

A background image of the Los Angeles skyline, featuring several tall palm trees in the foreground and a dense cluster of skyscrapers in the background. The image has a pinkish-purple color overlay.

General LL.M. Program

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S



Southwestern is located in Los Angeles, which has long been regarded as the Entertainment Capital of the World.



AN INDIVIDUALIZED MASTER OF LAWS PROGRAM

Effective post-J.D. legal study provides the opportunity to explore areas of the law in more depth through a customized curriculum taught by leading experts in a stimulating academic environment. Southwestern Law School offers an outstanding Master of Laws (LL.M.) program fulfilling that promise.

Southwestern's flexible General LL.M. in Individualized Studies is designed for students with a law degree from the U.S. or abroad wanting to expand legal knowledge to further personal and professional goals.

Each Southwestern LL.M. student draws from over 150 courses to curate a unique curriculum in their chosen legal specialty. The LL.M. degree requires 24 credit hours of post-J.D. coursework. Students study on a full- or part-time basis and may begin their coursework in the fall or spring.

Our landmark campus represents the best Southern California has to offer. Southwestern occupies nearly two city blocks in a dynamic metropolitan location close to theaters, restaurants, parks, and public transportation.

You join a community of trailblazers spanning more than 100 years. Southwestern's 11,000+ alumni include prominent leaders in law, business, and public service in nearly every state and in more than two dozen countries. Our impressive alumni base includes legislators, mayors, over 400 state and federal judges, founding /name partners in big, medium, small, and solo firms; as well as senior executives and general counsel to entertainment and corporations across the globe.

“Southwestern is a remarkable place with a rich tradition of making a difference in the futures of its students. The law school's innovative and collaborative spirit is part of its DNA. The faculty and countless graduates are committed to helping today's students contribute to the complex and challenging worlds they will occupy as professionals.”

Dean Susan Westerberg Prager



The law school's campus includes the historic Bullocks Wilshire building.

A PERSONALIZED CURRICULUM

Working closely with a faculty advisor, each LL.M. student tailors a course of study from over 150 elective and core courses. Possible areas of concentration include:

- Advocacy and Dispute Resolution
- American Law and Legal Systems
- Business Enterprise Organization and Practice
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts and Commercial Law
- Corporate Securities Law
- Criminal Law and Practice
- Employment and Labor Law
- Family and Juvenile Law
- Intellectual Property Law*
- International and Comparative Law
- International Business Law and Negotiation
- International Human Rights
- Jurisprudence and Legal History
- Public Interest/Civil Rights/Civil Liberties
- Real Property/Environmental Law/Land Use
- Technology Law and Entrepreneurship
- Torts and Compensation Systems

* Applicants interested in this area may wish to consider Southwestern's Entertainment and Media Law LL.M. program.

Note: This list represents a sampling of the possible concentrations. A complete and current course listing is available on Southwestern's website (www.swlaw.edu).

LL.M. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the LL.M. degree, students must complete 24 credit hours of post-J.D. coursework, 12 of which must be earned at Southwestern. A maximum of 30 units may be applied to the LL.M. degree. Courses previously taken for credit for a J.D. or equivalent degree will not be counted toward the LL.M. degree.

Full-time students:

- Take 8 to 16 units per semester
- Typically complete degree within one academic year

Part-time students:

- Take 2 to 7 units per semester
- Typically complete degree within two academic years

Note: International students on F1 Visas are required to maintain full-time enrollment.

All students must complete all coursework for the LL.M. within four years. LL.M. students attend classes with Southwestern's J.D. students and have the flexibility of choosing courses offered in the day or evening. Southwestern offers several foundational courses specifically for internationally educated LL.M. students.

LL.M. Foundational Courses

Southwestern courses for internationally educated LL.M. students include:

- Introduction to American Law
- Legal Writing for LL.M. Students
- Contract Law, Skills, and Negotiation
- Practical Legal Research: LL.M.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE REAL WORLD

LL.M. students can augment their studies by participating in Southwestern's stimulating clinics, externships, and practicums.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Clinic students work on real cases for academic credit under supervision of faculty who are practicing attorneys. The students take on heavy responsibility for strategy and execution of an array of legal matters and are often involved in cases from beginning to end.

Clinics include:

- Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Children's Rights Clinic
- Community Lawyering Clinic
- Entertainment and the Arts Legal Clinic
- Immigration Law Clinic
- Street Law Clinic



You'll find all of humanity here in Los Angeles—with all of their creativity, all of their promise, and all of their problems waiting to be solved—a great laboratory for law students.”

Vice Dean Christopher D. Ruiz Cameron

EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Southwestern's Externship Program is one of the largest in the country and provides students with an opportunity to experience the attorney's role in a variety of on-site placements. The more than 150 legal settings available range from the California Attorney General's Office to Lionsgate Entertainment; from the Alliance for Children's Rights to the District Attorney's Office; and from the California Superior Court to the United State's Court of Appeals.

PRACTICUM PROGRAMS

In addition to externships and clinics, Southwestern offers practicums that provide real-world training in legal research, brief writing, client relations, negotiation and oral argument.

Practicums open to LL.M. students include:

- Entertainment Law Firm Practicum
- Immigration Appeals Practicum
- Law Firm Practicum

FACULTY VOICES



“

Our international LL.M. students energize classes with their enthusiasm and offer unique comparative perspectives on legal issues that they share both in and out of the classroom.”

Professor Jonathan Miller

“

We have had the privilege of educating exceptional LL.M. students—many are Fulbright scholars and talented lawyers from around the globe. As they learn about American law, they enrich the diversity of our school and bring stimulating new perspectives to the classroom experience.”

Professor Anahid Gharakhanian



“

There’s a special challenge and enjoyment in teaching international LL.M. students because the students already have an understanding of foreign legal cultures, which can be employed by professors to enrich class discussions and enable the development of valuable perspectives.”

Professor Robert Lutz



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS INSPIRING MENTORS

Southwestern's full-time faculty include internationally recognized experts in antitrust, civil rights, criminal justice, entertainment and media, environmental, human rights, intellectual property, international, technology, and trial and appellate advocacy. They hold key posts in scholarly, professional, and civic organizations and have addressed Presidential commissions, senate hearings, and world forums. Their textbooks, treatises, and articles have been used in law classrooms across the country, cited in countless court opinions, and appear regularly in the national and international print and broadcast media.

Our adjunct faculty of distinguished judges and attorneys are known for their expertise in specialized practice areas and enjoy sharing their real-world knowledge with students in thought-provoking elective courses from Art of Persuasion to Video Game Law.

The faculty employ a variety of instructional approaches and learning science to engage students. Covering both theoretical and practical aspects of their subjects, they may encourage student participation through the Socratic method, lectures, open class discussions, small group projects, or interactive response systems.

Southwestern's faculty is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the classroom experience and providing personal attention to each student. They are accessible after class, in their offices, through email discussions, conducting special workshops, and hosting informal lunchtime gatherings.

“

The Southwestern faculty is amazing! The professors are very approachable and helpful, making themselves available if we had any questions. Some even went so far as to have special office hours for students on weekends during exam periods.”

Kristine Panosyan, Republic of Armenia

LL.M. Student

LL.M. STUDENT VOICES

“

I grew incredibly fond of Judge Darrell Mavis (Adjunct Professor of Law), while at Southwestern. After having taken my first Trial Advocacy course with him, I made a point of taking every other course he taught. Among them, I most enjoyed Art of Persuasion, which taught me how weaving one's personal story into their work helps people connect to you as a lawyer.”

Natalia Bialkowska



“

As a partner in an international IP firm, licensed in California, England, and Hong Kong, I know the laws and social contexts around technology, media, and licensing are constantly changing. An LL.M. from Southwestern Law School in Technology Law and Entrepreneurship allows me to keep up with cutting edge theories and best practices, and the electives are more engaging than anything I have experienced in my previous legal education.”

Tony Wong



“

I had looked at a number of universities and what first impressed me about Southwestern were the glowing reviews from current and former students, all of whom praised the high level of personalized support that Southwestern offers its students; you're not just a number and you have an entire academic system designed to guide and help you succeed—even after you've graduated.”

Federica Dell'Orto Hadar





Professor Michael Dorff teaching a class.

PRE-LL.M. PROGRAM

ALLIES: American Legal Learning for Internationally Educated Students

The transition to studying law in the United States may be challenging for some students, and the obstacles are not limited to language barriers. The American classroom dynamic and grading process often differ from those at law schools in other countries. Entering LL.M. students are strongly encouraged to participate in the two-week ALLIES program designed to assist them with the transition to studying the American legal system while maximizing their opportunities for success. Students are introduced to best strategies for class preparation, outlining, and final exams in a supportive small group environment. ALLIES begins two weeks before regularly scheduled classes in the fall and is a requirement for every student enrolled in Introduction to American Law, Legal Process, and Institutions.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Southwestern offers a myriad of programs and resources to promote students' academic success and career advancement. Students can obtain help through the Academic Success and Bar Preparation and the Writing Center on anything from exam preparation strategies to effective cover letters.

“The ALLIES program was extremely useful—particularly because American universities don't structure examinations in the same way as the universities that I previously attended.”

Michael Wingrave, United Kingdom

LL.M. Student

A DIVERSE AND WELCOMING STUDENT-CENTERED COMMUNITY

The global perspective and varied backgrounds represented within the Southwestern community enhance the academic and cultural experience of all students. Recent LL.M. entering classes have included students from around the U.S. and countries such as:

■ Argentina	■ Germany	■ Philippines
■ Armenia	■ India	■ Poland
■ Australia	■ Indonesia	■ Russia
■ Bangladesh	■ Iran	■ Saudi Arabia
■ Brazil	■ Italy	■ Sri Lanka
■ Cameroon	■ Japan	■ Switzerland
■ Canada	■ Kenya	■ Thailand
■ Chile	■ Korea	■ Uganda
■ China	■ Mexico	■ Ukraine
■ Colombia	■ Mongolia	■ United Kingdom
■ Eritrea	■ Nigeria	

Southwestern provides students with the opportunities, connections, resources, and environment to ensure their success in and out of the classroom.

LL.M. students participate in many of the cocurricular activities that enable students to hone their skills and keep connected to the community.

A diverse selection of student organizations offer support and mentoring programs as well as social and professional networks and public service opportunities.

Southwestern LL.M. students have access to a variety of career planning and development services including individualized sessions with career counselors; access to the online job bank listings; resume and cover letter critiques; mock interviews; invitations to career days, practice panels, and networking events; and a series of workshops detailing all aspects of the job search process.

The LL.M. office is dedicated to working on an individual basis with students to help them become acclimated to Los Angeles and the law school.

Services are designed to help students with all aspects of their Southwestern experience, from personalized academic counseling and support programs to small group excursions and other cultural and recreational activities.

“

Our unique LL.M. writing course introduces foreign-educated lawyers to documents American lawyers commonly produce, such as research memoranda and opinion letters. Class members are able to compare their legal experience to that of American lawyers and share their home country experiences with fellow students.”

Professor Paul Bateman

AN INSPIRING PLACE TO STUDY AND COLLABORATE

In the heart of Los Angeles, Southwestern has created an oasis for students and scholars encouraging contemplation and study as well as collaboration and community. Encompassing nearly two city blocks, the law school's campus includes the extraordinary Bullocks Wilshire building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This exquisite 1929-era art deco structure has been transformed into a unique, multi-faceted facility that has raised the bar for legal education architecture. Our award-winning campus features:

- state-of-the-art multimedia technology in the classrooms, courtrooms and clinics
- elegant dining facilities and student lounges in restored historic areas
- large terraces with panoramic city views
- tranquil student commons and promenade plazas
- a 10,000-square-foot fitness center
- spacious, client-friendly clinical suites
- the Leigh H. Taylor Law Library, the second largest academic law library facility in California with a collection of more than a half million volumes
- the expansive Julian C. Dixon Courtroom and Advocacy Center
- two additional formal courtrooms
- modern, eco-friendly, on-campus student residences



www.swlaw.edu/campus

ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING



LL.M. students are eligible to apply for Southwestern's beautiful on-campus student housing complex, The Residences at 7th offer:

- studio, one- or two-bedroom apartments
- contemporary furnishings
- floor-to-ceiling windows
- 42" high-definition televisions
- in-unit washer/dryers
- full kitchens
- business center
- enhanced sound proofing
- private study rooms
- rooftop sundeck
- large central courtyard
- secured indoor parking for residents
- state-of-the-art security system



www.swlaw.edu/studenthousing

LOS ANGELES: THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS

Los Angeles is among the most exciting places in the world to study law. A thriving and colorful metropolis, it offers the distinctive Southern California lifestyle and a wealth of opportunities for law students. Southwestern plays an important role and derives tremendous advantages from its position in the center of this stimulating cosmopolitan city.

Los Angeles also offers abundant recreational and cultural diversions. Southwestern's campus is minutes from the Staples Center sports arena and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, a short drive from the buzzing nightlife of the Sunset Strip and West Hollywood, and less than a half hour from Beverly Hills and the bustling Venice Beach boardwalk.

There is a wide variety of living choices for students within a 30-minute drive from the campus. Southwestern's location on major bus routes and about a block from the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Station also provides convenient public transportation.



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LL.M. APPLICATION PROCESS & FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To earn the LL.M. degree, students must successfully complete 24 credit hours of post-J.D. coursework, 12 of which must be taken at Southwestern. Courses previously taken for credit for a J.D. or equivalent degree will not be counted toward the LL.M. degree. The particular courses each candidate undertakes will depend on the individual's chosen area of concentration.

Internationally educated students will be required to take Introduction to American Law. There is no written thesis required to qualify for the LL.M. degree.

Students may attend on either a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students will usually complete their coursework in one year and part-time students will usually complete the program in two years, but all are required to complete all coursework for the LL.M. within four years.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission to the LL.M. Program is highly selective. A Juris Doctor (J.D.) or equivalent degree is required. A candidate applying from the United States must have completed the J.D. degree at a law school that is both ABA-approved and a member of the Association of American Law Schools. A law degree earned outside the United States must be from a university accredited in the country in which it is located, or the candidate must be admitted to practice before the highest court in that country.

When reviewing candidates for the LL.M. Program, the Admissions Committee considers:

- academic record in law school and undergraduate school
- potential for distinguished performance in and contribution to the program
- professional experience and accomplishments
- letters of recommendation
- quality of Personal Statement

The objective of the admissions policy is to fill each class with the best students from an applicant pool consistent with the high quality standards of the program and the diversity of Southwestern. Successful candidates have generally graduated in the top half of their law school class.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The same application form is used for entry into the program for either the Fall or Spring semester. The application is available in electronic form at LSAC.org (find direct links at www.swlaw.edu/applyonline). Although online applications are preferred, applicants who wish to fill out a paper application may request a copy by contacting the General LL.M. Program Office (see contact information below).

Additional documentation not submitted electronically with the application may be

sent to the General LL.M. Program Office via email, fax or U.S. mail (see contact information below). All materials (including letters of recommendation) must be clearly identified with the applicant's full name and LSAC account number.

For more information before applying, LL.M. candidates should review the detailed information on the Application Process page at www.swlaw.edu/llmgeneral.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

LL.M. applicants are encouraged to apply by June 1 for the Fall Semester and November 1 for the Spring Semester. Applications submitted after those dates will be considered on an individual basis.

ADMISSION TO THE BAR IN THE UNITED STATES

Each state sets its own criteria for qualification for the bar. Students who earn the LL.M. degree or Certificate of Completion may be eligible to take certain state bar examinations. Please be sure to contact the jurisdiction or state in which you wish to take the bar examination to determine their eligibility requirements to sit for the examination. Visit www.swlaw.edu/llmgeneral and click on the Application Process page for more details. Information about the California State Bar Examination can be found at www.calbar.ca.gov.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Southwestern offers a limited number of partial scholarships to entering LL.M. students every term. Scholarship awards for all entering international and domestic LL.M. students are determined based on the admissions application, including an applicant's interests and goals as stated in their personal statement, their professional experience and law school grades, letters of recommendation, and other factors. All admitted students will automatically be considered for the scholarship.

OTHER FINANCIAL AID

Admitted students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply for federal and private educational loans. Some private educational lenders offer loans to international students who have a creditworthy cosigner who is a U.S. citizen. International students are encouraged to explore financial aid options from sources in their home countries. More detailed information is available online at www.swlaw.edu/admissions-financial-aid/financial-aid.

TUITION

LL.M. students are charged by the unit. For current tuition info, please see www.swlaw.edu/student-services/finaid/tuition.

GRADING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

LL.M. students may choose from one of two grading systems:

LETTER-BASED GRADING SYSTEM

A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

NON-LETTER GRADING SYSTEM*

High Honors, Honors, High Pass, Pass, and Fail

*Only for students who do not intend to take a U.S. Bar Exam.

Students who intend to use the education received from this program to qualify to sit for the California State Bar Examination must be graded using the same criteria and letter-based grading system as is used for J.D. students. Students who choose the letter-based system must attain a cumulative 2.33 (C+) grade point average to earn the LL.M. degree. Students who successfully complete the 24 units but whose cumulative grade point average is less than 2.33 will be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

General LL.M. Program Office
Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010-1106
Phone: (213) 738-5707 | Fax: (213) 738-6899
Email: llmprogram@swlaw.edu

www.swlaw.edu/applyonline
www.swlaw.edu/financial-aid



The mission of Southwestern Law School is to produce highly skilled graduates who are capable of integrating theory and practice to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Through an excellent faculty and staff committed to promoting the highest level of professionalism, Southwestern seeks to create a vibrant and diverse academic community with a student-centered approach to legal education. Southwestern Law School is approved by the American Bar Association¹ (1970) and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (1972).

Since 1911, Southwestern Law School has served the public as a nonprofit, nonsectarian educational institution. Southwestern does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, medical condition, pregnancy, marital status, veteran/military status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law in connection with admission to the school, or in the administration of any of its educational, employment, housing, financial aid, scholarship, or student activity programs. Nondiscrimination has been the policy of Southwestern since its founding. The law school also requires employers using its placement services and facilities to abide by these standards and to ensure that no such discrimination occurs in hiring, promotion, or compensation for work assignments.

It is the policy and practice of Southwestern Law School to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. No qualified individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities of Southwestern Law School. Copies of the complete policy regarding students and applicants with disabilities may be obtained from the Admissions Office.

Southwestern Law School is a qualified exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the law school are deductible from state and federal taxes.

Southwestern's *Viewbook*, *Student Handbook* and website have been designed to answer frequently asked questions concerning the admission process; the academic, financial aid, and placement programs; and the general policies and regulations of Southwestern Law School. These publications have been prepared with the best data available as of 2017 regarding these matters as well as course offerings, tuition, fees, faculty, and administration. Information about grading, scholastic requirements, incompletes, attendance requirements, the honor code, and all rules, regulations, and procedures of the law school is published in the annual *Student Handbook*. Students should make sure they receive a copy of the Handbook when they commence their studies at Southwestern and familiarize themselves with its contents.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the *Viewbook*, *Application Guide*, *Student Handbook*, or website, the administration, faculty, or Board of Trustees of the law school expressly reserve the right, whenever they deem advisable, to (1) modify the schedule of fees and tuition charges and to make such changes applicable to all students; (2) change instructors or cancel, withdraw, reschedule, or modify any course or program of study, or any requirement in connection therewith; and (3) change any regulation affecting the student body.

¹ Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association

General LL.M. Program Office

 (213) 738-5707
 llmprogram@swlaw.edu
www.swlaw.edu/llm-programs

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A view of Griffith Observatory during sunrise.



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