



Not My Supreme Court: Law students protest Kavanaugh

the National Jurist

THE MAGAZINE FOR LAW STUDENTS

FALL 2018 VOL. 28, NO. 2

HAPPIEST lawyers

Big Law, public interest, solo practice? Surprising findings about where lawyers are happiest

Tech Innovators: How Suffolk, UC Berkeley and other schools are reinventing the legal profession

Why law school is a better value now than when you applied



University of Texas School of Law students are taking professor Fielder's International Human Rights Law course this fall.

Lauren Fielder J.D., LL.M.
assistant dean for graduate & international programs

Natalie Shields (UK)
LL.M. candidate, Class of 2019

Vanessa Suarez
J.D. candidate,
Class of 2019

Stoyan Madin (Bulgaria)
LL.M. candidate, Class of 2019. Stoyan is a judge and Fulbright Scholar from Bulgaria.

Ashley Berry
J.D. candidate,
Class of 2020



International connections

J.D. students find that sharing classes with foreign attorneys in LL.M. programs is a valuable part of their legal education. **By Angela Morris**

Vanessa Suarez plans to become an international arbitrator. It would be expected, then, that the third-year student at University of Texas School of Law would have chosen a law school in a more cosmopolitan city than Austin, which gets props for being hip but is not exactly international.

But Suarez has no regrets. University of Texas offers an LL.M. program for foreign attorneys designed to prepare them for global practice. The foreign attorneys are fully integrated into the J.D. program, so they sit side by side with Suarez and other American students.

“We have students from all over the world, really, and they all had different perspectives they bring in class that I would not have thought of,” Suarez said. “With everything becoming global, there’s no such thing as domestic law anymore.”

University of Texas is one of 74 law schools that offer programs in U.S. law for foreign attorneys and one of 156 that admit foreign attorneys to graduate law programs. Those numbers have grown exponentially in the past decade as law has become more international.

The programs are financially beneficial to law schools, and they provide foreign attorneys with degrees from the U.S. legal education system, which is considered the global gold standard.

But American J.D. students also benefit from such programs. The foreign lawyers in their classes, study groups, mock trial teams and law student organizations are exposing U.S. law students to a variety of legal cultures, which helps prepare them to practice in an increasingly global economy. J.D. students have a chance to begin building international professional

networks that follow them through their legal careers.

“For students who want to be the best lawyer possible, you need to be aware of how other countries and legal systems approach their legal issues and problems,” said Karen McMichael, interim assistant dean for graduate and international programs at Temple University - James E. Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia.

It is important for U.S. law students to get an international perspective, McMichael said. Lawyers increasingly interact with attorneys in other countries and deal with other nations’ regulations, which means they must understand that there is more than one way of doing things. Taking classes with foreign attorneys is especially valuable for law students who are interested in practicing international law, she said.

Guide to LL.M. programs for foreign attorneys

Law schools are sorted by one of four geographic regions, and then alphabetically. LL.M. programs designed primarily for foreign attorneys are listed first. Other LL.M. programs that are open to foreign attorneys are listed below under 'other programs.'

DL indicates programs that are offered as distance learning or online. Tuition is for non-residents and is listed per credit, unless specified otherwise. Externship indicates the program offers externship opportunities. Part-time indicates that

the program can be taken part-time. Tuition, and deadlines for other programs may be different.

Please visit www.NationalJurist.com for complete info or to search by practice area.

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NORTHEAST

Albany Law School, N.Y.

LLM for International Lawyers

Tuition: \$1,700 **Deadline:** Rolling

Externship

Other programs: IP; International; Cybersecurity and Data Privacy (DL); Government Admin. and Regulation; Health Law; Advanced Legal Studies

American University, Washington, D.C.

Tuition: \$2,058 **Deadline:** Fall: May 1; Sp: Oct. 1

Externship, Part-time

Other programs: Law & Government; Intl Human Rights & Humanitarian (DL); Derechos Humanos y Derecho Humanitario (DL); IP; Intl Legal Studies; Trial Advocacy

Boston University

American Law

Tuition: \$53,820/yr **Deadline:** April 15

Other programs: Banking & Financial; Intl Business (DL); IP; Taxation (DL)

Brooklyn Law School, N.Y.

American Law

Tuition: \$1,993 **Deadline:** Rolling

Externship, Part-time

Cardozo School of Law, New York

Tuition: \$59,940/yr **Deadline:** Sp: Dec. 1

Externship, Part-time

Other programs: Dispute Resolution; General; IP; Comparative Legal Thought

Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

American Law with Jagiellonian University

Tuition: \$10,700/yr **Deadline:** Rolling

Externship

Columbia Law School, New York

Tuition: \$69,616/yr **Deadline:** Dec. 18

Externship

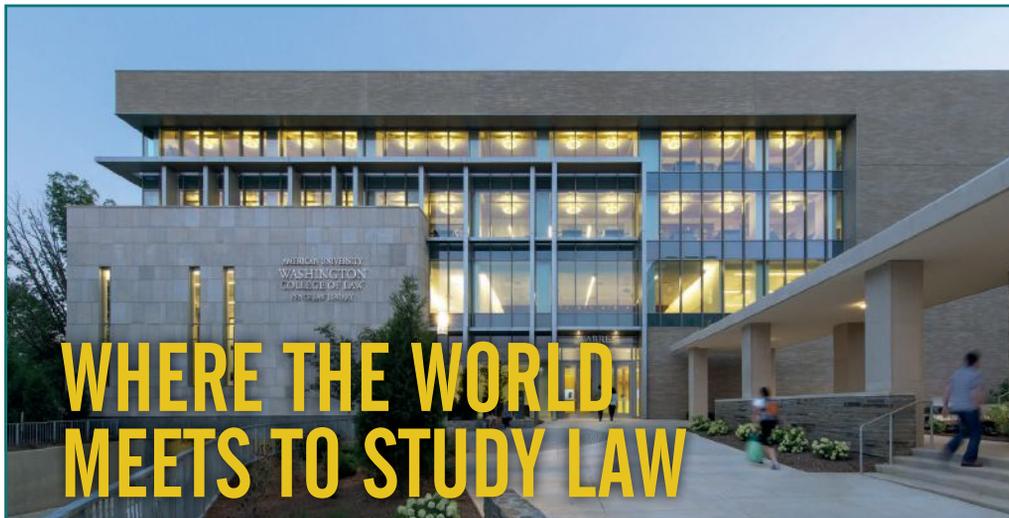
Other programs: General

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, N.Y.

General

Tuition: \$65,456/yr **Deadline:** Dec. 15

Externship



Areas of Study:

- Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Immigration
- Intellectual Property
- International Arbitration
- International Business
- International Trade
- International Legal Studies
- Law and Government
- Trial Advocacy

LL.M. Programs at American University Washington College of Law

American University Washington College of Law is ranked #6 in International Law, #7 in Trial Advocacy, and #9 in Intellectual Property by *U.S. News and World Report*. When you enroll in our LL.M. program, you can advance your legal career by taking advantage of our world renowned faculty and robust curriculum. You will have access to the vibrant professional legal environment in Washington, D.C. with countless externship opportunities. You will join our global community of over 4,000 LL.M. alumni and students from 50 countries and the U.S. to expand your personal and professional networks. Together we set you up for success!

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At Temple University, El Janssens, a lawyer from the United Kingdom (left) banter with Assamen Tessema, a lawyer from Ethiopia, along with Beatrice Raccanello, the school's assistant director of graduate and international programs.

McMichael recommends that U.S. students befriend international lawyers to take advantage of their expertise and perspective, as well as to help bridge cultural divides, such as language barriers and differing methods of legal education.

Foreign attorneys have many options for earning an LL.M. in the U.S., and roughly half of all students in LL.M. programs are graduates of foreign law schools.

Nathan Neely, director of global and graduate programs at University of Houston Law Center, said between 30 and 60 foreign lawyers have enrolled in his school's U.S. Law LL.M. program in recent years. They've represented 20 countries, with Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria and the United Kingdom being the most common. The average age is 35, but LL.M. students have ranged in age from 22 to 65, Neely said.

Aside from sharing their international knowledge, most of these students are practicing attorneys who chime in on classroom discussions with their legal expertise and advanced knowledge. This adds another interesting perspective, Neely said. For example, an LL.M. student from Brazil was able to take a classroom discussion about international energy contracts to a higher level because he had actually handled such work.

"The legal market itself, from my perspective, is moving to be more internationally focused," Neely said. "Just having the international student population here

that we do, it's one more tool in [J.D. students'] tool chest."

Suarez, the Texas law student who hopes to become an international arbitrator, said it's been eye-opening to learn about other countries' legal cultures. She said she could read books about other nations' legal systems, but it's so much more interesting to learn from international attorneys who have shared classes

with her since her second year of law school.

Suarez, who is a citizen of both the U.S. and Colombia, is fluent in English and Spanish.

"Last year, I had a few LL.M. students [in my classes] who were Colombian, and I've kept in touch with them, and I'm trying to build a network in both countries," she said.

A Consumer Guide to Graduate Law Programs

Why do foreign attorneys pursue degrees in the U.S.?

There are several reasons. The most common is that it improves marketability to American clients in one's home country and to clients who do business in the United States. Law firms, governments and other potential clients place a high value on locally trained lawyers who hold U.S. law degrees. The U.S. law degree is the gold standard across the globe. It provides assurance that an attorney knows his or her way around the U.S. legal system as well as the system of his or her own country.

Some foreign-educated attorneys pursue a U.S. degree with the goal of passing an American bar exam. Some hope to move to the U.S. and work permanently in the United States.

A graduate degree can also provide expertise in specific areas of law that may not be available elsewhere.

Studying for the LL.M. provides exposure to different legal cultures, preparing students for practice in an increasingly global legal market. Larger LL.M. programs also provide a significant

opportunity to build international friendships and professional networks that are important to an attorney's career. These networks are enhanced if the school has an active LL.M. alumni community.

What degrees are available, and which is best?

There is a range of degrees available. But the two most common are the LL.M. and the J.D.

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) is a post-graduate law degree for those who already have a first degree in law. It is typically a one-year program, but some schools offer a two-year, part-time option. It is the most popular choice for foreign attorneys looking to earn a degree in the U.S. and for U.S. law grads looking to prepare for an international career.

The Juris Doctor (J.D.) is the standard law degree in the U.S. At least 23 schools offer a two-year J.D. program for foreign attorneys. This option is preferred by foreign attorneys who want to take a U.S. bar exam and stay in the U.S. The J.D. is also preferred over an LL.M. for attorneys practicing in some Asian countries.

For a list of schools that offer a two-year J.D. program, visit www.NationalJurist.com

Other programs: Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship

Drexel University Kline School of Law, Philadelphia

American Legal Practice
Tuition: \$1,495 **Deadline:** Rolling
Externship

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh

General
Tuition: \$25,426/yr **Deadline:** May 31
Externship

Fordham Law School, New York

U.S. Law
Tuition: \$2,481 **Deadline:** Fall: March 1; Sp: Oct. 1
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Banking, Corporate & Finance; Corporate Compliance; Intl Business & Trade; Intl Dispute Resolution; Fashion Law; International Law & Justice; IP & Info Technology Law

George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

U.S. Law (DL & campus)
Tuition: \$1448 /\$1000 (DL) **Deadline:** Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Law & Economics; Global Antitrust Law & Economics; Intellectual Property

George Washington U., Washington, D.C.

Tuition: \$2,140 **Deadline:** Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 1
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Business and Finance; Environmental Law; General; Government Procurement; IP; Intl and Comparative; National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations; National Security and Cybersecurity; Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

General; Intl Legal Studies; Two-Year LL.M. with Certificate in Legal English
Tuition: \$2,613 **Deadline:** Feb. 8
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Intl Arbitration with Tsinghua; Intl Business & Economic Law; Environmental & Energy; Global Health; Global Health Law and Intl Institutions; National Security Law; Securities & Financial Regulation (DL); Taxation

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.

Tuition: \$63,800/yr **Deadline:** Dec. 1
Other programs: General

Hofstra Univ. (Deane), Hempstead, N.Y.

American Legal Studies
Tuition: \$2,020 **Deadline:** Fall: July 1; Sp: Nov. 15
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Family; Health Law & Policy (DL)

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Tuition: \$32,000/yr **Deadline:** March 15
Other programs: Comparative Intl Law or Social Justice

New England Law | Boston

American Law
Tuition: \$49,408/yr **Deadline:** March 15

New York Law School, New York

Tuition: \$1,500 **Deadline:** Fall: June 15; Sp: Dec. 1; Sum: April 30
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Taxation

New York University, New York

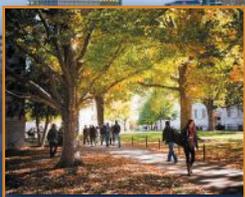
International Taxation
Tuition: **Deadline:** Dec. 20
Other programs: Competition, Innovation and Information; Corporation; Environmental and Energy; Intl Business Regulation, Litigation & Arbitration; Intl Legal Studies; Legal Theory; Taxation (DL & campus)

Northeastern University, Boston

Tuition: \$50,700/yr **Deadline:** April 1
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: General; Health Policy & Law; Human Rights; Intellectual Property & Innovation; Intl Business; Law & Economic Development

Pace University, White Plains, N.Y.

Comparative Legal Studies
Tuition: \$22,500/yr **Deadline:** Rolling
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Environmental Law



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Are there different kinds of LL.M. programs?

Yes. George Edwards, in his book, “LL.M. Roadmap,” lists several types. 1) Traditional, residential programs: These are usually two-semester programs that require a student visa. They give students the opportunity to be exposed to U.S. culture and interact the most with professors. 2) Executive programs offered on U.S. campuses: These programs generally require the same number of credits as the traditional programs, but courses are condensed into shorter periods and students have a longer time to complete the degree. 3) Programs offered wholly outside the U.S. 4) Online programs: These are growing in popularity and offerings. In some cases, the classes are held in real-time. In other cases, they are recorded. 6) Partial online: Students do most of the work online but are required to attend some classes on campus.

How many U.S. LL.M. programs are open to foreign attorneys?

There are more than 640 programs at 156 law schools open to foreign attorneys. They

range from general LL.M. programs to specialty degrees such as insurance law and space law. There are 81 programs that offer degrees in U.S. or American Law. There are also approximately 80 distance-learning programs.

After completing the LL.M., can you take the bar exam?

That depends on the state. Currently, 34 of the 50 states allow foreign attorneys with U.S. LL.M. degrees or other advanced U.S. legal study to sit for the bar exam.

Each state has its own rules regarding who is qualified to take the bar. Knowing which states allow LL.M. graduates to take the test could affect your decision on which law schools to apply to.

In New York, the most common jurisdiction for foreign attorneys to seek admission to the bar, foreign law graduates with an LL.M. earned at an ABA-approved law school qualify for the bar exam. Students must be awarded their LL.M. degrees within 24 months of matriculation, and the program must consist of a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit. Accelerated or

summer programs are not recognized.

Furthermore, the applicant's foreign law degree must be based on the principles of English Common Law and must be the “substantial” equivalent of a legal education that would be earned at an ABA-approved law school in America.

How hard is it to get into an LL.M. program?

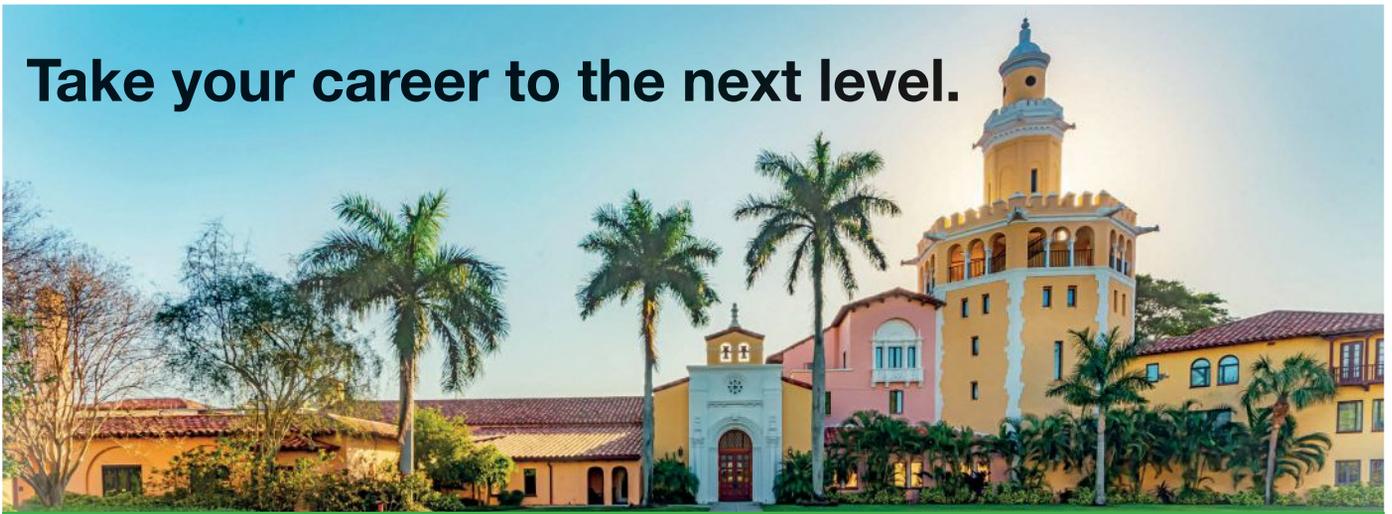
It depends on the school and the program. Some schools look only at GPA and TOEFL (English language proficiency) scores. Others take a more holistic approach to reviewing applications.

However, most schools want to be sure that the student is proficient enough in English to succeed. Many schools also look to make sure that an applicant's career goals and expectations are a good fit.

What should you look for in a law school?

Since not all students' goals are the same, each prospective student should pay attention to what is most important to them.

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Penn State U., Dickinson Law, Carlisle, Pa.

General
Tuition: \$49,896/yr Deadline: Rolling
Externship

Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

General
Tuition: \$49,896/yr Deadline: Rolling
Externship

Quinnipiac University, North Haven, Conn.

Tuition: \$1,700 Deadline: Rolling
Part-time
Other programs: Health Law

Seton Hall University, Newark, N.J.

Tuition: \$1,597 Deadline: Rolling
Part-time
Other programs: Financial Services Compliance (DL); Health Law (DL); Intellectual Property

St. John's School of Law, Queens, N.Y.

U.S. Legal Studies
Tuition: \$2,461 Deadline: Rolling
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Bankruptcy Law; Transnational Legal Practice

Suffolk University, Boston

Tuition: \$2,031 Deadline: Fall: May 15; Sp: Oct. 1
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: General; Global Law & Technology

Syracuse University, N.Y.

American Law
Tuition: Deadline: May 15
Externship

Temple University, Philadelphia

Masters for Foreign-trained lawyers
Tuition: \$29,610/yr Deadline: Rolling
Part-time
Other programs: Asian Law; Taxation; Transnational; Trial Advocacy

Touro Law Center, Central Islip, N.Y.

U.S. Legal Studies
Tuition: \$1,680 Deadline: Rolling
Externship, Part-time

Tufts University, Boston

Tuition: \$46,936/yr Deadline: Fall: Nov. 15, Sp: Jan. 10, Sum: March 1
Other programs: International Law

UBuffalo School of Law, N.Y.

Tuition: \$29,500/yr Deadline: April 1
Externship
Other programs: Criminal Law; Cross-Border Legal Studies; Environmental Law; General

University of Baltimore

U.S. Law
Tuition: \$22,440/yr Deadline: Rolling
Part-time
Other programs: Taxation (DL)

University of Connecticut, Hartford

U.S. Legal Studies
Tuition: \$1,190 Deadline: Fall: June 15; Sp.: Nov. 15
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Energy & Environmental Law; Human Rights & Social Justice; Insurance Law (DL)

University of Maine, Portland

Tuition: \$1,459 Deadline: Fall: June 1; Sp: Nov. 15
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: General Studies

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Tuition: Deadline: March 15
Externship, Part-time
Other programs: Business; Clinical; Constitutional; Crisis Management; Cybersecurity; Environmental Law; General; IP; Law & Health Care

University of New Hampshire, Concord

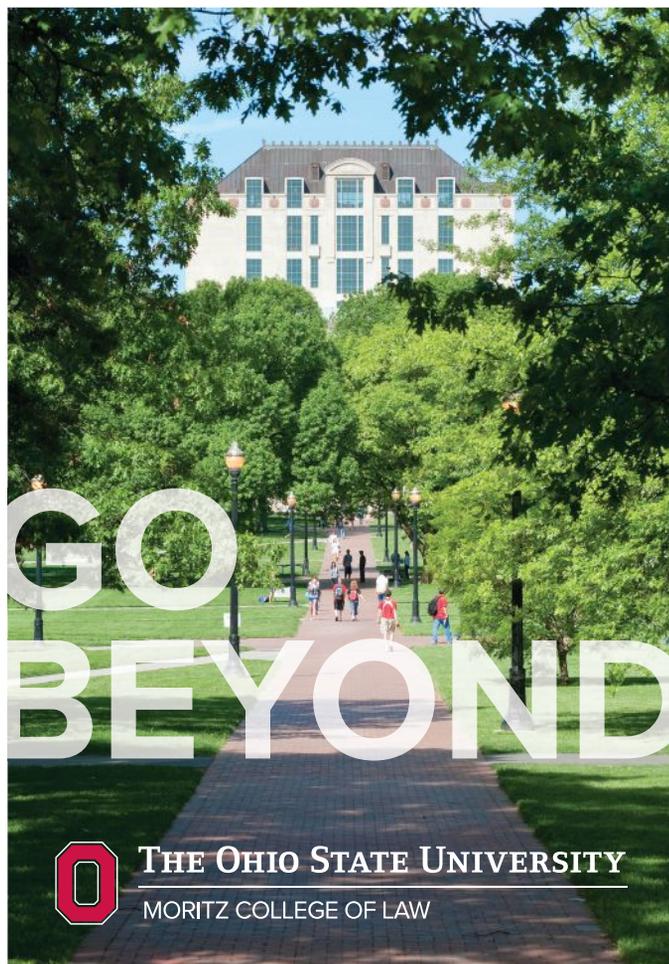
Tuition: \$37,520/yr Deadline: Rolling
Externship
Other programs: Commerce & Technology; IP (DL & on campus); Intl Criminal Law & Justice (DL)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Tuition: Deadline: Dec. 17
Other programs: General

University of Pittsburgh

U.S. Law
Tuition: \$39,000/yr Deadline: Rolling
Part-time



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But most students benefit from a program that is accessible and offers individualized attention. Will a student have access to individualized academic and career advice? Will the faculty be available and approachable? Can a student easily connect with other students and alumni after returning home?

Students should think of an LL.M. as more than just a year of study abroad. It should provide a foundation for an ongoing network that will help them throughout their careers.

Should I talk to faculty, students, alumni? If so, how?

Most admissions officers are happy to connect a prospective student with current students. Faculty often reach out to prospective students to explain the classes, programs and career opportunities in their respective fields of expertise. Some schools host webinars or online chats. Students considering any school should ask to talk with professors in their area of interest.

Which are the highest ranked LL.M. programs?

There is no definitive ranking of graduate law degrees. Most law school rankings, such as the one done by U.S. News & World Report, are based on the schools' J.D. programs. Logic would suggest that a top-ranked law school should have an outstanding LL.M. program, but that's always the case.

In 2016, The National Jurist identified top LL.M. programs in specific areas such as academics, career opportunities and overall law school experience, and it included a breadth of schools, from the most prestigious to lesser-known schools.

One way to judge the schools is by their alumni. Who are they, and how are they faring? It is important to talk to alumni from your country. Which schools do they respect? A ranking means little if it is not valued by the attorneys and clients in your home country. You may find that the legal community in your country highly respects a school that is not well respected in another country, and vice versa. Reputation is far more important than any ranking.

How much does an LL.M. cost?

For many, the biggest hurdle in pursuing an LL.M. is coming up with the necessary funding. While costs vary among U.S. law

schools, LL.M. tuition at many schools is in the \$50,000 range, and this does not include the cost of housing, health insurance, books, food, travel or entertainment. One year of study can easily cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Even though this is an incredible amount of money, there are ways to help afford it.

Funding options for foreign attorneys?

Sometimes funding can be secured through domestic or international associations and organizations. Since every country is different, you need to research possibilities that

might be applicable to you. Here are some places to start:

Financial aid from your law school: You should certainly ask for financial aid from the law schools to which you are applying. Some law schools don't offer aid for international LL.M. students, but others do, and some are rather generous. It is always worth asking, but you should have a backup plan.

Government loans: Some countries offer loan-type financing for their citizens wishing to study abroad. Information is available online. Another option is to go to the international or exchange office at your home university or to the nearest U.S. embassy or



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Vermont Law School, South Royalton

American Legal Studies

Tuition: \$1,391 **Deadline:** Rolling

Other programs: Energy Law (DL); Food and Agriculture Law (DL);

Villanova University, Villanova, Penn.

Tuition: \$1,200 **Deadline:** Fall: July 31; Sp: Nov. 30; Sum: April 30

Externship, Part-time

Other programs: Taxation (DL)

West Virginia University, Morgantown

Tuition: \$1,118 **Deadline:** July 1

Externship, Part-time

Other programs: Forensic Justice (DL); Forensic Justice: White Collar (DL)

Widener Delaware Law School, Wilmington

American Legal Studies

Tuition: \$1,578 **Deadline:** Rolling

Part-time

Other programs: Corp. Law Regulatory Analysis & Compliance (DL); Corporate Law & Finance Law; Health Law Regulatory Analysis & Compliance (DL)

Yale Law School, New Haven, Conn.

Tuition: \$62,017/yr **Deadline:** Dec. 1

Other programs: General



SOUTH

Atlanta's John Marshall

Practice of Law in the U.S.

Tuition: \$1407 **Deadline:** October 15

Other programs: Employment Law (DL)

Charleston School of Law, s.c.

Tuition: \$30,000/yr **Deadline:** June 1

Other programs: Admiralty and Maritime Law

Duke University, Durham, N.C.

American Law

Tuition: \$63,400/yr **Deadline:** Jan. 20

Externship

Other programs: Law and Entrepreneurship; Judicial

Emory University, Atlanta

Tuition: \$2,354 **Deadline:** Fall: June 30; Sp: Nov 15

Externship

Other programs: Transactional; Child Law and Policy; General; Public Law and Regulation; Human Rights; Religion; Vulnerability and Human Condition

Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville

U.S. Law (DL)

Tuition: \$765 **Deadline:** Jan. 11

Part-time

Other programs: General (DL); Logistics and Transportation (DL)

Florida International University, Miami

General

Tuition: \$824.21 **Deadline:** May 15

Part-time

Florida State University, Tallahassee

American Law

Tuition: \$1,355 **Deadline:** July 15

Other programs: Environmental; Business

Georgia State University, Atlanta

General; Health; Intellectual Property;

Environmental/Land Use; Bar Preparation

Tuition: \$1434 **Deadline:** Fall: June 15

Part-time

Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

International Legal Studies (DL)

Tuition: \$565 **Deadline:** Rolling

Part-time

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Tuition: \$10,000/yr **Deadline:** April 30

Externship

Other programs: Comparative Law

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consulate. These offices should be prepared for such questions and often have a list of resources for you to consider.

Private loans: The terms of private loans vary, not only from country to country but also from lender to lender. Ask your home bank if it offers financial assistance for studying abroad.

Grants and scholarships: Grants and scholarships are awards that do not have to be repaid. They differ in that a scholarship is given based on merit, while a grant is given based on need. Grants and scholarships may come from U.S. government departments or from public or private trusts and foundations. Some may require either citizenship or permanent residency.

Never pay for information about scholarships or grants. If a website or application form asks for a credit card number or other financial information, don't use it. It could be a scam.

Visit an EducationUSA advising center if there is one near you. EducationUSA is a network of hundreds of advising centers in 170 countries. International students can find comprehensive, current information about U.S. higher education, including grants and scholarships. The EducationUSA network is supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Foundation scholarships: There are numerous international service organizations, such as Rotary International, which help facilitate study abroad by providing scholarships to exceptional students. Several of them are targeted toward a specific group of students, such as those coming from a particular country. Chambers of commerce sometimes offer scholarships for LL.M. students or resources for locating sources of funding.

Fulbright scholarships: The Fulbright program, sponsored by the U.S. government, is active in more than 155 countries around the world. There is a difference between a Fulbright foreign student and a Fulbright foreign scholar. While the former is a graduate student, young professional or artist who would like to study in the U.S., the latter is a college or university faculty member with a Ph.D. who teaches and conducts research in the U.S. Therefore, you should seek information for Fulbright students. Fulbright foreign student scholarships are very competitive, and awards are based on your academic and professional profile. You can learn more on the official Fulbright program webpage. ■



The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program

Areas of Concentration:

- Business Law
- Cybersecurity Law
- Global Energy, International Arbitration & Environmental Law
- Human Rights & Comparative Constitutional Law



- Latin American & International Law
- U.S. Law for Foreign Lawyers
- Independent Study

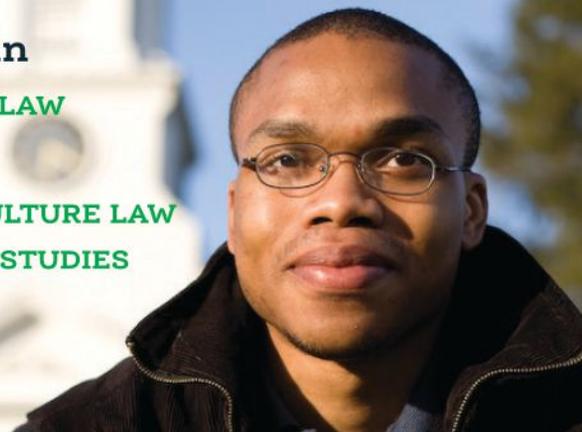
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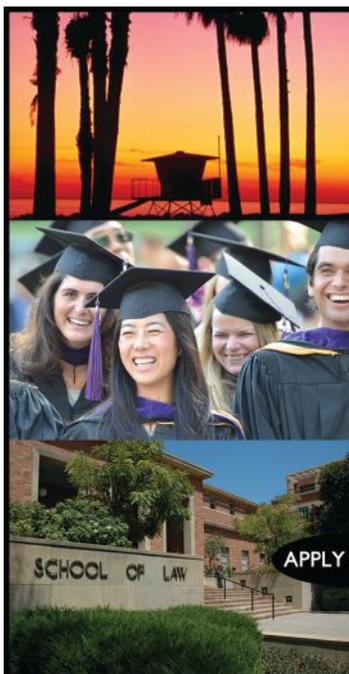
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