Fordham Law School

Master U.S. Law in the Heart of New York City

LL.M. and Certificate Programs
Join our collaborative community—where intellectual curiosity, professional craft, and commitment to service are prized—and take your career to the next level.

Situated in New York City, a global center of business and culture, Fordham Law School attracts individuals from around the globe who are driven to move our profession, society, and world forward. We typically draw students from more than 40 countries to our LL.M. and certificate programs in legal English and U.S. law.

Our curriculum combines a foundation in enduring legal principles, outstanding opportunities for real-world training, and exposure to emerging theories, techniques, and technologies. With nine LL.M. program areas to choose from, you will have the opportunity to specialize in a legal discipline with the support of our world-renowned faculty. Beyond the classroom, we offer extensive experiential learning opportunities, where you can apply your interests and gain practical training.

As a member of the Fordham Law community, you will not only connect with students from around the world, but you will also have access to our global alumni known for their energy and commitment to our community.

With New York City’s abundant professional opportunities to expand your network and further your professional goals, Fordham Law is an incomparable choice to advance your legal education.

law.fordham.edu/llm
In our global society, it is essential for a legal professional to have an international outlook as well as a distinctive area of expertise.

Fordham Law’s nine LL.M. degree programs offer the opportunity to specialize in fields that are evolving as the law, economy, technology, and times demand. The breadth of offerings in each concentration is matched only by the enthusiasm and experience our professors bring to the classroom. Additionally, our dual concentration option allows students to earn an LL.M. in any two specializations.

**LL.M. Programs**

- Banking, Corporate, and Finance Law
- Corporate Compliance
- Fashion Law
- Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law
- International Business and Trade Law
- International Dispute Resolution
- International Law and Justice
- Real Estate Law
- U.S. Law
**Banking, Corporate, and Finance Law**

Students in the LL.M. program in Banking, Corporate, and Finance Law acquire a sophisticated appreciation of corporate structure, an understanding of the laws relating to capital markets and financial institutions, and genuine insights into the goals and strategies of U.S. executives and business lawyers. In this program, students enroll in Corporations, at least one other core course, such as Financial Institutions: Banking, International Banking Law, Financial Institutions: Non-Banking, and Regulation of Financial Institutions and choose from a broad array of additional courses in banking law or financial institutions law. Through these courses, students explore such areas as bankruptcy, corporate finance, corporate governance, corporate tax, cross-border insolvency, mergers and acquisitions, and securities regulation and enforcement.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/bcf](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/bcf)

**Corporate Compliance**

Our LL.M. program in Corporate Compliance introduces students to a rapidly emerging field that is often global in scope. This program prepares candidates to respond effectively to new and complex regulatory demands. Students explore the role of in-house counsel, the corporate compliance office, and the elements of compliance, including risk assessment, attorney-client privilege, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, global codes of conduct, crisis management, deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements, and corporate social responsibility. The core classes in this program are Global Corporate Compliance and Compliance Risk Assessment. Students also choose from a wide range of related classes, such as International Financial Crime or Anti-Money Laundering. Students learn the basic regulatory framework, especially in the banking and financial regulatory industries, and are trained in the skills that are essential for any compliance professional.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/compliance](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/compliance)

**Fashion Law**

LL.M. students in the Fashion Law program study with distinguished faculty that includes both academics and industry insiders—in New York City, a capital of the world’s fashion industry. Students explore what we have defined as the four pillars of fashion law: intellectual property; business and finance, including areas such as investment, employment law, and real estate; international trade and government regulation, including sustainability, privacy, and issues related to wearable technology; and consumer culture and civil rights. Core classes include Fashion Law and the Fashion Law Capstone/Thesis. Students also gain direct access to events and networking opportunities available through the nonprofit Fashion Law Institute, based at Fordham Law. Established with the assistance of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, it is the world’s first center dedicated to the law and business of fashion.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/fashionlaw](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/fashionlaw)

**Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law**

The LL.M. program in Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law uniquely combines the classic study of intellectual property rights with the rapidly evolving field of information technology law. Students study fundamental and advanced intellectual property rights issues in copyright, patent, and trademark law, and also learn about issues that lie at the heart of today’s digital information society, such as cybercrime, e-commerce, information privacy law, and Internet law. Core courses include Copyright Law, Information Law Survey, Intellectual Property Law, Patent Law, and Trademark Law. Students also choose from more advanced and specialized courses in the fields of information technology and intellectual property law.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/ipit](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/ipit)
International Business and Trade Law

The LL.M. program in International Business and Trade Law prepares students to meet the challenges of an increasingly global economy by giving them the knowledge and training needed to handle complex transnational transactions that define the current legal and business environment. This program includes core courses such as European Union Law, International Law, International Business Transactions, and International Trade Regulation, as well as a range of elective courses in such subjects as competition law, election law, admiralty and international maritime law, U.S. contract law, international arbitration, and cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

law.fordham.edu/llm/ibt

International Dispute Resolution

Fordham’s LL.M. program in International Dispute Resolution focuses on the ways that international disputes are resolved, including traditional litigation as well as alternative methods of dispute resolution. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are growing rapidly as a preferred method of resolving disputes between parties in public and private international law matters. It is increasingly important for lawyers to have a strong understanding of both the principles underlying each of these methods and the processes involved. The core classes include Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation Management for the International Lawyer. This program offers students the opportunity to explore how disputes are played out in the international arena. Foreign students will also develop an appreciation for the particular characteristics of the U.S. litigation model.

law.fordham.edu/llm/idr

International Law and Justice

The LL.M. program in International Law and Justice offers students the opportunity to gain an advanced understanding of human rights protection and promotion on international, regional, and domestic levels. Students enroll in International Law and choose additional course work designed for lawyers and students who work or intend to pursue a career in the public sector. This LL.M. program was created under the auspices of Fordham Law’s Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, one of the largest and most dynamic human rights programs in the nation. The Center’s Vivian Leitner Global South LL.M. Scholars Program offers generous scholarships and stipends to enable select graduate students from the developing world to enroll in this program.

law.fordham.edu/llm/ilj

Real Estate Law

The Real Estate LL.M. program provides students with a deep foundation in real estate law and practice, including core subjects such as real estate transactions, real estate finance, condos and coops, residential and commercial leasing, and land use, as well as the opportunity to explore important related areas such as environmental law, corporate law, partnership, commercial law, and tax. The program is intended for attorneys interested in deepening their understanding of real estate law or opening up new career opportunities, and will take advantage of the rich array of real-estate-related programming across the university.

law.fordham.edu/llm/realestate

U.S. Law

The LL.M. program in U.S. Law offers students the flexibility to develop a curriculum in U.S. law topics that suits their particular needs and interests. This degree is designed for students who have received their primary legal education outside of the U.S. and who want a general LL.M. in U.S. law or to focus on a specialization not already offered. It is also ideal for civil-trained lawyers and law students who work in government service, general law practice, or academia.

law.fordham.edu/llm/uslaw

Dual Concentration Option

Our dual concentration option gives current LL.M. students and alumni the opportunity to enroll at Fordham Law for an additional semester of full-time study (or the equivalent for part-time students) to complete coursework in a second concentration.
Why an LL.M. at Fordham Law?

- Full-time and flexible part-time options for busy professionals
- A faculty that includes some of the country’s most prominent legal scholars
- Option to begin LL.M. studies in August or January
- Nine areas of specialization
- Dynamic and diverse community of students from more than 40 countries
- A global Fordham Law alumni network with over 60 chapters and delegates in the U.S. and around the world
- Excellent opportunities for practical training and professional growth, from externships to participation in our clinics, centers, and institutes
- Option to earn a second specialization by staying for a third semester
- Professional opportunities, including networking with leaders from corporations, law firms, NGOs, and courts

Fordham Law has given me the opportunity to be a part of an international network of highly successful attorneys. Fordham Law alumni can be found at law firms and corporations across the globe and always seem willing to connect with other members of the Fordham Law family.

Lucy N. Onyeforo LL.M. ’17, Associate, Dorsey & Whitney LLP (New York)

As an established foreign lawyer, I have found the program to be a great introduction to U.S. law and practice. Balancing part-time study with legal practice is challenging, but I have been able to select courses that suit both my schedule and professional interests, all within a very global community of students and professors.

Alana Petraske LL.M. ’20, Partner, Withers Bergman LLP (New York)

More than the law school where I obtained my LL.M. degree, Fordham Law became my home and the place where I made some of the best friends I have in New York. It also opened a lot of doors to the New York legal community.

Amadeu Ribeiro LL.M. ’17, Partner, Mattos Filho (New York)

Choosing Fordham Law was one of the best career decisions I made. I met brilliant professors, a supportive alumni community, and classmates that became close friends in New York. Fordham opened the door to internships and job opportunities I had only dreamed about.

Yas Sanchez-Hereira LL.M. ’18, Associate General Counsel, NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (New York); Of Counsel, Gulapa Law (Manila and New York)
Scholarships

Fordham Law offers a variety of merit-based scholarship programs to help you finance your LL.M. degree.

**Fordham Law LL.M. Feerick, Treanor, and Martin Scholarships**
Students may apply for scholarships named in honor of former Fordham Law School deans who contributed enormously to the development of our LL.M. programs: John D. Feerick, William Michael Treanor, and Michael M. Martin. They are awarded annually to exceptional applicants to the full-time program who are found to possess character traits embodied by one or more of these great leaders. The scholarships provide funding equal to 100 percent of the LL.M. tuition. (Recipients will be responsible for student fees, transportation to and from New York, local transportation, books, housing, and all other expenses associated with their studies.) The deadline for applications is February 1.

**Fordham Law Graduate Student Scholarships**
Partial scholarships are awarded to select LL.M. applicants based on merit. Graduate Student Scholarships are awarded at the sole discretion of the admissions committee during its review of completed applications. To be considered, check the box on your application under the section “Additional Information” stating that you wish to be considered for a Graduate Student Scholarship. Priority consideration is given to those with applications completed by February 1 (fall admission) and September 21 (spring admission). Graduate program staff will notify applicants if they have been selected for a merit scholarship award.

**Fordham Law Certificate Program Reimbursement**
Fordham Law will reimburse the full amount of certificate program fees for students who enroll in one of our LL.M. programs within two calendar years of completing one of our certificate programs. This includes our Summer Institute and Winter Institute as well as our semester-long Legal English Institute. Reimbursement will be applied toward the LL.M. tuition.

**The Vivian Leitner Global South LL.M. Scholars Program**
Fordham Law offers a scholarship through the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice that is restricted to a select few highly qualified LL.M. candidates from developing countries who are pursuing a course of study focused on international human rights. The scholarship waives tuition for the LL.M. in International Law and Justice. Additionally, candidates unable to secure alternate funding may be eligible for a stipend covering living expenses for the ten months of the LL.M. program. The deadline for applications is February 21.

**How to Apply**
Instructions on how to apply for scholarships, as well as information about the cost of attendance and financial aid, are available on our website. There, you will also find a list of some of the external scholarships available to LL.M. applicants.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/scholarships](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/scholarships)
As an LL.M. student at Fordham Law, not only will you have access to our broad curriculum and accomplished faculty, you also will be able to tap into an extraordinary range of intellectual activities, networking opportunities, and professional resources.

**Our Curriculum**

*Specialized Curriculum and Training for Foreign-Trained Students*

For students who have received their primary law degrees outside the U.S., we offer a host of programs designed to help ease the transition to U.S. legal study. In particular, our faculty has created a series of special courses tailored to foreign-trained LL.M. students, including Introduction to the U.S. Legal System, Introduction to the U.S. Legal Profession, Contract Law, Legal Writing and Research for LL.M. Students, Fundamental Lawyering Skills, and drafting and negotiation courses. LL.M. students also have access to the Fordham University Writing Center—which helps students with writing assignments or with improving their writing skills more generally—and Fordham University’s Institute for American Language and Culture.

**Thinking About Sitting for the New York Bar?**

For applicants who need to cure their first degree in law to be eligible to sit for the New York State Bar Exam, all of our LL.M. programs are designed to meet the requirements of the Rules of the New York Court of Appeals for foreign-trained lawyers.

**Externships**

The Graduate Externship Program gives LL.M. students the opportunity to engage in for-credit externships with a wide variety of host organizations, including law firms, corporate legal and compliance departments, nonprofit organizations, and government organizations. Such placement experiences are intended to enrich the educational experience students receive in the Law School’s doctrinal courses. They also promote students’ professional development by assisting them in integrating legal theory with hands-on skills and professional values.

[law.fordham.edu/llm/extern](http://law.fordham.edu/llm/extern)

**Clinics**

LL.M. students are invited to apply to our clinical programs, which offer opportunities to work with real clients, the courts, opposing attorneys, community organizations, and the legislature to solve tangible legal problems facing individuals and our society. Students may choose from among several clinics that reflect a broad array of legal disciplines.

[law.fordham.edu/clinics](http://law.fordham.edu/clinics)
Beyond the Classroom

In addition to our deep curriculum, Fordham Law offers exceptional opportunities for LL.M. students to pursue their intellectual interests, connect with classmates, and apply their legal education in real-world settings.

Centers and Institutes

LL.M. students have the opportunity to become involved in projects that are helping people and changing the world. Our nearly 20 centers and institutes bring together students, faculty, and professionals to accomplish goals that are critically important in our society. By participating in center activities, students gain knowledge, acquire skills, connect with other students and mentors, and importantly, make a difference.

law.fordham.edu/centers

Journals

Fordham Law’s student-edited journals consistently draw high praise from the legal community. Students in our LL.M. program are invited to apply to join the staff of the following four journals:

- Fordham Environmental Law Review
- Fordham Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment Law Journal
- Fordham International Law Journal
- Fordham Journal of Corporate and Financial Law

Student Organizations

All LL.M. students are fully integrated into the extracurricular life of the Law School. LL.M. students have their own representatives in the Student Bar Association and are encouraged to join the wide range of student clubs and activities within the Law School community.

Networking

Every year, approximately 150 students from more than 40 countries enroll in our LL.M. program, which creates a diverse and enriching academic environment with numerous opportunities to expand your professional network. As an LL.M. student, you will also have access to the larger Fordham Law community in New York City and around the world.

Individualized Career Advising

We are dedicated to helping you advance your career during and after your studies at Fordham Law.

Graduate Professional Development Program (GPDP)

Our GPDP program provides personalized attention through one-on-one career counseling and offers access to a wealth of print materials, videos, seminars, and online resources to aid in your job search.

law.fordham.edu/llm/gpdp

International Student Interview Program (ISIP)

International LL.M. students at Fordham Law are eligible to participate in the International Student Interview Program (ISIP), a job fair in New York City for foreign-trained LL.M. students attending select U.S. law schools. The job fair attracts over 160 employers from top law firms and other organizations each year.
Alumni Network

We are immensely proud of our alumni community of esteemed lawyers, judges, entrepreneurs, and public servants. This vibrant and loyal network reaches across the globe, and includes more than 60 national and international chapters and delegates from the cities and regions listed below.

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law.fordham.edu/chapters
ELIGIBILITY

Foreign-Trained Applicants
Foreign-trained applicants are eligible to apply to the LL.M. program if they hold a degree from a recognized foreign law school, law faculty, or law department that meets the educational requirements for admission to the practice of law in that country. For most international applicants, an undergraduate degree in law, such as an LL.B., is sufficient. If additional education after the LL.B. or other first degree in law is required to practice law in your country, please contact our office at llm@law.fordham.edu to determine eligibility. Alternatively, admission to practice law in any jurisdiction may be used to meet our eligibility criteria.

U.S. Applicants
U.S. applicants are eligible to apply to our LL.M. program if they hold a J.D. degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association.

EVALUATION

The admissions committee considers many factors in its decisions, including the following:

- Academic performance and class standing
- Occupational and law-related experience and career plans
- Letters of recommendation
- English-language ability, as evidenced by performance on the TOEFL or IELTS (if applicable)
- Extracurricular activities

DEADLINES

Fall Admission (August Start)
Application Period Opens: September 15
Application Deadline: March 1

* Note: The deadline for the Feerick, Treanor, and Martin Scholarships is February 1. Also, priority consideration for Graduate Student Scholarships is given to those with applications completed by February 1.

Spring Admission (January Start)
Application Period Opens: June 1
Application Deadline: October 1

* Note: Priority consideration for Fordham Law Graduate Student Scholarships is given to those with applications completed by September 21.

Rolling Admissions Decisions
We make admissions decisions as we receive applications. Thus, applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Late Applications
We accept applications after the application deadline if space is available. However, applicants considering late submission should be aware of course registration dates, typically in the beginning of June for the fall term and mid-October for the spring term. Course selection may be restricted as many classes close quickly due to enrollment limits.

Please also be advised that if you require a visa to study at Fordham, it is best to apply by the general deadline. If you are unable to secure a visa before our start date, we will be pleased to defer your admission to another semester.
REQUIRED MATERIALS

Applications to the LL.M. program are accepted through Law School Admissions Council (LSAC), lsac.org/llm. There, you will find our LL.M. application form. Except as noted below, all applicants will also submit the following materials:

**Personal Statement**
All applicants must submit a 500-word personal statement describing your reasons for pursuing this graduate degree, where you plan to practice in five years, and the contributions you hope to make to the legal profession upon completion of the course of study.

**Resume/CV**
Applicants must submit a current resume or curriculum vitae. Your resume or curriculum vitae should include your complete university educational experience, your complete employment history, and any additional academic or professional activities. Please also include any publications and presentations.

**Transcripts**
Applicants must submit an official transcript from each college, university, graduate school, and law school attended regardless of whether the program was completed or a degree was awarded.

**Two Letters of Recommendation**
Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. Each letter should be from someone who knows you well and can provide a candid personalized evaluation of your potential success in the graduate program. If possible, at least one letter should be from a law professor or law school dean.

**TOEFL or IELTS Score**
All applicants are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam unless they hold a degree from the U.S. or other country where English is the sole official language. If you do not meet the exemption described above and your law school classes were taught entirely in English, you may request a TOEFL or IELTS waiver on the application form.

* **Examination: TOEFL**
  Minimum Score: 100 iBT (Internet-based test); 250 CBT (computer-based test); 600 PBT (paper-based test)
  * Fordham’s TOEFL Code is 2264

* **Examination: IELTS**
  Minimum Score: 7

For applicants unable to demonstrate sufficient English proficiency through the TOEFL or IELTS requirement, we are pleased to offer admission contingent on full-time enrollment and satisfactory progress in Fordham’s Legal English Institute (L.E.I.), law.fordham.edu/lei.

**HOUSING**
LL.M. students are welcome to apply for student housing through our Office of Residential Life. A limited number of dorm rooms at the Lincoln Center campus are available in McMahon Hall on a first-come, first-served basis. Fordham also offers some studio and one-bedroom apartments at 134 West 58th Street, a short walk to the Law School. Additional information about on-campus housing for LL.M. students, as well as a list of off-campus housing resources, is available on our website, law.fordham.edu/llm/housing.
Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.)

Fordham Law’s M.S.L. provides non-lawyers interested in corporate compliance or fashion law with a legal grounding to advance their careers.

M.S.L. in Corporate Compliance

Students seeking the M.S.L. in Corporate Compliance gain a sophisticated understanding of the role of the corporate compliance office. They learn about issues specific to some of the more heavily regulated industries, including banking and financial services. The M.S.L. in Corporate Compliance may be taken as an in-person or an online program.

law.fordham.edu/msl/compliance

M.S.L. in Fashion Law

Fashion industry professionals and entrepreneurs will develop their legal literacy while studying with both academics and industry insiders—in New York City, a capital of the world’s fashion industry.

law.fordham.edu/msl/fashion

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

For aspiring academics who hold an LL.M. from a U.S. law school, our highly competitive S.J.D. program is designed to provide a rigorous course of study and mentorship that supports the development of leading legal scholarship.

law.fordham.edu/sjd
Certificate Programs

Fordham Law offers a series of certificate programs designed to introduce foreign-trained law graduates and students to the U.S. legal system and help them acclimate to legal English. The programs are an excellent way to get a head start on LL.M. studies, or they may be taken as stand-alone programs.

Our Legal English Institute (L.E.I.) is a full-time, semester-long program designed to introduce students to the U.S. legal system while also helping hone legal English and fundamental lawyering skills.

In addition, our Summer Institute and Winter Institute provide a grounding in the U.S. legal system.

Fordham Law will reimburse the full amount of certificate program fees for students who enroll in one of our LL.M. programs within two calendar years of completing one of our certificate programs. Reimbursement will be applied toward the LL.M. tuition.

LEGAL ENGLISH INSTITUTE (L.E.I.)

Offered January to April or August to December

Join our semester-long Legal English Institute and study the foundations of U.S. law and the U.S. legal system while developing your legal English and lawyering skills. Participants may receive credit to be applied toward their Fordham LL.M. degree or enroll in a non-credit option.

COURSES (subject to change)

- Introduction to the U.S. Legal System and Law Study
- Foundations of Private Law
- Contract Drafting and Negotiation
- Fundamental Lawyering Skills
- Becoming a Lawyer
- Communication Pragmatics for Lawyers
- Legal English Tutorial

For more information:

law.fordham.edu/lei
lei@law.fordham.edu
Launched in 2007, the Fordham Law Summer Institute in New York City provides foreign-trained lawyers and students with an introduction to the U.S. legal system and various topics of U.S. law that are most important for lawyers in today’s global economy. The program also includes social events and other opportunities that allow participants to expand their professional networks. Typically, the program welcomes participants from more than 20 countries from around the world.

**TOPICS COVERED** (subject to change)
- Applying and Preparing for the LL.M. Program
- Bankruptcy Law
- Becoming a Lawyer
- Civil Procedure and Litigation
- Constitutional Law
- Contract Drafting and Negotiation
- Contract Law
- Corporate Reorganization in Bankruptcy
- Corporate Compliance
- Corporations
- Defamation and Privacy
- Evidence and Trial Practice
- Information Technology Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Arbitration
- Introduction to the U.S. Legal System
- Labor and Employment Law
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- U.S. Tax Law and Policy

Information on housing options for this program can be found on our web page.

For more information:
[law.fordham.edu/summerinstitute](http://law.fordham.edu/summerinstitute)
summernyc@law.fordham.edu

The Fordham Law Winter Institute is an intensive week spent learning about the U.S. legal system. Program participants study side by side with master’s students from around the world.

**TOPICS COVERED** (subject to change)
- Overview of the U.S. Legal System
- Reading, Briefing, and Analyzing Case Law
- U.S. Constitution: Articles and Amendments
- Constitutional Interpretation
- Sources of Law
- Precedent and Stare Decisis
- Applying to LL.M. Programs (optional)
- Preparing a U.S. Style Resume and Cover Letter (optional)

For more information:
[law.fordham.edu/winterinstitute](http://law.fordham.edu/winterinstitute)
winternyc@law.fordham.edu
LL.M. Admissions
International and Non-JD Programs
150 West 62nd Street
Suite 8-131
New York, NY 10023
USA
Tel: 212.636.6883
Fax: 212.636.6922
Email: llm@law.fordham.edu

Facebook: @FordhamLawIntl
Twitter: @FordhamLawINTL
Instagram: @fordhamlawintl
WeChat: Fordham_LLM

M.S.L. Admissions
law.fordham.edu/msl
msl@law.fordham.edu

S.J.D. Admissions
law.fordham.edu/sjd
sjd@law.fordham.edu

Legal English Institute
law.fordham.edu/lei
lei@law.fordham.edu

Summer Institute
law.fordham.edu/summerinstitute
summernyc@law.fordham.edu

Winter Institute
law.fordham.edu/winterinstitute
winternyc@law.fordham.edu