

# LL.M. FOR FOREIGN LAWYERS



School of Law



Duquesne University School of Law • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## STUDY U.S. LAW WITH U.S. LAW STUDENTS

Duquesne University School of Law offers a one-year Master of Laws (LL.M.) for Foreign Lawyers degree for candidates who are studying law or law-related fields, or who have already received a law degree from an institution recognized by the competent accrediting agency of the government of their home country.

Duquesne Law has LL.M./LL.B. degree agreements with a number of institutions. Students from these institutions who have completed three years of their LL.B. degree at their home institutions can complete their fourth year at Duquesne Law and earn an LL.M. degree.

All LL.M. students can pursue either a General Curriculum or a Bar-Track Curriculum. Both provide opportunities to study and improve legal research, writing, and analytical skills in the context of United States law.

### Choose your LL.M. Program

- General Track with Subject Concentrations
- Bar Track for Calif. or N.Y. Bar Examinations

The General Track is designed to familiarize foreign lawyers and students with the general principles of U.S. law and prepare them for the demands of practicing law in a global economy. Program graduates will return to their home countries prepared to work with their colleagues and with U.S. attorneys handling issues that involve U.S. law.

The Bar Track is designed for students interested in preparing to the bar examination in California or in New York.

Students who wish to take a U.S. bar exam in another U.S. jurisdiction should instead apply to Duquesne Law's J.D. program.

The one-year LL.M. program begins in the fall semester.

### LANGUAGE

English language ability must meet or exceed a 90 TOEFL examination score, or an IELTS score of 7 for admission to either track of the LL.M. program. All candidates also must successfully complete a telephone interview with the Office of Admissions in order to establish the necessary fluency in English.

Candidates with a TOEFL score between 85-89 or an IELTS score of 6.5 may be conditionally admitted to the General Track LL.M. Program after the phone interview and at the discretion of the Dean's Office in consultation with the University.

*\*Duquesne University reserves the right to change tuition and fees herein states at any time without notice.*

## PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Duquesne Law is located on a 50-acre campus, within blocks of federal, state, and county courts and numerous large- and mid-sized law firms and corporate offices in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The location offers LL.M. students the best of two worlds — a secure, private enclave for academic pursuits and easy access to a vibrant urban center where students can gain professional experience and take advantage of Pittsburgh's affordable cultural offerings.

Housing is available on campus or nearby in Pittsburgh's many neighborhoods.

## ESL AND SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

Once LL.M. students arrive at Duquesne, all must complete testing by the University's English as a Second Language (ESL) Department, the results of which will determine whether individuals are required to take any additional English language courses while pursuing the LL.M.

Candidates for the General Track who are lawyers or candidates for a foreign law degree are strongly encouraged to attend Duquesne Law's Summer Bridge Program for Foreign Law Students in the months immediately preceding matriculation. For candidates holding or pursuing a foreign law-related degree (as opposed to a law degree), attendance is required.

Candidates for the Bar Track are also required to participate in the Summer Bridge Program.

Campus-wide, Duquesne University welcomes students from more than 80 countries. LL.M. candidates accepted into Duquesne Law work with the LL.M. program staff and the University's Office of International Programs concerning visa and other international student issues.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is April 30 for entry in August of that year. The deadline can be extended at the discretion of the Assistant Dean of Admissions.

## TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2017-2018 LL.M. tuition is an affordable \$24,238.\* The 2018-2019 tuition rate will be set in Spring 2018.

Applicants may be considered for scholarship funds.

**BEST VALUE**  
**Private Law School**  
*National Jurist*  
October 2017

**RANKED**  
*U.S. News & World Report*  
March 2017

## GENERAL CURRICULUM

### offering

- Subject-Area Concentrations
- Externship Work Opportunities
- Mentor Relationships

The General Curriculum, or Non-Bar-Track, features a selection of required core American law courses and a variety of eligible elective courses. In addition, the General Curriculum offers the opportunity for students to select an optional subject-area concentration and tap into externship opportunities and mentor relationships.

Three subject-area concentrations are available within the General Track:

- Intellectual Property
- Corporate Governance
- Energy and Environmental Law

Each LL.M. student who select a subject-area concentration is also eligible for an externship, or work placement, with a law firm or corporation in Pittsburgh during the spring semester. In addition, the student is eligible to be matched with a mentor, that is, a lawyer or other practitioner who can provide additional support and professional advice.

All General Track LL.M. candidates must complete a certain number of required courses within 24 months from the date of matriculation. The candidates must receive passing grades in classes totaling 24 credits. Summer Bridge Program courses are not counted toward the required credits.

### Core Courses

- Introduction to the American Legal System
- Legal Research Writing and Analysis
- Minimum of two courses from the following list:
  - Contracts I, II
  - Torts I, II
  - Civil Procedure I, II
  - Property I, II
  - Criminal Law
  - Criminal Procedure
  - Constitutional Law I, II

### Elective Courses

In addition to the core courses, LL.M. candidates may take any elective or J.D.-required course, with some exceptions.

### Grading

The examinations of LL.M. candidates in the General Curriculum will be specifically identified and graded outside of any curve established by Duquesne Law. LL.M. candidates will be graded in all courses on a pass/fail basis. Non-native English speakers can use a common-language (not legal) translating dictionary during examinations. At the professor's discretion, other accommodations may be offered.

## BAR-TRACK CURRICULUM

### offering studies leading to taking

- California Bar Exam
- N.Y. Bar Exam

The Bar-Track Curriculum provides foreign-trained lawyers with the foundations for practicing law in the U.S. LL.M. students in this program gain grounding in the basic principles of American law in a curriculum of 25 credits designed to meet the requirements to sit for the bar examinations in New York or California.

In certain limited circumstances, foreign lawyers who have practiced for five of the last eight years, and who meet other requirements, may sit for the Pennsylvania bar exam.

The total credits required for the Bar-Track Curriculum must be successfully completed within one calendar year of matriculation.

### Core Courses

The Bar-Track Curriculum requires successful completion of structured instruction in core courses in the American legal system, including Legal Research, Writing and Analysis; Core Competencies for Legal Practice I and II; Contract Law; Professional Responsibility (Ethics); and Property Law or Constitutional Law.

### Elective Courses

In addition to the core courses, Bar Track candidates may take up to two electives in courses offered by the School of Law, with specific exceptions. It is strongly recommended that student take electives in subjects that are tested on the bar examination, including Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Civil Procedure; Sales (UCC), and Corporations.

### Grading

Examinations of LL.M. candidates on the Bar Track will be the same exams as, and will be subject to the same standards and grading scale, as J.D. candidates. Accommodations for LL.M. candidates in the Bar-Track Curriculum differ from those in the General Curriculum.

Please note that Duquesne University School of Law strictly adheres to a policy of non-discrimination and will make reasonable accommodations for students as required by law.

Successful candidates on the Bar Track shall receive the LL.M. degree with Honors.

## GRADUATES

Graduates of Duquesne University School of Law's LL.M. program include students from:

- China
- Croatia
- Germany
- India
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Saudi Arabia
- Venezuela

*"My experience at Duquesne was both challenging and rewarding. The location was great, a beautiful green campus located in a friendly American town. The entire faculty welcomed me very kindly and really made me feel at home."*

— LL.M. Program Graduate, 2014

[duq.edu/law/academics/llm](http://duq.edu/law/academics/llm)

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