

ACADEMICS

WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW LL.M. PROGRAMS

Cathy Schenker



LL.M. Programs

- International Legal Studies Program – ILSP
- Program on Law & Government
- Intellectual Property
- Trial Advocacy
- Human Rights (hybrid: online/in-person in summer)

Basics

- 24 credits
 - You can take more credits; but you must graduate in the semester in which you complete the minimum academic requirements
- 8 credits per semester if you're on an F1 or J1 visa
- 2 papers for research track; 1 paper and 1 externship for practical skills track
- Must complete in 2 years if you plan to sit for the NY Bar exam
- Part-time is fine (so long as no visa requirements)
- Independent Studies and externship credits count towards the 24 LLM credits; but not the NY Bar
- WCL allows up to 7 credits in the summer; NY Bar allows up to 4 summer credits

Required Courses

- American Legal Institutions (580-001)
 - Non-common law trained students
 - First semester
- Legal Research & Writing (580-002)
 - Non-common law trained students
 - First semester
- English for Lawyers
 - Open to all but required if TOEFL is under 93
 - \$2,624 (2016-2017 cost), not-for-credit
 - Must be taken in conjunction with LR&W

Tracks

Research

- ILSP, L&G, and IP are automatically in this track
- You must write **two** papers
 - Minimum of 20 pages each
 - Memo for LAW 580-002 counts as one of these papers

Practical Skills

- You must do an externship for credit
- ILSP, L&G, and IP must opt into this track
- The latest you can opt in is the end of add/drop of your final semester
- Once you have opted in, you cannot change back to the research track

ILSP LLM Basics

- Classes on the ILSP course list:
 - https://www.wcl.american.edu/registrar/coursesapp/searchcourse2.cfm?time=fall_2017&prog=ilsp
- LLMs cannot take 1L courses
- LLMs can petition to take one elective course that is not listed on the ILSP course schedule. Depending on the course and professor the petition may be approved.
- Credits on main campus:
 - Up to 6 credits at SIS or Kogod
- Up to 6 Independent Study credits and/or Externship credits

ILSP Specializations

- Areas of specialization:
 - International Business Law
 - International Human Rights
 - International Environmental Law
 - Intellectual Property
 - International Trade and Investment
 - International Commercial Arbitration
 - Gender and International Law
 - International Organizations
- Double Specialization
 - Many course double or even triple count
 - Must complete requirements of each specialization

Specializations

- Requirements:
 - 12 credits within area of specialization
 - Required course:

Specialization	Required Course
Int'l. Bus. Law	None
Int'l. Trade and Investment	International Trade Law I (LAW 657-001)
Int'l. Commercial Arbitration	Int'l. Commercial Arbitration (LAW 789-001)
Int'l. Environmental Law	Int'l. Env. Law (LAW 618-001)
Int'l. Organizations	Int'l. Org. & Multi Nat'l. Inst. (LAW 662-001) or equivalent
Int'l. HR	None
Gender and Int'l. Law	Adv. Legal Writing: Gender & Law (LAW 929G-001)
Intellectual Property	None

Law & Government

- Strongly Suggested Courses:
 - The Washington Lawyer
 - Paper topic should focus on area of specialization or concentration
 - The Washington Lawyer Practicum
- Tracks
 - Research
 - 2 papers (20 page minimum)
 - All students automatically in this track
 - To receive specialization or concentration, one paper must be in course approved for area of specialization or concentration
 - Practical Skills
 - 1 paper (20 pages minimum)
 - 1 externship
- Specializations
 - 12 credits for a specialization or concentration
 - With prior approval some overlap between dual specializations/concentrations will be permitted

Law & Government

- Concentrations and Specializations:
 - Administrative Law & Regulatory Policy
 - Energy Law & Policy
 - Environmental Law & Policy
 - Health Law & Policy
 - Immigration Law & Policy
 - IP & Information Justice
 - Labor and Employment Law & Policy
 - National Security Law & Policy
 - Civil & Constitutional Rights
 - Criminal Law
 - Disability Rights
 - Gender & the Law
 - Law, Politics, & Legislation
 - Business & Financial Regulation
 - IP & Information Justice
 - Securities Law & Policy

Trial Advocacy

- Required courses:
 - Ethics for Trial Lawyers (offered Spring only)
 - One Advanced Trial Advocacy Course (many to choose from)
 - If non-common law trained, you must also take ALI and LR&W
- Classroom Based Courses: min of 16 credits
- Optional Non-Classroom Based Courses - Max of eight credits total:
 - Externship (up to 6 credits)
 - Professional Writing (up to 3 credits)
 - Co-teaching (up to 3 credits; rarely granted)
- Most students do practical skills track (no paper required)
- One paper required for the research track

Intellectual Property

- 14 credits in approved intellectual property and related courses.
- At least one foundational IP course (e.g. Copyright, Patent, Trademark, Communications, etc.)
- Advanced Legal Writing: Intellectual Property (writing course).

How many credits should I take?

- Questions to consider when planning how many courses to take:
 - When do you want to finish the program?
 - 2 semesters?
 - 2 semesters plus one summer?
 - 3 semesters?
 - Longer...
 - Do you plan to take the NY Bar?
 - Is cost an issue?
 - Do you want to take summer courses?
 - https://www.wcl.american.edu/registrar/coursesapp/searchcourse2.cfm?time=summer_2017
 - Many of the courses are short, intense classes that meet everyday for one or two weeks

Credit options: F-1

- 8 credits in fall, spring, fall
- 8-11 credits in fall; 8-11 in spring; remainder in summer
 - 6 credits is a heavy course load in the summer. Most students take 3-5.
- 12 credits in fall; 12 credits in spring
 - This is the most expensive option because you are charged the flat fee both semesters.
- 8-11 in fall; remainder in the spring
- 12 or more in the fall; remainder in the spring
- 8-11 in fall; 8-11 in spring; remainder in fall, 2017
 - If you are on an F-1 visa, you can take fewer than 8 credits in your final semester, but you must fill out a *Reduced Course Load* form in your final semester.

Credit options: J1, other visas, green card

- J1: Sometimes have to finish in 2 semesters. Check with sponsoring agency.
- Other visas, permanent residents, US citizens:
 - Students can complete the LLM slowly. If working, may take 1 or 2 courses per semester.
 - If planning to take the NY Bar, must finish the LLM in 2 years.

Cost of Credits

- 2017/2018 school year
 - The per credit cost is \$1,988 per credit. If you register for 11 credits or fewer you will be charged the per credit fee (e.g. \$21,868 for 11 credits).
 - The flat fee is \$26,846. If you register for 12-17 credits, you will be charged \$26,846 (\$53,692 total for two semesters).
- How can I save money?
 - You can register for 14 credits one semester and pay \$26,846 and 10 credits the following semester and pay \$19,880 (or vice-versa). The total would be: \$46,646.
 - You can register for under 12 credits each semester:
 - 10 in the fall and spring and 4 in the summer
 - Another combination that keeps credits between 8-11 per semester and makes up the difference in the summer
 - The total would be: \$47,712.

Payments

- There are fees in addition to tuition.
- You must have health insurance.
 - Even if you have good health insurance back home, if the company doesn't have an office in the US, AU will not accept it and you will be required to pay for AU's health insurance (\$1,800 in the 2016-2017 academic year).
- You can pay for your classes after add/drop week.
 - If you pay via a payment plan, you must start paying the cost before add/drop or you will be charged a late fee.

Add/drop

- The first week of class is WCL's add/drop period.
 - You can add courses if there is space in them.
 - You can drop courses if you are not interested in them.
- Can I add and drop after add/drop period?
 - You cannot add courses after add/drop except for independent study or externship credits.
 - You can drop, but the course will be listed on your transcript with a "W" next to it and you will be charged for at least a percentage of the course. The longer you wait to drop, the more you will be charged.

Waitlists

- If a course is full, you can get on the waitlist.
- As spaces open up, students from the waitlist will receive e-mails from the registrar's office letting them know that they can register.
- If you do not register within 24 hours of the e-mail being sent to you, you will be removed from the course. Make sure to check your AU e-mail address every day!!!
- You can only be on the waitlist for 3 courses.

How do I register?

- Go to myau.american.edu
 - Click on Academics
 - Click on Eagle Service
- You can see detailed instructions in the e-mail that the Office of Graduate Admissions sent.

myau.american.edu v. my.wcl.american.edu

myau.american.edu

- Information about main campus offices and programs
- Course registration
- Your class schedule
- Grades
- Student Accounts

my.wcl.american.edu

- Information about offices and programs at WCL
- Information posted by professors for their courses
 - Readings
 - Lecture notes
 - Syllabus
- Exams
- Dean's fellow postings

Independent study

- Can be added to a class if you would like to write a longer paper
- Can be done with a professor without any connection to a course
- 1 credit = a minimum of 20 pages of writing
- The cost is the same as for any other credit
 - \$1,988 if paying the per credit cost
 - Be careful that the independent study does not bump you over 11 credits!
 - Remember, at 12 credits, you have to pay the flat fee.
- The NY Bar does not accept Independent Study credits.

Registering for independent study

- Find a professor who is willing to supervise your work.
 - Either a professor with whom you are taking a class, or have taken a class
- Get an *LLM Independent Study* form from the Registrar's office or our website:
<https://www.wcl.american.edu/ilsp/documents/LLMProgramsIndependentStudyContract-Fillable.pdf>
- Have your supervising professor sign the form.
- Have your academic advisor (Cathy Schenker) sign the form.
- Submit the form to the Registrar's office.
- You do NOT have to register for an independent study by the end of add/drop week. You can add one later in the semester once you are working on papers.

Externship

- Internship for credit.
- Connected to Practical Skills Track.
- Not allowed in first semester.
- Must register for it by the end of add/drop of final semester.
- Speak to Melanija Radnovic (ILSP, IP), Julie Swaney (L&G), or to Tahniat Saulat (Trial Advocacy).
- NY Bar will not accept externship credits.

NY Bar

- See NY Bar website: www.nybarexam.org
- Submit advanced evaluation of eligibility **NOW**
- Requirements:
 - At least 24 credits including:
 - American Legal Institutions (LAW 580-001)
 - Legal Research and Writing (LAW 580-002)
 - Legal Ethics
 - Offered in Spring and Summer, but not Fall
 - 2 courses in subjects tested on the exam
 - US Contracts - Spring
 - US Constitutional Law - Fall
 - US Criminal Law – Fall
 - US Business Law – Fall and Spring
 - Family Law – Fall and Spring

NY Bar cont'd.

- Cannot take more than 4 credits in summer courses
- All credits must be in courses in the US (cannot count courses from our summer program in the Hague or Geneva, etc.)
- Independent Study and Externship credits do not count towards the bar.
- Pro Bono requirement
- As of July, 2016, NY gives the Uniform Bar Exam.
 - Look at NY Bar and NCBEX websites for details:
 - <http://www.nybarexam.org/UBE/UBE.html/>
 - <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/>

Academic basics

- Reading skills
 - Very important.
 - Skimming v. scanning
- Exams v. papers
 - Seminar courses assess with research papers
 - Large lecture courses assess with final exams
 - In-class
 - Take-home
- Grades
 - B and higher is good. B- and lower is not.
 - You cannot retake a course to get a higher grade.
 - You cannot retake an exam.

Additional Resources

- English for Lawyers (not for credit)
 - Cost for one semester is \$2,624 (in the 2016-2017 academic year)
- Writing tutor (individual appointments) – Erica Balanc
- Presentations about visa requirements and work post graduation – ISSS office
- Workshops on networking, resumes, cover letters, etc. (OCPD)
- Hundreds of panel presentations and discussions on timely topics.

Additional Tips

- Check your AU e-mail every day or have it forwarded to an e-mail address that you do check.
- Read the *NY Times* to get a sense for US politics.
- Read the *LLM Monday Newsletter* and *Today at WCL*.
- Save time for things other than school.
 - Get to know DC
 - Do something that you can't do at home
 - Go to interesting talks and presentations
 - Get to know your classmates. Remember, they are lawyers from around the world.
 - Join the following groups: www.intlawnet.org;
www.meetup.com/Intlaw/

How to reach me:

- E-mail: schenker@wcl.american.edu
- Phone: (202) 274-4314
- Office: International Suite – Y360, 4300 Nebraska Ave.,
NW

