LL.M.
& Legal English
PROGRAMS

St. John’s University
School of Law
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Welcome to St. John’s Law

Our LL.M. (Master of Laws) programs offer an unmatched opportunity to learn U.S. and international law in an inviting and rigorous academic community on a beautiful, gated campus in the heart of New York City.

We stand out among law schools in providing unrivaled language and academic support for our international LL.M. students. We also offer multiple ways for you to qualify for the New York Bar Exam. Our advising team and faculty will help you set academic and career goals that fit your strengths and interests.

You’ll learn the fundamentals of legal analysis, legal doctrine, and legal writing in a modern common-law jurisdiction, and then build on that foundation as you solve real-world legal problems through in-class simulations.

Our modern facilities are regularly upgraded to promote learning and to provide inviting gathering spaces. The Belson Moot Court Room has won acclaim for its design and hosts marquee Law School events—including recent visits by U.S. Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito, Elena Kagan, and the late Antonin Scalia, as well as official sessions of federal and state courts of appeals. And the Law School has its own cafeteria with a wide menu selection.

Our Office of Graduate Studies is home to our LL.M. programs. It has comfortable seating areas, printers, computers, and many amenities for the exclusive use of LL.M. students. It’s staffed by dedicated faculty and Office of Graduate Studies team members who are focused on your success, including Legal English specialists, career counselors, academic advisors, and bar exam experts.

St. John’s Law is a vibrant and diverse community. Our students and alumni hail from, reside in, and represent countries around the world, including: Argentina, Belgium, China, the Dominican Republic, France, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, India, Italy, Iran, Lebanon, Macedonia, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and many others.

As an LL.M. student, you’ll participate in, and be inspired by regular scholarly discussions; join diverse student associations and interest groups; attend local bar association networking events; visit the United Nations and local courts on field trips; and connect with professors, students, and alumni in all practice fields. When it’s time to relax, you can join your classmates at a movie night, basketball game, soccer match, or at other social events hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies.

In these pages, you’ll see what it’s like to be part of our warm and welcoming Law School community, while earning an advanced law degree that can take you to the highest levels of the legal profession—at law firms, in government and public service, or in business.

I look forward to meeting you as you explore how St. John’s Law can put you on the path to a rewarding and meaningful career.

Sarah Jean Kelly
Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies
NYC: The Hub of Legal Practice
Queens: The World’s Borough

St. John’s is a New York City institution, and our Law School community reflects the richness and diversity of our dynamic metropolitan home.

We’re located on the gated campus of St. John’s University in Queens, New York City’s most diverse borough and one of the world’s most diverse urban spaces. The 100-acre campus has a park-like feel with green lawns, flowers and fountains, and majestic views of the Manhattan skyline. As part of the greater St. John’s community, you’ll have the opportunity to attend sporting events, concerts, festivals, and other celebrations the University offers year round.

From campus, you’ll find quick and easy public transportation to Manhattan, the hub of international legal practice and commerce and home to the world’s preeminent law firms, businesses, government agencies, and court systems. Mix in nearby neighborhoods that regularly top ‘hottest places to live’ lists; world-class shopping; fan-favorite sports teams; pulsating nightlife; a vibrant art scene; and an incomparable array of cuisines from all over the world, and it’s no wonder that the popular Lonely Planet guide named Queens its number one travel destination.
St. John’s Law first opened its doors in the heart of downtown Brooklyn in 1925, and for almost a century our graduates have used their law degrees to achieve at the highest levels in the legal profession and the business world.

As a St. John’s Law LL.M. student, you’ll have the support of more than 16,000 alumni who are success stories. They are state governors and other influential politicians; distinguished judges, including New York’s Chief Judge, Janet DiFiore; leaders of preeminent international law firms and corporations; and pioneering global entrepreneurs.

Your LL.M. education at St. John’s will set in motion a life in the law that will be dynamic and sustaining for years to come. If our past graduates are any measure, your options will be limited only by your aspirations.

Powerful Alumni Network

Elisa D. Garcia C. ’85
Chief Legal Officer, Macy’s, Inc.

Hon. Janet DiFiore ’84, ’17HON
Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

Lisa Chun ’00
Senior Vice President, Paulson & Co.

Michelle Johnson ’05
Director - Production Legal
Embassy Row - a Division of Sony Pictures Entertainment

Richard F. Hans ’93
Managing Partner, New York Office,
DLA Piper

Terry Winter ’88
Executive Producer and Writer
(The Sopranos, Boardwalk Empire,
The Wolf of Wall Street, Vinyl)
Focus On Career Success

At St. John’s Law, we focus on helping each and every student succeed in their career. We have a designated career counselor who works exclusively with our LL.M. students to help you:

**Discover** the career path that interests you, with tailored guidance based on your goals starting day one through graduation and beyond.

**Build** your knowledge in rigorous classes that teach the fundamentals of the law, hone practical lawyering skills, and develop targeted expertise so you graduate practice ready.

**Gain** hands-on experience through our internships, externships, journals, teaching and research assistant positions, and dispute resolution program.

**Connect** with our extensive alumni network, spanning New York City, across the country, and around the world.
Practical Learning

St. John’s LL.M. programs prepare you to be practice ready at graduation, and our curriculum helps you develop the lawyering skills you need to be successful.

You can test your knowledge, vocabulary, analytical ability, and communication skills in weekly in-class simulations on a broad range of subjects. You’ll also exercise negotiation, presentation, and delegation skills—all while gaining proficiency in the language of lawyering. Meanwhile, if your goal is to take the New York Bar Exam, you can hone your critical reading and analytical writing skills in specialized courses to prepare you to qualify and practice as a New York lawyer.

Our LL.M. students engage with leaders in the profession and world-class scholars while addressing timely legal issues through our 10 academic centers:

- Center for Bankruptcy Studies
- Center for International and Comparative Law
- Center for Labor and Employment Law
- Center for Law and Religion
- Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy
- Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution
- Intellectual Property Law Center
- Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law
- Public Interest Center
- Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights

We also host programs and events throughout the year where you’ll gain an insider’s view of the real-world practice of law, along with useful tips and advice from St. John’s Law alumni and other outstanding lawyers in the field. Our Center for International and Comparative Law Colloquia, our Visiting Jurist Series, and other VIP events invite discourse between St. John’s students and leading jurists and scholars.
LL.M. in Bankruptcy

St. John’s LL.M. in Bankruptcy is the nation’s preeminent LL.M. program devoted to bankruptcy law. Our curriculum includes a wide array of specialized bankruptcy courses taught by leading practitioners, judges, and academics, and offers unique experiential learning opportunities.

Enhancing the program’s offerings are the:

- American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review
- Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition
- National Bankruptcy Mediation Training
- ABI Bankruptcy Case Blog
- St. John’s Bankruptcy Research Library

This 24-credit program combines academic rigor with a practice-oriented approach that is designed to produce bankruptcy attorneys with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to become leaders in the structured reorganization field. You can take the program full time (one year) or part time (two to three years), entering in the fall or spring semester.

LL.M. in U.S. Legal Studies

Designed for foreign-trained attorneys preparing to practice law in the United States, our LL.M. in U.S. Legal Studies (USLS) is tailored to give you the knowledge and skills you need to pass the New York Bar Exam and succeed in practice in this important jurisdiction.

This two-semester program includes:

- Introduction to U.S. Law and Lawyering
- U.S. Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing
- Professional Responsibility
- Elective courses in subjects covered on the New York Bar Exam, as well as other courses in our J.D. program.

You’ll have the opportunity to enroll in Applied Legal Analysis, a course designed to help you build the knowledge and skills needed to be successful on the New York Bar Exam, and you’ll have the support of writing tutorials with a legal writing specialist. You can also choose to attend our weekly Bar Exam Language and Strategies program to practice the Legal English needed to write successful bar exam essays. Finally, in the weeks before the exam, you can review your knowledge of the law by attending a series of workshops on bar-tested subjects, taught by the Law School’s faculty.

You can take the USLS program full time (one year) or part time (two years), entering in the fall or spring semester. We strongly recommend that you take all, or most, of your elective credits in subjects tested on the New York Bar Exam.
LL.M. in Transnational Legal Practice

We designed our LL.M. program in Transnational Legal Practice (TLP) for internationally-educated students and practitioners who plan to practice transnational or international law, likely in their home countries, and who want to bring a strong knowledge of U.S. law and transnational law to that practice.

Offering balanced exposure to the practice of private and public international law, the TLP program prepares you to serve as a liaison between attorneys in your home country and the U.S. attorneys they do business with in the rapidly expanding cross-border practice of law.

During your course of study, you’ll earn 24 credits in required and elective courses. Required courses include two semesters of legal writing, two capstone courses dedicated to private transactions and public international laws and institutions, and an introductory course designed to acclimate you to the work and methods of American law schools. You’ll also take at least one foundational course taught by leading practitioners in the field, focusing on a core subject in transnational law.

The TLP program offers a choice of pathways, combining foundational courses and other electives into a cohesive schedule, to help you become well-versed in a specific area of cross-border practice. The pathways are:

- **Cross-Border Transactions**: For students interested in working in private practice with a focus on corporate law
- **Public International Practice**: For students interested in working at the United Nations or other international organizations, or non-governmental groups focused on international matters
- **International Trade and Investment Law**: For students interested in working in international trade, customs, and investment positions
- **Transnational Dispute Resolution**: For students interested in working in litigation, investor-state arbitration or international commercial arbitration, and mediation
- **Bar Examination**: For very strong students who want to take U.S. law courses to qualify for the New York Bar Exam in addition to learning about cross-border issues

All of our LL.M. elective courses include J.D. students—allowing you to learn from them, and them from you.
Unrivaled Legal English Instruction

St. John’s Law provides unrivaled academic support for our international LL.M. students with developing Legal English skills and basic knowledge of U.S. law. You’ll learn from lawyers who have extensive training and experience teaching English to non-native English speakers. With their expert guidance, you won’t just learn the law, you’ll learn the language of the law.

The one- or two-semester American Law: Discourse and Analysis program is available to students who require extra English language development before starting their formal LL.M. studies. Our spring and summer language support program, English for American Law School, gives new students a boost in legal vocabulary and communication before beginning their doctrinal courses. And our unique Bar Exam Language and Strategies program was designed by law professors with experience teaching English to help students master the language of bar exam essays.
Comprehensive Bar Exam Preparation

St. John’s takes a comprehensive approach to preparing our LL.M. students for the bar exam, with a focus on language education and individualized advising. You’ll meet with academic advisors throughout the year to customize a bar exam preparation program based on your English proficiency and knowledge of common law and the U.S. legal system.

Taught by a bar exam expert on our faculty, our two-semester Applied Legal Analysis (ALA) course readies you for the Multistate Bar Exam, the Multistate Essay Exam, and the Multistate Performance Test. With a thorough review of key bar tested subjects, you’ll learn to draft well-organized documents within the time limits of the bar exam. You’ll also receive personalized attention and feedback during a weekly writing tutorial.

The best predictor of bar passage for foreign-trained attorneys is Legal English proficiency, so we offer a supplemental, weekly Bar Exam Language and Strategies course focused for non-native English speakers. Every lesson focuses on practicing and improving performance on the Multistate Essay Exam, and gives you tailored language support.

In the critical weeks right before the bar exam, we provide dedicated bar exam study spaces, realistically proctored practice exams, individualized advice and support, and a variety of bar-focused workshops. You’ll also benefit from a weekly Bar Supplement Lecture that covers commonly tested vocabulary and concepts and includes essay review.
LL.M. Faculty

At St. John’s Law, our faculty members are more than just accomplished teachers and respected scholars in their fields. They’re also dedicated mentors who are here every day—inside and outside the classroom—to help you make the most of your LL.M. experience. And they’ll continue to guide and support you when you leave St. John’s and embark on your career path. Our world-renowned faculty includes:

Christopher J. Borgen
Professor of Law
Co-Director, Center for International and Comparative Law; A.B. Harvard University, J.D. New York University School of Law

Prior to joining the faculty at St. John’s Law, Professor Borgen was the Director of Research and Outreach at the American Society of International Law (ASIL), a non-partisan membership organization and think tank. At ASIL, he was responsible for defining research areas and implementing public outreach programs as well as specialized programs for the judiciary and the media. Professor Borgen began his legal career as a law clerk to Hon. Arlene R. Lindsay in the Eastern District of New York. He later spent three years as an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, practicing in the litigation and international corporate groups. He has also served as an international trade consultant in Hungary and received the Order of Civic Merit, the highest honor awarded to a civilian by the Republic of Moldova, for his work on the ongoing separatist conflict. Professor Borgen is co-founder of Opinio Juris, the leading international law blog. He teaches, or has taught, International Law, National Security and the Law, International Finance, the International Law Colloquium, the Law of the European Union, the Seminar on States and Sovereignty, and Contracts, among other courses.

Peggy McGuinness
Professor of Law
Faculty Director, LL.M. in Transnational Legal Practice; Co-Director, St. John’s Center for International and Comparative Law; B.A. American University, J.D. Stanford Law School

Professor McGuinness researches and teaches in the areas of international law and international human rights law, and has published widely on the subjects of international human rights law, international security and the resolution of armed conflict, and the role and influence of international law in the United States. She serves on the Council on International Affairs of the New York City Bar and the Executive Committee of the International Section of the New York State Bar Association, where she is also co-chair of the Public International Law Committee. She is an active member of the American Society of International Law and the International Law Association, and she co-founded Opinio Juris, the leading international law blog. Before arriving at St. John’s, Professor McGuinness clerked for Hon. Colleen McMahon in the Southern District of New York and worked as a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Her career in the law follows an early career as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department, which included service in Germany, Pakistan, and Canada, and as a Special Assistant to Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Robert Ruescher
Professor of Legal Writing
B.A. Columbia College, J.D. Columbia University School of Law

Before joining the St. John’s Law faculty, Professor Ruescher taught first-year writing, introductory research, and various upper-level writing courses at New York Law School. He also helped develop and administer that school’s writing courses and served as Assistant Director of the Program. In addition, Professor Ruescher has practiced banking, corporate, and securities law at several law firms, principally Moses & Singer LLP. He currently teaches Applied Legal Analysis and Civil Procedure, and has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching.

G. Ray Warner
Professor of Law
B.A. Emory University, J.D. Northwestern University School of Law, LL.M. New York University School of Law

Professor Warner is the former Associate Dean of Bankruptcy Studies at St. John’s Law. He is also Of Counsel to Greenberg Traurig, LLP, one of the nation’s largest law firms. He has published numerous articles on bankruptcy law, commercial law, and consumer law, and has consulted in many major bankruptcy and consumer law cases. Professor Warner is a multiple recipient of law school teaching awards and a frequent seminar speaker. He is a founder of the American Board of Certification, the only national credentialing body for bankruptcy and creditors’ rights practitioners, and is a Director and former Secretary of the American Bankruptcy Institute. Professor Warner is also a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, a founding member of the International Insolvency Institute, an editor of the International Insolvency Law Review, and served as Chair of the Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Post-Graduate Legal Education. He currently is Co-Advisor to the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and heads the national Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, both of which are co-sponsored by St. John’s and the American Bankruptcy Institute.

To learn more about the outstanding St. John’s Law faculty, please visit stjohns.edu/law/faculty.
Diverse and Welcoming Community


These are words used again and again by our students, faculty, staff, and alumni to describe St. John’s Law.

When the Law School opened its doors in 1925, welcoming men and women of different economic, religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, one local newspaper described our first class as one of the the most diverse in New York City, containing “every nationality, creed, cult, age and section of the city.”

Today’s St. John’s Law community remains diverse in every way, with students hailing from, residing in, and representing countries around the world, including: Argentina, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Italy, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and many other countries.

The Office of Graduate Studies team and most faculty members who teach in the LL.M. programs have studied or worked internationally. They know how to support international students, and are committed to bringing St. John’s to the world and the world to St. John’s through their work.

You’ll feel right at home as your learning extends beyond the classroom to study groups, lunch meetings, open-door faculty and administrative offices, informal get-togethers, and pickup soccer games. And you’ll find camaraderie and kinship as a member of one or more of the student organizations coordinated by the Law School’s Student Bar Association.

As a St. John’s LL.M. student, you can also take advantage of all the academic, recreational, and cultural resources that St. John’s University has to offer, including the fitness center, music and theater performances, spectator sports, and religious facilities, including a multi-faith prayer room.

In addition, the Law School provides resources to students seeking off-campus housing, and the University maintains a group of townhouses exclusively for our students.

We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful St. John’s Law family!
Transferring to the J.D. Program

Exceptional LL.M. students may apply to transfer to the J.D. program at St. John’s Law during their final semester of LL.M. study and, if admitted, complete the J.D. program in four additional academic semesters. LL.M. to J.D. transfer applicants don’t have to submit a GRE or LSAT score, and admitted students typically have a GPA of 3.6 or higher in their LL.M. program.

As an LL.M. to J.D. transfer student, you may begin your J.D. studies in the fall or spring semester after completing your LL.M requirements. You then spend a year completing your 1L J.D. curriculum and the next year taking the required upper-level J.D. courses and elective courses, thereby receiving both your LL.M. and J.D. degrees in three years.

Why transfer to the J.D. program? You have:

• A chance to take even more of the courses tested on the New York Bar Exam and advanced courses in your desired career field
• Two additional years to improve your Legal English to maximize your chances to pass the bar exam
• An opportunity to complete internships, externships, and clinical placements to gain more practical legal experience
• The ability to take on leadership roles on student-edited journals, participate in the scholarly work of the academic centers, and compete on the Law School’s dispute resolution teams
• The chance to use your J.D. experience to advance your career prospects and stand out in the legal hiring process
We consider all LL.M. applicants for scholarships automatically as part of the application review process. There is no separate scholarship application.

**LL.M. Applicants Must Submit:**

1. **A Completed Application**
2. **A Current Resume**
3. **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation**—from people who know your professional skills and legal abilities. Law professors, law firm partners, or work supervisors can be excellent references.
4. **A Writing sample**—of 250 words or more. This should be your best legal writing. For example, you can translate part of a legal document you wrote.
5. **A Personal Statement**—of any length explaining:
   - How you learned about St. John’s Law and our LL.M. programs
   - Why you’re interested in this LL.M. degree
   - Your professional goals
   - How you intend to pursue those goals
   - How you want to develop your career after graduation
6. **English Proficiency Tests Results**—from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test. Due to the rigorous nature of our LL.M. programs, all students must have a high level of comprehension and oral and written expression in the English language. If you haven’t taken the IELTS test or TOEFL, you can request a St. John’s English language assessment. The testing requirement doesn’t apply to applicants from Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.
7. **Official Transcripts**—for each undergraduate, graduate, and law school you have attended. Submit official transcripts with an English translation, along with your application, directly to the Office of Graduate Studies. You don’t need to provide transcripts for summer school courses or study abroad programs recorded in your official transcripts. **Reminder:** Additional original transcripts are required when registering with LSAC.
8. **Degree Certificates**—if your official transcript doesn’t clearly state the degree awarded and/or the date such degree was awarded.

**Application Fee**
There is a non-refundable $100 (USD) application fee. This fee won’t be credited towards your tuition if you’re accepted into an LL.M. program.

**Please Mail Your Application To:**
St. John’s University
School of Law
Office of Graduate Studies
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, N.Y. 11439

**Copies Of Application Materials**
Please retain copies of your application materials and all your correspondence with us for your records. All submitted application materials become the property of St. John’s Law and can’t be returned to you. **Please include your social security number or Visa number, if applicable, on any materials you submit in connection with your application.**

**Special Mail Deliveries**
If you send your application materials via express services that require a signature, please include instructions that the package is to be delivered to Suite 3-01 of the Law School. Packages can only be accepted Monday through Friday.

To learn more about the LL.M. program application requirements, including how to pay your application fee, please visit [stjohns.edu/law/llm-programs](stjohns.edu/law/llm-programs).