LL.M. Research and Writing Registration Form

Name: ____________________________  Last  First  UNI: _______  Term: _______

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Student’s Signature: ____________________________  GLS Signature: ____________________________

Date of Student Signature: ____________________________  Date of GLS Signature: ____________________________

LL.M. Writing Project (L6694). Indicate below how you will complete the Writing Project requirement. A full description of the paper to be written must be included on page 2.

☐ Supervised Research
☐ In a seminar or course: __________________________________________________

Course Number/Title

Supervising Instructor Name: __________________________________________

Print  Supervising Instructor Signature  Date

L6694 LL.M. Writing Project  0 academic points

CR Grade will be entered to confirm completion of LL.M. Writing Project requirement.

See page 2 for LL.M. Writing Project guidelines.

Registration due dates:

October 15 for writing projects completed in the fall term.
February 3 for writing projects completed in the spring term.

Research for the LL.M. Degree (L6691)

Number of Points: ____________________

Supervising Instructor Name: __________________________

Print  Supervising Instructor Signature  Date

L6691 Research for the LL.M. Degree  1 to 6 academic points

Maximum of eight (8) academic points toward the LL.M. degree.

Letter Grade Required

Use this category to register supervised research.

Internships may also earn credit within this category if approved by a faculty member and the Dean or Director of Graduate Legal Studies, and a research paper is the final product.

Registration due by the end of Add/Drop.

Supervised Research Paper: Course Related (L6689)

Number of Points: ____________________

Supervising Instructor Name: __________________________

Print  Supervising Instructor Signature  Date

L6689 Supervised Research Paper: Course Related  1 to 2 academic points

Use this category to register additional credit associated with a course or seminar (i.e., earning one additional point for writing a longer paper for a seminar).

Letter Grade Required

Registration due by the end of Add/Drop.
LL.M. Writing Project Guidelines

A paper will meet LL.M. Writing Project standards if:
1. It is research-based (based on original research that you conduct independently of reading materials assigned by a professor for a course);
2. It is at least 6500–8000 words in length (20+ pages); and
3. It is in conjunction with two academic points of credit (i.e., the seminar is worth at least two academic points).

The following do not meet LL.M. Writing Project standards:
1. Reaction papers, opinion papers, or critiques;
2. Journal entries;
3. A series of shorter research papers, whose total equals 6500–8000 words;
4. Non–research based writing projects;
5. Papers for which the research is based entirely or mostly on reading materials (cases, articles, commentaries, etc.) assigned by a professor for a particular course; and
6. The paper written for CIAL.

Note: The LL.M. Writing Project and J.D. Major and Minor Writing Credit are not equal. If a course description says it awards J.D. Major Writing Credit, do not assume you will be able to complete your LL.M. Writing Project for the course—you will need to ask the professor using the guidelines outlined above.

Ways to Complete the LL.M. Writing Project Requirement:

1. Seminars.
   a. If the seminar requirement includes a 20+ page research-based paper, you will automatically complete your Writing Project for the course.
   b. If the seminar requires a shorter research paper (10–15 pages), you may ask the professor if you can write a longer paper to complete your Writing Project requirement. If the professor grants you permission to write a longer paper, and if you write a minimum of 10–15 additional pages, you may be entitled to earn an additional academic point of credit. (You should verify with the Dean or Director of Graduate Legal Studies to determine if you are eligible to earn an extra point.) If so, you should register the additional point as “Supervised Research Paper: Course Related” (L6689), because you are doing more work than is required for the course.
   c. If the seminar requirement allows you to choose between taking a final exam or writing a research paper, you can complete your Writing Project by taking the paper option, provided it meets the LL.M. Writing Project standards listed above.
   d. If the seminar requirement is a final exam, you can ask the professor if you can write a research-based paper in addition to the final exam. If the professor approves this option, you will need to register for two additional points of “Research for the LL.M. Degree” (L6691) or “Supervised Research Paper: Course Related (L6689), because you are doing more work than is required for the course.
2. Supervised Research. You may complete your Writing Project by writing a research paper independently of any course under the supervision of a Columbia Law School faculty member (including clinical, visiting, and adjunct faculty) who agrees to supervise the work and evaluate/grade the paper. To meet the Writing Project standards, your paper must be worth at least two academic points of credit (6500–8000 words or 20+ pages). Register your paper as “Research for the LL.M. Degree” (L6691).
3. LL.M. Essay. You may also complete your Writing Project by writing an LL.M. Essay. The LL.M. Essay is more formal in presentation and process than supervised research (see www.law.columbia.edu/students/graduate-legal-studies/llm-degree-requirements for complete LL.M. Essay requirements. Register your paper as “LL.M. Essay” (L6692) on the separate LL.M. Essay Registration Form.

To be completed by the student:

Course Title: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Provide a description of the paper to be written to satisfy the LL.M. Writing Project Requirement. Be as specific as possible, including the anticipated length of the paper.