LLM DEGREE PROGRAM

Northwestern
PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

law.northwestern.edu/llm
The business world and legal profession have undergone radical changes during the past couple of decades. Today, business and legal practices are not based solely on culture or geography—they are universal, having crystallized around common law conventions and rules. International lawyers who master the principles of U.S. law and understand its role in business will succeed no matter where in the world their offices are located or where their clients do business.

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, one of the top-rated law schools in the world, is proud to offer our LLM (Master of Law) degree program, designed to expand students’ knowledge of law and legal processes and provide opportunities for them to gain expertise in a specialized field of law. This nine-month LLM program offers outstanding graduates of foreign law schools an opportunity to expand their knowledge of American law and legal processes, continue their studies in international law, and engage in comparative legal research.

Graduates of the LLM program represent more than 50 countries and hold prominent positions in many areas of practice. They include attorneys, professors, judges, corporate counsel, consultants, human rights workers, bankers, and civil servants.
Program Structure and Curriculum

LLM students are free to design their own programs of study from Northwestern Law’s many upper-level courses and seminars, including commercial and corporate, international, constitutional, and human rights law.

During their time in residence, students enroll in two mandatory courses—Common Law Reasoning, which focuses on the fundamental research, analysis, and drafting skills expected of U.S.-trained lawyers, and a course in American legal studies, which introduce students to the history and principal characteristics of the American public and private law systems. With the exception of these courses, LLM students are completely integrated with American JD students.

Students must complete at least 20 law credit hours to earn the LLM degree, and are provided with a broad array of 360-degree learning curricular choices from which to select. These include practical courses with a focus on lawyering skills, such as Structuring Transactions, Contract Drafting, Negotiation, Mediation, and Trial Advocacy. There is also an array of unique training in the intersection between law and business, including Cross-Border Transactions, Arbitration, Mergers & Acquisitions, Entrepreneurship, and Private Equity.

The Northwestern Law School also offers five fundamental business courses as part of the LLM curriculum. These courses are taught by professors of the distinguished Northwestern Kellogg School of Management, and include: Accounting for Decision Making, Business Analytics, Business Strategy, Finance, and Leadership.

Additionally, as a leader in business-legal training and regulatory analysis, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law provides access to world-class research and practice centers, including the Searle Center on Law, Regulation, and Economic Growth; the Center of Negotiation and Mediation; the Donald Pritzker Entrepreneurship Law Center; and the Center for Practice Engagement.

LLM graduates may qualify to sit for the New York State Bar Exam and the California State Bar Exam, two of the mostly widely used amongst global companies, if they meet specific entry requirements and pursue a specialized curriculum.
Faculty

With a low student-faculty ratio and small classes, students establish one-on-one relationships with distinguished scholars who are world players in today’s leading legal, academic, and public policy issues. Northwestern Law faculty members are internationally renowned scholars in the areas of corporate and criminal law, international trade, international human rights, business associations, and contracts. The faculty includes a past chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, a former deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice, the former U.S. Ambassador at large for War Crimes Issues, and the first American attorney to argue a case before the European Court of Human Rights.

Professional Development and Career Strategy Center

The LLM program has a dedicated staff member who counsels LLM students and provides career search guidance. The LLM program does not prepare students for permanent employment in the United States, however the Career Center will assist students who wish to seek internships, visiting or foreign attorney positions in the U.S., as well as enhanced employment opportunities at home. The Career Center provides training and workshops on all aspects of a job search in the U.S., including Preparing a U.S.-Style Cover Letter and Resume, Researching and Networking, and Interviewing. In addition, students develop their practical skills through an extensive mock interview program and etiquette dinners. Each year students may go to New York or California for an international student job fair where many larger American and international employers interview students for positions in the United States and abroad.

Language Support

The Law School’s English as a Second Language (ESL) Services help students improve their English language skills and, more generally, assist students with the challenges of being advanced English language learners at a U.S. law school. Students have access to writing tutors, conversation groups, grammar workshops, and specialized language development software. All services are offered or coordinated by an expert in English as a Second Language.
Student Life and Involvement Opportunities

Most of our international students have several years of work experience as legal professionals. They join the Northwestern Pritzker Law community to gain valuable hands-on experience in U.S. law and business. In our close-knit community, LLM students are fully integrated with JD students both in and out of the classroom. An LLM representative is elected to the Student Bar Association, the student governing organization, and all LLM students are able to participate in more than 50 student organizations that have grown out of students’ academic and recreational interests.

The dedicated LLM Student Services support team assists students in taking full advantage of their time at Northwestern Law and in Chicago with year-long programming. This includes academic counseling and workshops, curricular advising, pro-bono public service opportunities, and special activities for students’ spouses and families. There are also events and programming specifically designed to enhance the international student experience at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, including:

- **Global Village** is an annual celebration of the culture and diversity at the Law School. Students proudly share food, customs, and performances from their home countries.
- **Moot Court** teams are formed and team members travel to compete in the annual VIS International Arbitration Moot Competition.
- The **LLM Thanksgiving Host Program** matches LLM students with JD students, faculty, and staff to provide an authentic, American holiday experience.
- A **Soccer Match** against the University of Chicago is organized by LLM representatives on a biannual basis.
- **Global Conversations** is a lunch or dinner event that allows international and American students to meet and discuss cultural issues in a relaxed setting.
- **Legal Field Trips** to courts such as the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals give students the opportunity to view the legal system in action. Visits to local law firms provide extensive networking opportunities with professionals in the city and members of our alumni community.
- The **Global Partners** program matches LLM students with JD partners. The JDs serve as a general resource for LLMs as they acclimate to law school life. Partners participate in social events throughout the year.
Networking Opportunities

As members of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law community, LLM students have abundant opportunities to network with industry experts, thought leaders, and Northwestern’s large global network of alumni. One way that students gain this exposure is through the Global Legal Practice Lecture Series, which features legal professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators, and corporate leaders.

Living and Studying in Chicago

Chicago is a city of global status and unsurpassed beauty, and is home to one of the most vibrant legal and business communities in the world. As the third most-populated city in the country, Chicago is an international and yet distinctly American city that offers something for everybody, including world-renowned museums, historical sites, music, architecture, professional sports, diverse restaurants, nightspots, and miles of lakefront parks and beaches.

A regional hub of commerce and government, the city provides an ideal setting for LLM study. Chicago is home to many of the nation’s largest corporations and law firms, as well as the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Stock Exchange, and the Chicago Board of Trade. Almost every federal and state agency and every level of trial and appellate court has offices in the city. The city has multiple, easy-to-access public transportation systems available for use. These are only some of the many benefits Northwestern Law students and faculty enjoy from living, studying, and working in Chicago.

The Northwestern Pritzker School of Law campus is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Streeterville, one of Chicago’s most beautiful and exciting neighborhoods. Its scenic lakefront location, right on legendary Lakeshore Drive, is within walking distance of two beautiful beaches and is just a few blocks from the famed Magnificent Mile, a stretch of Michigan Avenue that boasts a wide variety of cultural landmarks, restaurants, and boutiques. The building is adjacent to Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.
Program Admissions

Applicants to the LLM degree program must hold a first degree in law from a university or college whose law degree requirements are comparable to Northwestern’s requirements. Prospective students must submit an online application, which includes a statement of interest, a resume or CV, a letter of recommendation, and official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. Students must have a high level of English proficiency. Applicants whose native language is not English must also submit an official copy of their TOEFL or IELTS score report.

Tuition and Financial Aid

The Law School awards several LLM fellowship grants based on merit and financial need; these generally cover only part of the tuition. Most applicants request financial assistance, and not all applicants who are in need will receive fellowships. Therefore, all applicants are encouraged to investigate other sources of support, including employers and government agencies, scholarship funds, and family and personal funds.

For more information, contact

International Programs
international.programs@law.northwestern.edu

Admissions and Financial Aid
admissions@law.northwestern.edu

Apply Now
apply.law.northwestern.edu/apply