

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About the LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers

1. What is the LL.M. Program?

FSU's LL.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers is a master's degree program for students trained in law outside the United States. This highly selective, two semester, full-time program permits foreign graduate law students to develop an understanding of the American legal system and the role of law in the United States. Students may also design their curriculum to gain a more in-depth knowledge of United States law in fields such as commercial law, environmental law, health law, intellectual property, administrative law and other areas. Students benefit not only from working with FSU's outstanding faculty and students, but also by establishing professional relationships with other LL.M. students from around the world.

2. Who is eligible for admission?

Admission to the LL.M. Program in American Law is open to only a select few foreign graduate law students each year. No more than 7 students per year will be admitted to the Program. Applicants must have completed a basic law degree from a recognized college, university or law school outside the United States. Students must have excellent academic records and strong professional and/or academic recommendations. Professional experience and demonstrated leadership skills will also be taken into account in admissions' decisions.

3. Can I transfer into the LL.M Program?

No. We do not accept transfer students or transfer credits.

4. How do I apply?

The LL.M. Application form can be downloaded in Microsoft Word or Acrobat format from the Admissions page of this website (http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/llm_program/admission.php). Upon request we can also send you the application form by mail or by an email attachment or by fax. A complete application file must include:

1. Completed application form. Go to http://www.law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/llm_program/images/application.pdf.
2. Application fee of \$30 in U.S. currency payable by check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank. The check or money order must be made payable to Florida State University. Foreign money orders are not accepted. The applicant's complete name and date of birth should be clearly indicated on all methods of payment.
3. Two letters of recommendation. At least one letter of recommendation should be from an academic instructor familiar with the student's work.
4. TOEFL scores.
5. Two transcripts from each post-secondary school.
6. The Certification of Financial Responsibility form and proof of financial support.

7. A written personal statement with information about any personal experiences, achievements, plans, goals or other factors the applicant would like the admissions committee to take into account. The statement should indicate whether the applicant intends to direct his or her study of American law to a particular field. The statement should not address financial aid issues. The statement should reflect the applicant's own writing style and be no more than 500 words. The applicant should also include a resume.

5. *Do I have to take the LSAT?*

No. The LSAT is not required for admission to the LL.M. program.

6. *What are the TOEFL requirements?*

If the applicant's native language is not English, the applicant must take the TOEFL. For admission, a student must achieve a score of at least 98 points on the Internet-based exam with a minimum of 22 in each of the four sections. If the applicant received his or her undergraduate or first law degree from an institution in which the language of instruction was English, the applicant may request a waiver of the TOEFL requirement in writing with the application. Such a waiver is at the discretion of the admissions committee.

7. *Is an interview required?*

Interviews are not required, but the admissions committee will attempt to hold telephone interviews with all candidates.

8. *When is the admissions decision made?*

The admissions committee will consider admissions applications as soon as a file is complete. Applicants will be notified immediately upon a decision by the committee.

9. *What are the degree requirements?*

To earn the LL.M. degree in American Law for Foreign Lawyers, students must successfully complete twenty-four units of credit (two semesters' study) in residence at the Florida State University College of Law. LL.M. students must also complete a non-credit, two-week orientation prior to the beginning of the fall semester. There are no other required courses. Students may satisfy their course requirements over the two semesters by choosing courses and seminars from among those offered in the J.D. program. An LL.M. thesis is not required for the degree, but an option is available.

10. *How will my performance in the LL.M. program be evaluated?*

There is no comprehensive examination at the end of the LL.M. program. Courses in American law schools are graded by a separate exam or written paper in each course. Grades for most courses are,

however, based on a single, final examination or paper for each course. The format of law school evaluation varies. While many professors give written essay-type exams, others give objective-question exams or a combination of the two formats. Seminar courses require a written paper. LL.M. students must maintain a C average to graduate.

11. How much does the program cost?

LL.M. students pay the same fees as out-of-state J.D. students. Tuition and fees for the 2008-2009 academic year are \$411.72 per credit hour. Please contact the Admissions Office for current tuition and fee amounts. Students should anticipate an additional \$11,500 for living expenses, books and school supplies.

12. Is financial aid available?

FSU College of Law does not offer scholarships or fee waivers to foreign LL.M. students. Applicants should attempt to acquire assistance from their governments or other outside sources.

13. Will I need a computer?

Yes. We are proud of the law school's cutting edge technology that enhances our classroom teaching and provides students with exciting and innovative research capability. To be able to take full advantage of these technological capabilities, all entering students, including LL.M. students, are required to have laptop computers. Students have wireless web access within the law school buildings as well as free internet dial-up access, web-based email, the BlackBoard Course Management System, and free access to many web-based legal research resources.

14. Will this degree allow me to take the bar examination or practice law in the United States?

No. Students interested in practicing law in the United States should apply for the 3-year J.D. program. The LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers is designed for international lawyers who wish to obtain a level of expertise in American Law and return to their home countries to practice. The program does not prepare students to take a U.S. state bar examination and become admitted to law practice in the United States. Generally, FSU will not certify LL.M. graduates as qualified to seek admission to a state bar. It should be brought to the attention of applicants, however, that the New York Bar Examination requires only that the school verify satisfactory completion of the LL.M. degree and does not require a separate certification. For information on New York State's bar requirements, contact: Board of Examiners, New York State, 7 Executive Central Drive, Albany, NY 12203-5148; telephone: (800) 342-3335.