Columbia Law School

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program
“Columbia Law School is a true microcosm of the newly connected world of law. Here, you study side-by-side with colleagues who come from all corners of the globe. You are taught and mentored by a faculty of uncommon distinction who embrace a global perspective. From your very first day, you experience the tangible benefits of also being part of a world-class university located in New York City—a vibrant crossroads of the world.”

Robert E. Scott, Interim Dean and the Alfred McCormack Professor of Law; Director, Center on Contract and Economic Organization

Renowned for its intellectual rigor and high professional standards, Columbia Law School remains steadfastly committed to providing the best legal education possible. Columbia embraces an interdisciplinary approach to legal studies, offering a broad curriculum across legal and other disciplines that demands and deepens analytical thought.

Columbia Law School’s classrooms are as dynamic as American law itself. The success of the Law School’s academic programs is founded on an outstanding faculty dedicated to challenging our students not only to think critically about the issues of the day, but also to build an understanding of the contemporary and historical contexts in which law develops. Our professors are engaged with current legal issues—as advisers, co-counsel, amici curiae (friends of the court), researchers, and commentators—and bring a theory-practice approach to the classroom. With professional networks across the globe, faculty members are able to invite some of the most important judges, attorneys, and activists to the discussion as classroom visitors and guest speakers at the many special lectures, colloquia, and events hosted by the Law School. Such recent visitors have included U.S. Supreme Court justices, human rights advocates, world leaders, and private industry executives.

Our faculty is complemented by an engaged student body that contributes invaluably to the learning process by infusing classroom discussions with perspectives shaped by the students’ unique backgrounds, experiences, and interests.

While other law schools also have distinguished faculty and accomplished students, most do not possess one of the greatest instructors in the field of law: New York City itself. As a Columbia Law School student, you will have access to the United Nations, major media companies, law firms doing cutting-edge work, and public interest organizations that serve the city’s diverse population—just to name a few of New York’s extraordinary benefits for those pursuing a legal education.
THE COLUMBIA EXPERIENCE

LL.M. PROGRAM

A Columbia Law School education prepares students for leadership roles—in academia, the judiciary, public service, civil rights and human rights advocacy, corporate law, and other legal and nonlegal fields. Distinguished by its location in New York City, the Law School serves as a portal to the world’s foremost legal, financial, and political centers.

The key to a satisfying and enriching LL.M. experience is student choice. Columbia Law School offers a general LL.M. degree, giving students much freedom to select their courses from an incredibly broad and deep curriculum. A Columbia Law School LL.M. degree can comprise a wide variety of subjects or have a more narrow focus. We help you design an individual program of study to meet your academic and professional goals—whether to broaden your general preparation; to specialize in a particular field; or to acquire knowledge of the American legal system, international law, or other legal systems.

LL.M. students sit alongside J.D. students in class, resulting in a mix that promotes an exchange of fresh ideas and perspectives. As an LL.M. student at Columbia Law School, you become part of one of the world’s preeminent universities. You have access to the vast resources of the Columbia University and are invited to take classes in other schools—such as the Columbia Business School, the School of International and Public Affairs, or the School of Journalism—making the LL.M. a truly interdisciplinary degree. Students are also encouraged to take at least one course outside of their main area of study. For example, a corporate lawyer might take a class such as National Security Law.

Our students capitalize on the wealth of academic opportunities available to them, such as our clinics in environmental law and mediation, courses in international humanitarian law and corporate finance, and externships in arts law and at the United Nations. Many students also supplement their academic pursuits by working closely with faculty as research assistants, participating in community service programs, serving on the editorial boards of law journals, joining or creating student organizations, and indulging in the infinite resources and marvels of New York City.

So how do you choose? You can begin by exploring our offerings described in the next few pages. We also invite you to visit our campus and our website to see for yourself.
Areas of Legal Study
Listed below are examples of the Law School’s areas of study.

- Administrative Law and Public Policy
- Civil Procedure and Dispute Resolution
- Clinics, Externships, and Experiential Learning
- Commercial Law and Transactions
- Constitutional Law
- Corporate and Securities Law and Transactions
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Gender and Sexuality
- Human Rights
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- International, Foreign, and Comparative Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Law and Economics
- Law, Humanities, and the Social Sciences
- Lawyering
- Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility
- National Security Law
- Property, Real Estate, and Trusts and Estates
- Racial, Economic, and Social Justice
- Taxation

Centers and Programs
Columbia Law School’s centers and programs enrich our students’ education through weekly lectures, roundtable discussions, and conferences, and also serve as catalysts for scholarly work and student involvement on issues and activities in the law.

- Advanced Legal Education Programs (CLE)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Associates-in-Law Program
- Careers in Law Teaching Program
- Center for Chinese Legal Studies
- Center for Constitutional Governance
- Center for Contract and Economic Organization
- Center for Gender and Sexuality Law
- Center for Institutional and Social Change
- Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration
- Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies
- Center for Israeli Legal Studies
- Center for Japanese Legal Studies
- Center for Korean Legal Studies
- Center for Law and Economic Studies
- Center for Law and Philosophy
- Center for Law and Politics
- Center for Public Research and Leadership
- Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity
- Center for the Study of Law and Culture
- Center on Corporate Governance
- Center on Crime, Community, and Law
- Center on Global Governance
- Center on Global Legal Transformation
- Charles Evans Gerber Transactional Studies Program
- Collateral Consequences of Criminal Charges
- Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought
- Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment
- Columbia-Leiden-Amsterdam Summer Program
- Edson Queiroz Foundation Mediation Program
- European Legal Studies Center
- Human Rights Institute
- Ira M. Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership
- Julius Silver Program in Law, Science, and Technology
- Kernochan Center for Law, Media, and the Arts
- Law and History Program
- Legislative Drafting Research Fund
- National Security Law Program
- National State Attorneys General Program
- Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law
- Program in the Law and Economics of Capital Markets
- Program on International Migration: Economics, Ethics, and Law
- Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy
- Roger Hertog Program on Law and National Security
- Sabin Center for Climate Change Law
- Social Justice Initiatives
- Tax Policy Colloquium
- Writing Center
Clinical Legal Education and Externships
Columbia Law School offers numerous opportunities for experiential learning, including a wide array of clinics and externships.

**CLINICS**
- Adolescent Representation
- Community Enterprise
- Environmental Law
- Human Rights
- Immigrants’ Rights
- Lawyering in the Digital Age
- Mass Incarceration
- Mediation
- Prisoners and Families
- Sexuality and Gender Law

**EXTERNSHIPS**
- Advancing Social and Environmental Justice—New York State
- Attorney General’s Office
- Arts Law
- Bronx Defenders on Holistic Defense
- City and State Policy Advocacy
- Community Defense
- Constitutional Rights
- Enforcement in Capital, Habeas, and Prison Cases
- Copyright Dispute Resolution
- Criminal Appeals
- Domestic Violence Prosecution
- Federal Court Clerk
- Federal Prosecution—U.S. Attorney’s Office
- Immigration Defense
- New York City Law Department
- Pro Bono Practice and Design
- United Nations

**Student Journals**
Columbia Law School is host to 14 student law journals, many of which are the leading scholarly publications in their fields.

- Columbia Business Law Review
- Columbia Human Rights Law Review
- Columbia Journal of Asian Law
- Columbia Journal of Environmental Law
- Columbia Journal of European Law
- Columbia Journal of Gender and Law
- Columbia Journal of Law & Social Problems
- Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts
- Columbia Journal of Race & Law
- Columbia Journal of Tax Law
- Columbia Journal of Transnational Law
- Columbia Law Review
- Columbia Science and Technology Law Review
- The American Review of International Arbitration

**Other Resources**
The Arthur W. Diamond Law Library offers one of the finest collections of legal materials in the United States, including a strong collection in comparative and international law.

Columbia Law School also provides rich computing resources and a robust network of wired and wireless classrooms and public spaces. A knowledgeable team of IT professionals provides support for student research and educational needs.
OUR SELECTION PROCESS

The LL.M. Program enrolls approximately 260 students each year. These students come from more than 50 countries and bring experience that spans all areas of the legal profession.

In evaluating applications for admission to our LL.M. Program, we strive to select a student body of individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests who share a discernible commitment to excellence. We place primary emphasis on the demonstrated qualities and proven skills that we regard as necessary for academic success and intellectual engagement at Columbia Law School, and we highly value personal strengths that we believe predict professional distinction and public service. We endeavor to identify how, and to what extent, candidates have forged their values and achieved their goals; how they have chosen to commit their time, energies, and talents; and how they have made use of their opportunities. Applicants are evaluated, therefore, not only on their potential, but also on their demonstrated motivation, self-discipline, and industry. Strong preference is given to applicants who have at least one year of work experience after earning their first law degree.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications for admission to our 2015–2016 LL.M. program and all supporting documents listed below must be submitted through LSAC (lsac.org/llm). We no longer accept supporting documents by mail or email. Regretfully, any application items submitted directly to the Office of Graduate Legal Studies will be discarded. For additional information on applying through LSAC and other services LSAC offers, please visit the LSAC website (lsac.org/llm).

- Personal statement
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Two letters of recommendation
- Transcripts and diplomas from all post-secondary education
- Official TOEFL score report
- Application fee (U.S. $85)

For complete instructions on how to apply, visit: law.columbia.edu/llm_jsd/app_instr. Please check our website regularly for updated application instructions.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Early Review—November 3, 2014
Regular Admission—December 16, 2014
“Because LL.M. students represent so many different legal regimes, they add an excitement and comparative perspective to the classroom. At the same time, they graduate with the ability to think like an American lawyer, equipped with the skills of an American lawyer.”

Carol Sanger
Barbara Aronstein Black Professor of Law

“After graduating from Columbia, I can finally say I am a human rights lawyer.”

Otto Saki ’08 LL.M., Zimbabwe
Senior Democracy and Governance Advisor, USAID
2007–08 Columbia Law School Human Rights Fellow
2006 Reebok Human Rights Award Recipient
VISITING COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

We invite you to visit Columbia Law School in person to discover the intellectual and professional resources the Law School has to offer and to learn more about our community. If you are unable to visit us in person, we encourage you to learn more about the Law School on our website, law.columbia.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mailing address:
Office of Graduate Legal Studies
Columbia Law School
435 West 116th Street, MC 4036
New York, NY 10027-7297

Street address:
1125 Amsterdam Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10025

Telephone: 212-854-2655
Facsimile: 212-854-9742
Email: gls@law.columbia.edu

USEFUL LINKS

Graduate Legal Studies: law.columbia.edu/llm_jsd
Application Procedures: law.columbia.edu/admissions/graduate-legal-studies/apply
Centers and Programs: law.columbia.edu/center_program
Clinical Programs: law.columbia.edu/clinics
Columbia Law School: law.columbia.edu
Columbia University: columbia.edu
Curriculum: law.columbia.edu/courses
Diamond Law Library: law.columbia.edu/library
Externships: law.columbia.edu/social-justice/externships
Faculty: law.columbia.edu/faculty
Information Technology: law.columbia.edu/it
Student Journals: law.columbia.edu/student-journals

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