Northwestern Pritzker School of Law blends a rigorous intellectual environment with a collegial and supportive community. Our students have access to some of the most accomplished interdisciplinary research faculty in the nation, and with one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios, they enjoy a great deal of individual access to these scholars, even after graduation.
Our lakefront location in the heart of downtown Chicago provides a spectacular setting in which to live and study. A major world financial center, Chicago is the third largest city in the United States and one of its largest legal markets. Northwestern Law’s proximity to courts, commerce, and public interest activities enables students to experience the practice of law, as well as its theory, in one of the most vibrant legal and business communities in the world.

The Northwestern Law community is distinguished for its hospitality, friendliness, and sincerity, which provides a supportive environment for international students.
LLM DEGREE PROGRAM

Program Structure and Curriculum

The General LLM Program at Northwestern is very flexible, allowing students to design a program of study that meets both their academic and career goals. 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. With very few exceptions, LLM students are completely integrated with students in the JD program.

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

LLM graduates may qualify to sit for the New York and California State Bar exams, two of the most widely used among global companies, if they meet specific entry requirements and complete the requisite coursework.

The Kellogg Core Courses

In the past, LLM students have had the opportunity to take certain core Kellogg School of Management courses, such as Accounting for Decision Making and Business Strategy, which are taught by full-time Kellogg professors. A varying number of these courses are offered each semester and students receive full course credit towards their LLM degree when taking them.
“Northwestern provides a rich curriculum combined with an excellent student experience. In this environment, I discovered my professional interests and developed lifelong friendships!”

— JIAYUE WANG ’19
Attorney, JunHe LLP
Shanghai

Career Services
The LLM program has a dedicated career advisor who counsels LLM students and provides career guidance. The Career Strategy Center provides training and workshops on all aspects of a job search in the US, including cover letter and resume writing, networking, and interview preparation. Students may also participate in job fairs in New York and California, where many larger American and international employers interview students for positions in the United States and abroad.

“Northwestern Law immediately felt like home. Students, faculty and staff always strive for academic excellence, but in a welcoming environment. At Northwestern, competition takes a backseat to camaraderie and collaboration.”

— LEOPOLDO MELO ’19
JD Candidate George Washington University Law Center, Venezuela
The International Programs team ensures that students in the LLM Program and their families have an exciting and successful experience at Northwestern Law, both academically and personally. The following activities and events highlight the international student experience at Northwestern Law:

- **ACE (Academic, Curricular, Career, Cultural, & English Excellence)** is a comprehensive student support and advising program designed to help students succeed academically while learning professional skills and cultural competencies that will benefit them throughout their legal careers. ACE programming includes English language discussion groups, private writing tutors, peer advising, and career-related information and advice.

- **Global Village** celebrates the culture and diversity of the Law School. Students from all degree programs proudly share food, cultural customs, and performances from their home country.

- **The LLM Committee** plans academic, professional, and social events of interest to current LLM students.

- **LLMentors Program** connects current LLM students with alums of the program. This mentorship program is meant to be mutually beneficial – to learn from the experiences of one another, grow one’s professional network, and hopefully, make a new friend in the Northwestern Law community.

- **Lunch Lectures** are a series of lectures by faculty members for students in the LLM Class.

- **Global Conversations** provides students in all programs the opportunity to discuss cross-cultural issues in a fun and relaxed setting.

- **LLM Thanksgiving Host Program** matches LLM students with JD students, faculty, and staff to provide an authentic, American holiday experience.

- **Legal Field Trips** allow LLM students to experience the US legal system firsthand by visiting courts, law firms, government agencies, and corporations.

- **The Student Bar Association** invites LLM students to participate in its various committees and the more than 40 student organizations it oversees.
The Executive LLM is a program designed for practicing attorneys with a significant amount of work experience. We recognize that many lawyers at this level cannot afford to be away from their employers or clients to attend a nine-month LLM Program. The Executive LLM Program gives students the flexibility to complete their degree in an accelerated time frame, minimizing their time away from home and work. Students in the ELLM Program have access to the same resources as all Northwestern law students and will be taught by Northwestern faculty. Coursework is intensive and rigorous, but manageable. Graduates of the ELLM earn an LLM degree and may qualify to sit for the bar exam in some states, including California.

The ELLMC curriculum focuses on critical topics in business law. Courses vary from year to year, but the core curriculum typically includes:

- **Fundamental classes:** Negotiations, Civil Procedure, Contracts and Business Associations.
- **Advanced corporate topics:** Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate Governance, International Taxation and Intellectual Property
- **Ethics and Professional Responsibility**, an additional course that focuses on the laws governing lawyers, is available as an elective online.

**Career Services**

Students in the ELLMC program have a dedicated career advisor who meets with students individually for counseling appointments and offers a series of professional development workshops.
“I dreamed of taking an LLM for years, but could never carve out the time to do so. The four-month ELLMC program was perfect for me. The faculty and my classmates were incredibly prepared. Sitting in those classes, discussing complex legal scenarios reminded me why I enjoy studying law so much.”

—ALESSANDRA DE ROSA
Lead Counsel, IP
Facebook
Program Structure and Curriculum

Program Structure and Curriculum Students in Northwestern’s Tax Program must take eight required courses, two semesters of coursework in each of the four pillar areas of tax law:

• Taxation of Property Transactions
• Corporate Taxation
• Partnership Taxation
• International Taxation

Beyond the required courses, students may design their own program of study by taking four elective courses.

Tax LLM students also have the option to earn a certificate in one of four substantive areas of taxation by earning 10 credits in one of the following areas of tax:

• Corporate Tax
• International Tax
• Tax Controversy
• Wealth Transfer and Legacy Planning
Career Services

The Career Strategy Center has a career advisor devoted exclusively to students in the Tax Program. In addition to individual counseling appointments, the advisor provides tax-specific seminars, panels and workshops on such topics as tax careers, networking, interviewing and business etiquette. Northwestern also organizes and participates in the Tax Attorney Recruiting Event (TARE) job fair in Washington D.C.

“I could not be happier with my decision to attend Northwestern’s Tax LLM Program. The International Tax coursework gave me the necessary tools and opportunities to help me land a job in an international law firm.”

—LUCAS RESENDE
Tax LLM ’19
International Tax Associate, Garrigues
LLM IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

The LLM Program in International Human Rights (IHR LLM) provides an in-depth study of the norms and mechanisms of international human rights law and international criminal law. A signature feature of this program is the strong sense of community that develops each year among the IHR LLM class, whose members come from throughout the world and bring with them rich and diverse experiences working to advance human rights in their home countries.

The small size of the IHR LLM program assures that students also benefit from a close working relationship with the faculty of Northwestern’s Center for International Human Rights, all of whom have extensive experience in the field of human rights. IHR LLMs have access to the full range of programs presented by the Center for International Human Rights. In particular, many IHR LLMs participate in an IHR clinic class, where they have the opportunity to work alongside fellow students and CIHR faculty on human rights cases or projects from within the U.S. or around the world. On occasion, IHR LLMs have had the chance to participate in advocacy at the UN in Geneva as part of their clinic work.
Program Structure and Curriculum

The LLM in International Human Rights curriculum consists of three core courses, which fulfill 8 of the 20 required credits for the LLM in International Human Rights:

- International Human Rights Law
- International Criminal Law
- Human Rights Advocacy: Legal Analysis and Writing
- Human Rights Colloquium

LLM IHR students may select from a wide array of elective human rights courses to earn the additional 12 credits that are required to complete the degree.

IHR LLM graduates are working in their home countries and internationally to put to good use all that they have learned during their year at Northwestern – at the International Criminal Court, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; at national human rights institutions, national truth and reconciliation commissions, and government agencies; as members of legislatures; on university faculties educating the next generation of lawyers; as human rights defenders with international or domestic NGOs; as lawyers in private practice who maintain their commitment to pro bono work; and in a host of other settings.

“I heartily believe my passion is in rule of law and human rights. Northwestern opened up many doors that have been integral in my career development. The LLM in International Human Rights offered me an opportunity to build up my career in a field of study that I hold dear.”

— CHARLES MAJINGE,
LLM IHR ’07
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Arusha, Tanzania
The application filing period for the ELLMC, LLM, and LLM IHR Programs is September 1 – January 15. The filing period for the Tax Program is September 1 – June 1. Applicants to all programs must have a first degree in law and/or be eligible to sit for the bar exam in their home country. Applicants should also have a high level of English proficiency. A completed application consists of the following:

- Application for admission
- Personal statement
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae written in English
- The Law School LLM Credential Assembly Service (CAS) consisting of:
  - Post-Secondary Transcript(s) translated into English
  - TOEFL or IELTS score report
  - A minimum of one letter of recommendation
- Non-refundable application fee of $75

Applicants may also conduct an optional online video interview. Interviews provide the Admissions Committee with additional information about your communication skills, maturity and motivation.
FINANCIAL AID

Applicants admitted to all programs except the LLM in International Human Rights are automatically under consideration for a scholarship award; no additional form or application is required. Awards are based on a combination of need and merit and will follow the offer of admission.

LLM in International Human Rights Program applicants will receive a scholarship application after being admitted to the program. Scholarship decisions are based on need and merit.

Important Links

Admissions  
Campus Tour  
General LLM  
Tax Program  
LLM in International Human Rights  
Executive LLM  
International Programs Office  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Important Dates

Contact Us

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Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
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www.law.northwestern.edu/admissions

Apply Now

www.law.northwestern.edu/admissions/applying