“Columbia Law School has a celebrated tradition in international thought leadership, and enjoys a strong presence in global conversations—be they about world financial markets, human rights, intellectual property, or climate change. The work of our faculty and graduates has a profound impact on shaping law and policy that improves the world around us. Graduates of our LL.M. program join a powerful network of highly trained problem solvers ready and able to address complex issues in the public and private sectors, as well as U.S. and global contexts.”

Gillian Lester, Dean and the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law

Renowned for its intellectual rigor and high professional standards, Columbia Law School embraces an interdisciplinary approach to legal studies, offering a broad curriculum across legal and other disciplines.

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, 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 human rights advocates to the discussion as classroom visitors and guest speakers. Such recent visitors have included U.S. Supreme Court justices, 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’ diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests.

Our students also have the unique advantage of being part of a world-class university located in New York City. 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 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  
Legal Studies  
Health Care and the Law  
History and Philosophy of Law  
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 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  
Center on Law and Liberty  
Charles Evans Gerber Transactional Studies Center  
Collateral Consequences of Criminal Charges  
Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought  
Columbia Center on Sustainable 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  
Legal Theory Workshop  
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  
What We Know Project  
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

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 Appellate Court
Federal Court Clerk

Federal Prosecution-
U.S. Attorney’s Office
Immigration Law
New York City Law Department
Pro Bono Practice and Design
Trusts, Wills, and Estate Planning
Undocumented/Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth
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 2016–2017 LL.M. program and all supporting documents listed below must be submitted through LSAC (lsac.org/llm). We do not accept supporting documents by mail or email; 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, 2015
Regular Admission—December 15, 2015

APPLY ONLINE

law.columbia.edu/admissions/graduate-legal-studies/apply
“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
LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE AS AN LL.M. STUDENT

Create a My Columbia LL.M. account on our website to explore the many intellectual and professional resources available to our students:

- Personalize your experience on our website
- Learn more about student life at Columbia Law School
- Research our faculty profiles and curriculum
- Link our site with your LSAC account to easily access the application status checker

To set up your account, visit: law.columbia.edu/my-columbia-llm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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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
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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
Student Organizations: law.columbia.edu/student-organizations