The Opportunity to Pursue a Broad Course of Study

Graduate Legal Education at Tulane Law School
For well over 75 years, Tulane has welcomed students and scholarship from throughout the world to study at the Law School. Known worldwide for the excellence of its faculty and its legal education programs, Tulane offers a unique and valuable experience to law graduates wishing to pursue advanced study. The school’s location in New Orleans places it in one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan cities in the United States, if not the world.

Because Tulane considers graduate legal education to be a central part of its identity, the Law School offers programs designed to enable LLM students to thrive both academically and professionally. In addition to four LLM programs, an SJD program, and a 14-credit add-on program for LLM graduates wishing to prepare for US bar exams, Tulane offers a number of resources to enrich students’ experiences and to help them to take full advantage of the graduate program. These include a 3-week introductory course for international LLM students, taught just before the start of the fall semester. This course and associated activities has the dual purposes of introducing students, in a relatively relaxed environment, to the methods and expectations of US legal education and introducing them to areas of US law with which all students should gain some familiarity. Tulane also offers English-language instruction and support to those students who may benefit from it, with emphasis on the language of legal and business environments. Finally, the Law School’s Office of International Legal Programs is staffed by an Executive Director and assistant director who plan both educational programs and social programs and who ensure that all LLM students receive individual attention and advising. Our goal is to offer LLM students a complete and valuable experience.

Additional information about these special aspects of Tulane’s graduate legal studies program appears throughout this brochure.

Students
Each year, as many as 50 graduate students from throughout the world enroll in the graduate programs at Tulane Law School, joining approximately 750 Juris Doctor students who are pursuing studies for their first law degree at Tulane. Since the 1930s, Tulane has welcomed students and scholars from throughout the world to study at the Law School and to experience life in New Orleans, one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan cities in the United States.

Faculty
The faculty of Tulane Law School includes over 40 full-time scholars with diverse interests and backgrounds. Courses are also offered by part-time faculty, including outstanding legal practitioners and federal judges. In addition, prominent law professors from abroad or from other American universities teach at Tulane each year as visiting professors.

Curriculum
Among the strengths that graduate students find at Tulane Law School are the opportunity to pursue a broad course of study or, if they so desire, to specialize in one of the areas in which Tulane offers particular strength. These include international and comparative law; environmental law; American law; maritime law; business, corporate, and commercial law; and intellectual property law, among others.

Degree Programs
Students who would like exposure to a wide range of courses in the traditional American law school curriculum to supplement their knowledge of the law of another country may enroll in courses throughout the entire curriculum. Many of these students pursue the General LLM degree, allowing them to concentrate in other areas in which the Law School offers curricular depth, such as intellectual property, business and corporate, sports law or US constitutional law.

Students may instead pursue specialized degrees, exploring their areas of interest.
in ways not permitted in most JD or LLB programs. The LLM in Admiralty, the LLM in Energy & Environment, and the LLM in International & Comparative Law are designed for this purpose. In addition, some students use the American LLM for a broad survey of US law and allowing them to establish eligibility to take a state bar examination in the United States, where permitted by state bar authorities. Others use the General LLM to concentrate in other areas in which the Law School offers curricular depth.

The Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) program is a small and selective program designed for students who already hold the LLM and whose objective is to engage in significant scholarly research in the form of a dissertation.

Standard Degree Requirements for the LLM Programs

Each of the master’s degree (LLM) programs requires completion of 24 semester hours of coursework, up to three of which may be taken in a Tulane Law School summer abroad program. Most students complete the degree requirements during a single academic year. Although there is no thesis requirement, LLM students are required to write at least one paper in connection with a seminar in their field of interest or in connection with a directed research project.

For those students who received the JD or LLB (or equivalent) from a school located outside of the United States, enrollment in Tulane’s three-week summer orientation course, Introduction to US Law, is mandatory. The session begins in late July each year. International students also take a required legal research and writing course in the fall.

Degree Requirements for the SJD

Because the Tulane SJD program is a small and very selective one, each SJD student is assigned a faculty advisor upon admission. The faculty advisor and SJD student work together to design an individualized program, which includes at least one semester of full-time coursework at Tulane.

Upon completion of coursework, the SJD student proceeds to research and write the dissertation, conferring with his or her advisor along the way and submitting drafts for review and feedback.

Tulane’s expectation is that the final SJD dissertation will be submitted within four years following initial enrollment in the program. The dissertation is to make an original and significant contribution to legal scholarship. Each candidate defends his or her dissertation in an oral examination before a committee of the Tulane Law School faculty, supplemented with other University faculty where appropriate.

Residency Requirements and Length of Study - LLM

All five LLM programs are offered on a full-time and part-time basis. Full-time students are expected to complete the LLM in two semesters, or one academic year. All part-time LLM students must complete the program in four consecutive (non-summer) semesters. The LLM in Admiralty part-time program is an option only to attorneys in full-time practice in the New Orleans area. Due to student visa requirements, many international students are required to enroll on a full-time basis.

All international LLM students begin the Introduction to US Law course in mid-July and proceed directly into the fall semester, which begins in late August and concludes at the beginning of December; fall-semester exams take place in December before the winter break. The spring semester begins in mid-January and concludes in late April, followed by spring-semester exams. Commencement ceremonies and conferral of degrees take place in May.

Residency Requirements and Length of Study - SJD

During the first semester of enrollment, SJD students take between 10 and 12 credits of coursework. Thereafter, most SJD students work full-time on the dissertation until it is completed. It is the expectation of the faculty that the SJD will be completed with four years of initial enrollment.
THE GENERAL LLM PROGRAM

The General LLM program allows students to design their own courses of study. General LLM students may enroll in virtually any course, with the general exception of clinical programs and Trial Advocacy. Some students pursue a broad range of courses, and others focus their choices more narrowly.

General Survey

Many international students use the General LLM program as a way to gain exposure to a variety of areas of US law. They may choose to enroll in a combination of introductory and more advanced courses in a variety of areas. Because the typical first-year courses are open to our graduate students, some choose to take such courses as Torts, Contracts, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, and Property.

Concentrations

Students find that the General LLM program lends itself to the development of ad hoc concentrations. For example, students interested in Intellectual Property might take Copyright, Intellectual Property, Trademarks and Unfair Competition, Patent Prosecution and Litigation, one or more specialized courses in the area, a Directed Research project supervised by a faculty member who is an expert in the area, and even one or two unrelated courses.

Students interested in international trade might take such courses as: International Trade, Finance & Banking; Financial Institutions; International Tax; International Business Transactions; and a variety of related courses.

Students may even find it possible to concentrate in two areas through the General LLM program. Because the General LLM program has no distribution requirements, students are free to make independent choices about the courses in which they enroll.

SUMMER ABD ON OPTION

Each of the LLM programs requires two full-time semesters in residence and satisfactory completion of 24 credits, up to 3 of which may be completed in a Tulane Summer Abroad Program.

Tulane LLM students admitted to any of our full-time programs may begin the LLM program in the summer by attending one of Tulane’s summer abroad programs in Berlin, Beijing, Shanghai, Paris, Rodes, Río de Janeiro, or Siena. Tuition is included in the academic year costs, leaving students who proceed immediately into the LLM program responsible only for their living expenses during the summer abroad program. International students must arrive in New Orleans by the start of the Introduction to US Law course in mid-July.

LLM IN AMERICAN LAW

This degree is intended primarily for international students who hold a first degree in law (JD or LLB or equivalent) from a non-U.S. law school and who wish to establish eligibility to take a state bar examination in the United States, where permitted by state bar authorities. The degree will give students from foreign jurisdictions a thorough understanding of the fundamental principles of U.S. law and the American legal system, as well as an appreciation for law practice in the United States.

The academic program is designed to enable students who earn the degree to satisfy the American law school course requirements of the Bar Admissions Committees of Louisiana and New York. These two U.S. states are among those whose rules permit foreign lawyers to sit for their bar exam subject to, inter alia, completion of certain coursework in American Law. Students seeking to take the bar examinations in these two states, or any other state, must still meet all other eligibility requirements of the state in which they seek to take the bar examination, and are therefore urged to review those requirements at the earliest possible time.

Degree Requirements

The American LLM requires, in addition to the general degree requirements, completion of at least 14 hours of coursework in the following subjects: Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Corporations or Business Enterprises, Evidence, Intellectual Property, Federal Civil Procedure, Taxation, Uniform Commercial Code, Torts, or (if planning to take the Louisiana bar exam) Louisiana Civil Procedure or Louisiana Obligations Law. Students seeking this degree are also required to take either Common Law Property or Civil Law Property. Remaining hours of coursework for the degree may be selected from any other courses open to graduate students at Tulane Law School.
THE LLM IN ADMIRALTY

Tulane Law School is known internationally for its admiralty and maritime law program. The city of New Orleans, located near the mouth of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, is a significant maritime center, and the lower Mississippi River is one of the largest ports in the world. New Orleans itself has the second largest admiralty bar in the United States. As a result of the natural focus on maritime issues in New Orleans, Tulane Law School has become an important center for the study of admiralty and maritime law.

In addition to offering over a dozen admiralty courses each year, Tulane publishes a student-edited maritime law review, the Tulane Maritime Law Journal, as well as casebooks used in many of the Tulane admiralty courses. The maritime faculty includes active practitioners and scholars of maritime law from throughout the world. As a result, the curriculum is rich in basic, advanced, and specialized courses, and students have access, unmatched at any other law school, to faculty members who are expert in the whole array of maritime issues. The fact that Tulane is also world renowned for its strength in international law adds to the exceptional experience we are able to provide our students.

An important resource for LLM in Admiralty candidates is Tulane’s Maritime Law Center, which provides an umbrella for Tulane’s many activities in the field of admiralty and maritime law. Distinguished scholars of maritime law come to Tulane each semester under the aegis of the Maritime Law Center. These visitors include senior practitioners who spend time at Tulane through the Sims Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence program and scholars who are brought to Tulane to meet with students and give public lectures through the William Tetley Lecture Series. The Center also organizes continuing education programs and conferences in the US and abroad on a variety of international maritime topics. The most prominent of these is Tulane’s Admiralty Law Institute, the oldest and largest continuing legal education program devoted to maritime law. The Institute is held every other year and attracts hundreds of admiralty lawyers and maritime executives from throughout the world.

Through the Maritime Law Center and the Stiles Scholarship Fund, graduate fellowships and scholarships are offered each year to students pursuing the LLM in Admiralty. A number of other scholarships are available to admiralty graduate students as well.

Degree Requirements

Students may enroll in this program on a full-time basis, completing it over one year. Attorneys practicing full-time in the New Orleans area may enroll on a part-time basis, completing the program over four consecutive semesters.

To qualify for the degree of LLM in Admiralty, the student must complete at least 13 of the 24 hours required for the degree in admiralty courses.

LLM IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Since 1979, Tulane Law School has taken a lead role in the advancement of environmental legal education and the training of well-prepared environmental lawyers. The LLM in Energy & Environment program was initiated in 1984 and has evolved over time from a program concentrating primarily on oil, gas, and energy issues, to one in which the environment holds center stage. Tulane seeks to graduate students who understand not only the theory, but also the practice and advocacy of environmental issues.

Tulane is an ideal location for the study of both environmental and energy law. Located in an area of the United States in which these two areas come into frequent conflict, students have the opportunity for exposure to areas of great natural beauty as well as to industrial complexes. Among the resources Tulane offers its students are an outstanding and dedicated faculty, a student-run journal devoted to environmental issues, an active and engaged student body, and an Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy.

Students in the LLM in Energy & Environment program include recent law graduates, experienced lawyers practicing in local law firms, government agencies and corporations, and attorneys from foreign countries with emerging environmental law systems. Recent years have seen LLM candidates from more than a dozen US states and from at least two dozen countries including Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, India, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.
Degree Requirements

The LLM in Energy & Environment requires, in addition to the general degree requirements described earlier, completion of 16 credit hours (six courses). Students must enroll in the Graduate Seminar in Energy & Environment as well as two of the following three courses: Pollution Control, Natural Resources, and Energy Law.

Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy

The Institute for Water Resources Law & Policy functions as the intellectual arm of Tulane’s environmental law program. As a research entity, it generates and oversees research projects related to environmental issues and produces related symposia, conferences, and workshops. The Institute is directed by Mark Davis. The Center co-hosts, with the Tulane Environmental Law Society, an annual conference on Law, Science, and the Public Interest.
**LLM in International & Comparative Law**

The breadth and depth of the international and comparative law curriculum at Tulane Law School provide unparalleled opportunities for both US and foreign lawyers to receive a basic foundation in international legal practice. Tulane’s program offers courses in public international law, private international law including international business transactions, and comparative law. In addition to courses in European Union institutions and law, courses in substantive areas of foreign law are available. Tulane’s unique perspective in a historically mixed common law-civil law jurisdiction results in an unusually rich experience for students.

Tulane offers its students a strong faculty with significant international experience and training, an outstanding library, and the resources of the Eason-Weinmann Center for Comparative Law, which brings together outstanding legal scholars from various countries and legal systems for seminars and lectures.

**Degree Requirements**

Candidates for the LLM in International & Comparative Law enroll on a full-time basis and complete the program in one academic year. In addition to the general degree requirements described earlier, students enroll in 13 credits.

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**Legal Reasoning, Research, & Writing in the United States**

This course, which is taken for either one or two credits, is an introduction to the legal methodologies of practicing attorneys in the United States. Enrollment in the course is limited to international graduate students; it emphasizes the development of legal reasoning and writing skills in an adversarial legal system, while simultaneously acquainting students with the legal resources readily available to attorneys in the United States, such as Westlaw, and Lexis. The first part of the course, which ends in early October and carries one credit, culminates in the preparation of a legal memorandum, as might be created and used by a U.S. law firm. This first credit is required of all students in the course, and grades are based on this memorandum, together with the exercises leading to it. The second portion of the course, which immediately follows the first, is devoted to the creation of a substantial legal memorandum, or a brief on a current issue. Grades for the two credit course are based on work done over the entire semester. This second session of the course is also required of all students, unless it is expressly waived by the school, on the basis of an evaluation of each student’s performance during the first session.
Countries Represented in the LLM Program
Graduate students from the following countries, in addition to the United States and Puerto Rico, have enrolled in the LLM programs at Tulane Law School:

Afghanistan  El Salvador  Pakistan  Bangladesh  Costa Rica  Colombia  Chile  People’s Republic of China  Cuba  Croatia  Czech Republic  Denmark  Dominican Republic  Ecuador  Egypt  Estonia  Finland  France  Republic of Georgia  Germany  Ghana  Greece  Guatemala  Guyana  Honduras  Hungary  Iceland  India  Indonesia  Israel  Italy  Jamaica  Japan  Kenya  Korea  Latvia  Lebanon  Liberia  Mexico  Nigeria

Each student’s course of study is at least somewhat dependent upon the background and previous legal education of the individual student and on the student’s objectives. For example, US students interested in European legal studies would need exposure to European legal sources, European Community Law, and the like. A student from Germany, however, might focus her studies somewhat differently, seeking exposure to common law subjects and to other areas which she would be unlikely to have studied previously. Each student designs his or her course of study with the assistance of a faculty advisor.

International Students’ Eligibility to Take Bar Exams in the US
Occasionally, international students who attend our LLM program wish to take a US bar exam. Each state in the US has its own eligibility requirements, and prospective students who may be interested in admission to a US state bar are urged to check eligibility requirements at www.ncbex.org.

Recently, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled that foreign lawyers may take the Louisiana bar exam so long as they (1) are authorized to work lawfully in the United States, (2) have completed legal training recognized as equivalent to the JD, and (3) have successfully completed a minimum of 14 credits from a US law school in core legal subjects. Our LLM students are able to meet the latter requirement through their selection of courses at Tulane if they so choose.

For graduates of Tulane’s LLM program who wish to fulfill the coursework eligibility requirements of the Louisiana bar, the Law School offers the opportunity to enroll in up to 14 credits over one or two semesters at a reduced tuition rate.
Tulane offers an intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) module especially designed for graduate level law and business students. The course is intended to assist students who would benefit from improving their proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and responding in English. Our objective in offering the course is to improve students’ abilities to communicate effectively in English in the professional context. Special emphasis is placed on improving listening comprehension and oral presentation skills. Taught immediately prior to the start of the summer course, Introduction to the Law of the United States, the ESL module provides three weeks of work in professional English. Students are then able to transition seamlessly into the Introduction to US Law course. Enrollment in the course is limited to international LLM students at Tulane Law School and international MBA students at Tulane’s A.B. Freeman School of Business.

**STUDENT LIFE**

Graduate students at Tulane Law School – both US and international – are fully integrated into the life of the student body. They take classes alongside JD students, participate in any of the dozens of student organizations, and have full access to the resources of the University and the Law School. At the University level, this includes the Reily Recreation Center, the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life, and all of the speakers and concerts and sporting events sponsored by the University. At the Law School, this includes all of the resources of our Career Development Office and other support services. Naturally, all graduate students are invited to the myriad lecture series and other activities at the Law School. Some graduate law students have become involved in moot court competitions, while others have become involved with one or more of the eight faculty- or student-run journals at Tulane. Graduate students also run their own Law School student organization, Graduate Lawyers at Tulane (GLAT), which regularly sponsors programs to enhance the law school experience for all students.

A unique and consistently successful part of Tulane’s graduate program is the summer orientation course, Introduction to the Law of the United States. In addition to orienting international students to the US system of law and legal education, the course facilitates students’ transition to New Orleans and to Tulane. Because international graduate students have the Law School virtually to themselves for almost four weeks, they get to know each other and the faculty in a relaxed environment, conducive to informal get-togethers and strong friendships.

**The Office of International Legal Programs**

The LLM and SJD programs are overseen by the Office of International Legal Programs, directed by Professor Herbert Larson. The Office staff works with LLM and SJD students, as well as visiting scholars and exchange students, and plans regular activities, including—during the summer orientation course—a series of field trips to courts, landmarks, and events around the city. The Executive Director of the program regularly brings together students in the graduate programs and ensures that graduate students are integrated into the life of the Law School. Throughout the academic year, students are invited to attend social events as well as events intended to enrich the intellectual life of the community. The Office of International Legal Programs also works with GLAT (see above), the student organization that is dedicated to Tulane LLM, SJD, and exchange students.
CAREER PLANNING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The resources of the Career Development Office at Tulane Law School are fully available to students enrolled in the graduate programs, as well as to alumni of our graduate programs. The Career Development Office staff becomes acquainted early with each new class of graduate students by participating in the summer orientation program. Graduate students have an assigned career counselor with experience in both domestic and international job searches and career opportunities. Graduate students are welcome to attend all career development workshops and presentations and to use all of the facilities of the Career Development Office for their job searches (career resource library, computer lab, video conferencing, fax and telephone lines, printer). Graduate students are especially encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity for extensive individual counseling by a career services professional, including mock interviews, résumé and cover letter review, and assistance with job searches.

Tulane law students may attend any Tulane Continuing Legal Education program free-of-charge. These programs permit students to be exposed to practical aspects of an area of law and provides the invaluable opportunity for contact with practicing attorneys. Topics for these annual seminars include admiralty and maritime law, corporate law, estate planning, labor, litigation, sports law, and tax.

Each year in January, Tulane Law School is among a select group of US law schools invited to participate in the International Student Interview Program (ISIP) organized by New York University Law School and conducted in New York City. Over 125 law firms and other employers gather to interview international LLM students interested in working in the United States and in their home countries.

Admission Requirements for the LLM Programs

Candidates for admission must hold the Juris Doctor (JD) from a United States law school or the LLB or equivalent first basic law degree from a non-US law school approved by Tulane’s Committee on Graduate Admission.

Applicants whose native language is not English, or whose first law degrees (JD or LLB or equivalent) are from schools at which English was not the language of instruction, are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

The graduate degree programs begin in the fall semester only. Occasionally, space permitting, there may be an opportunity for US candidates to begin the LLM program in the spring semester. All international candidates must begin enrollment with the summer orientation course approximately three weeks prior to the start of the fall semester.

Applying to the LLM Programs

Applications for admission should be submitted between September 1 and May 1 for enrollment the following July and August. Early applications are particularly important for international candidates because of the time required to process visas and immigration forms. Early applications receive the most optimal consideration for available scholarship funds.

Application instructions are available on our website, www.law.tulane.edu and on the LSAC website at http://llm.lsac.org. Our mailing address and other contact information are listed at the rear of this brochure.
THE SJD PROGRAM

An applicant for the SJD program must hold an LL.M. degree or its equivalent either from Tulane University or other accredited American universities or foreign universities which the Graduate Affairs Committee (the faculty admissions committee) has ascertained have good standing among the higher education community in the home country. Candidates must have received their Master of Laws (LL.M.) or the equivalent degrees with distinction. A Tulane LL.M. graduate will need to have a 3.5 average or better to graduate with distinction.

Admission to the SJD candidacy requires the endorsement of the Graduate Affairs Committee. The Committee will examine, along with the student’s performance at the LL.M. or the equivalent qualifying degree level the strength of the candidate’s proposal to determine whether the individual has the capacity for advanced legal research and for outstanding scholarship. Strong interest in and support of the proposal and the candidacy of the applicant by a Tulane Law School faculty member who is willing to serve as a supervisor will be an important factor in the Committee’s decision. Applicants are, therefore, strongly encouraged to make every effort to find a supervisor, but they are discouraged from circulating mass letters to the faculty of the Law School.

An outline of the SJD application requirements can be found on our website. All SJD application requirements should be met no later than April 1 for enrollment the following August.

THE LSAC CREDENTIAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE FOR LLM APPLICANTS

The LLM Credential Assembly Service (LLM CAS) simplifies the application process for all applicants to participating LLM programs. If the applicant opts to subscribe to this service, he or she requests official academic documents and letters of recommendation just once for submission to the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), which then compiles the documents and submits them to the participating law schools to which the applicant applies. The service includes both a Document Assembly Service (available both to graduates of US law schools and graduates of law schools outside of the US) and an International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service (for graduates of law schools outside of the US). For complete information about the LLM CAS, including information about fees, see the LSAC website at http://llm.lsac.org.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

LLM candidates with superior academic credentials are eligible for the award of partial tuition waivers or scholarships to Tulane Law School. Most of these awards are made to international candidates. These awards are generally made at the same time the offer of admission is extended, or shortly thereafter. Full-time LLM students opting to enroll in one of Tulane’s summer abroad programs for up to 3 credit hours may do so without paying additional tuition; tuition for the summer abroad program is included in the cost of the subsequent fall and spring semesters.

Scholarships and tuition waivers cover a portion of tuition and do not cover living expenses. Scholarship and tuition waiver funds are limited, and competition for the awards is keen. Students are strongly encouraged to investigate alternate sources of funding early in the application process.

Most of the loans available to law students require the student to show US citizenship or permanent resident status. Some loans may be available to international students with a US co-signer. For more information about eligibility and application procedures, see the Law School’s web site at www.law.tulane.edu, or contact the Law School Financial Aid Office at finaid@law.tulane.edu or 504.865.5931.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Current information about cost of attendance, including tuition and fees, is published on our web site, www.law.tulane.edu.