Research, Writing and Analysis in the United States (2 credits) course;
• Maintain at least a C average;
• Students on the thesis track must complete a substantial scholarly research and writing project during the spring semester, earning up to 7 credits;
• Pay in full all financial obligations due Vanderbilt University prior to the granting of the degree; and
• Receive the favorable recommendation of the faculty for the degree.

Related Links

Apply for the LL.M. Program
LL.M. Curriculum

See Our Campus

Helpful Links

http://law.vanderbilt.edu/academics/degrees/llm-degree-requirements/ 4/24/2014
LLM Degree

Overview and Degree Requirements

The LLM program at Duke Law School is designed to introduce foreign law graduates to the legal system of the United States and to provide the opportunity to take advanced courses in specialized areas of the law. LLM students are welcome to make selections from the large number of courses represented in the curriculum. With the exception of two required courses (see requirements below), all classes are taken with JD students. Students may also take courses in other parts of the university, such as the Fuqua School of Business or the Sanford School of Public Policy. Some LLM students elect to take a first-year course, but the greater part of the LLM curriculum consists of upper-class JD courses selected by the individual student.

Although the Duke Law LLM is not a research degree, students can produce a substantial research paper under faculty supervision either by conducting an independent research project or by enrolling in a seminar. Duke places special emphasis on building writing skills in English. In addition to a fall semester writing course, an ungraded elective course, the Legal Writing Workshop, is available to LLM students during the spring semester. The workshop is designed to provide additional instruction in U.S. legal correspondence and drafting, and to assist students in writing research papers and preparing for seminar presentations.

Most LLM students at Duke are professionals with two or more years of experience at well-known law firms. They are also judges, prosecutors, academics, members of government ministries, corporations, or financial institutions. The LLM program usually includes a small number of talented, very recent law graduates as well. The 2013-14 LLM class has an enrollment of 85 students from 38 countries.

Applicants must hold a first degree in law from an accredited institution outside the United States. The law degree should be the equivalent of the JD or LLB degree. Correspondence course or distance learning degrees will not be considered for admission to the LLM program.

All applications will receive very careful scrutiny. Admissions will be based on the following criteria:

- the applicant's academic promise as revealed by previous academic performance;
- references (a minimum of 2) that demonstrate the applicant's scholarly ability and professional qualifications;
- the applicant's professional plans, goals and special interests as reflected on the personal statement and resume;
- the applicant's English language proficiency.

Candidates for the LLM for graduates of foreign law schools are expected to enroll in a minimum of 21 credit hours in law. Students may take more than 21 credits and may take credits outside of the Law School. Those who wish to sit for the New York bar examination will be able to fulfill the bar examination's requirements of 24 credits. The LLM degree is normally completed in one academic year, which begins for all new students in mid-August.

Requirements for the LLM degree are as follows:

1. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 21 credit hours in law.
2. Students are required to take Distinctive Aspects of U.S. Law.
3. Students without extensive experience studying in English are required to take Legal Analysis, Research and Writing for International Students.
4. Students are required to produce a substantial piece of academic writing, which is usually satisfied by taking a seminar course or pursuing an independent research project supervised by a faculty member.
ACADEMICS

LLM Eligibility and Degree Requirements

LLM Eligibility

The LLM program is open to students who have already earned a first law degree that allows them to practice law in their home country.

- For U.S. graduates, applicants must have earned a JD degree.
- For foreign-educated attorneys, first law degree designations vary by country. For a list of law degrees that meet this requirement, please refer to the Minimum Degree Requirements by Country chart that is located on the LSAC.org website.

English Language Ability

Students in the LLM program should be prepared to read, and discuss in class, difficult technical material. Non-native English speaking LLM students are examined separately from the JD students in their classes. All LLM students are graded separately from JD students in the same class. Daily class preparation is demanding. Students with English language limitations may have difficulty. Only students who feel confident in their English language ability should apply.

For this reason, the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is required of foreign applicants seeking admission from nations in which English is not the primary language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based test, 100 on the Internet-based test, or 250 on the computer-based test is expected. Emory Law also accepts scores from the IELTS examination; a minimum score of 7.0 is expected.

LLM Degree Requirements

In general, LLM degree candidates must complete the following requirements.

- Successfully complete a first law degree prior to matriculation in the LLM program at Emory. For U.S. students, this is the JD degree. For foreign candidates, this is the first law degree that allows one to practice law in their home country.
- The orientation program, typically conducted one week prior to the beginning of law courses.
- Two semesters of full-time residency, defined as being enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours. Part-time LLM enrollment may be permissible, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **A minimum of 24 credit hours in law courses, or other courses as approved by the Emory faculty.**

For foreign-trained attorneys, additional requirements and recommendations apply.

- LLM students without a U.S. JD degree must successfully complete the 2 credit hour Introduction to the US Legal System course. This course begins during the orientation period, and continues through a portion of the first semester. This course counts toward the 24 credit hour LLM degree requirement. This course also fulfills the American legal systems educational requirement for the New York Bar Exam.
- Foreign-trained attorneys are also strongly recommended, but not required to take the American Legal Writing, Analysis and Research course. This course counts toward the 24 credit hour LLM degree requirement. This course also fulfills the legal writing educational requirement for the New York Bar Exam.

Specific LLM Concentrations each have their own specified educational requirements. Please refer to the following links to explore each LLM concentration’s educational requirements.

- Child Law and Policy
- Generalized Studies
- Human Rights Law
- Public Law & Regulation
- Transactional Law
- Vulnerability & The Human Condition

Joint LLM Degree with Central European University

Joint LLM with CEU students participate in a cooperative program with the legal department of Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Students spend the fall semester in residence at Central European University and
the spring semester in residence at Emory. A minimum of 24 credit hours of satisfactory academic work is required.

The emphasis is on international commercial law and the student may elect to receive the degree from either institution. Learn more about the requirements and structure of this joint degree program with CEU.

Joint JD/LLM Degree

Emory JD candidates may pursue a joint JD/LLM with emphasis in international law. The student may spend a semester at Central European University, but is not required to do so. During a joint-degree candidate's four years as an Emory University School of Law degree candidate, the student must successfully complete a total of 114 credit hours, of which 24 must be approved international and comparative Law courses.