

Golden Gate University LLM Program **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: What areas of study are available for international students seeking an LLM?

A: Golden Gate University School of Law offers six LLM programs: Environmental Law; Estate Planning; Intellectual Property Law; International Legal Studies; Taxation; and United States Legal Studies. In addition, we also offer a dual track program for Taxation and Estate Planning.

Q: How does the LLM in US Legal Studies differ from other programs?

A: Our United States Legal Studies LLM offers a choice of two different focuses. One focus provides students with a broad range of general knowledge on U.S. law – students choose among all of the classes offered at the law school. The other focus prepares students to take a rigorous California State Bar examination. Students may choose either or may combine them.

Q: How is the LLM in International Legal Studies different from the other LLM programs?

A: The International Legal Studies LLM is designed to provide in-depth coverage of international and comparative law. It emphasizes the legal, cultural, sociological, and business activities of the European Community, Pacific Rim, and other regions of the world as they interact with one another and with the United States. It offers both public and private international law classes.

Q: What are the necessary requirements for application to an LLM program?

A: Students must submit the following: a complete application form, a TOEFL or IELTS score (or equivalent/waiver), a personal statement, resume, official transcripts (showing a conferred degree equivalent to a JD), and at least one Letter of Recommendation. Students may apply on the Law School Admission Council website (www.lsac.org), which is preferred, or through a paper application available at law.ggu.edu/admissions/apply.

Q: Are letters of recommendation necessary?

A: Yes. At least one letter is required, but students may submit more if they wish. Please do not submit more than four letters. For your letter(s), please refrain from reusing something that names a different university/program; ensure the letter(s) is reasonably current (within the last three years); and use professional/academic contacts (no friends or family members).

Q: Can applicants waive the English-proficiency requirement?

A: Yes. GGU Law does not require a TOEFL/IELTS score from applicants who can show one of the following: (1) applicant's native language is English; (2) applicant has attended an



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educational institution in which English is the primary language of instruction; or (3) applicant has worked in an English-speaking environment for one year or longer.

Q: Do you admit students into the LLM programs who haven't received an LLB or JD?

A: We do not admit students into the LLM Program unless they have a JD (or equivalent) from an accredited institution. The only exception is when the student is a member of the bar or a judge in their home country.

Q: Is the GRE necessary?

A: No. We do not accept the GRE for admissions purposes.

Q: Is the LSAT necessary?

A: No. The LSAT is not necessary for LLM admissions.

Q: How many units does it take to complete the LLM program?

A: Each LLM program requires 24 units to complete the degree. Classes are worth between 2 and 4 units each, with most being 3 units. Full-time students typically take 10-14 units per term and finish in two terms (Fall & Spring typically). Part-time students typically take four terms to complete. Students may take advantage of summer courses, which could allow a student to finish in fewer terms. Alternatively, the program can be extended over three or more years if needed (the maximum number of years allowed to complete the degree depends on the program).

Q: How long are the terms?

A: Fall and Spring terms are each 14 weeks. The Summer term is 7 weeks. All terms are followed by a two-week examination period.

Q: Is it common for students to take courses in the summer?

A: It is more common for students to complete the LLM program in two terms, typically beginning in the Fall and graduating in the Spring. But students may choose to start in the Spring. This gives students the option to travel home during the summer or take a vacation. Taking summer courses is optional.

Q: Does GGU offer a legal English course before the beginning of the LLM program?

A: No. We require evidence of sufficient English-language skills before an offer of admission is given.

Q: Are classes offered in the evening?

A: Yes. We have late afternoon classes, which meet from 3:00 to 4:15pm. The next session meets from 4:30 to 6:10pm, and the last session meets from 6:30 to 9:10pm.

Q: How many textbooks are required per course?



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A: Most classes have only one textbook, which can be purchased or rented from our bookstore. Law textbooks are expensive (\$100 or more each) so it is beneficial to find used copies. GGU sells used copies at our bookstore, but students can also look online for alternatives.

Q: What is the cost of attending GGU?

A: Tuition for the 2019-2020 academic year is \$1,800 per unit -- for the 24-unit LLM the total cost will be \$43,200. Please check with the Law Admissions Office for updated tuition prices.

Q: Does GGU offer scholarships?

A: Yes. GGU offers merit scholarships to exceptional candidates. The Admissions Committee evaluates each applicant based on their application, personal statement, transcripts, letters of recommendation, resume, and TOEFL scores in order to determine scholarship awards. The applicant is notified in the admission letter as to the amount of scholarship granted. Unfortunately, GGU is unable to offer full-tuition scholarships for any of the graduate law programs.

Q: What are the application deadlines for the LLM programs?

A: The Priority Application Deadlines are: October 1st for the Spring term (starts in January); April 1st for the Summer term (starts in late May); and May 15th for the Fall term (starts mid-August). GGU will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis if the class is not full after the priority deadlines. Please note that the LLMs in Taxation and Estate Planning are able to apply for a Fall, Spring, or Summer start; all other LLMs must begin their program in either the Spring or Fall terms. GGU strives to make a decision on each applicant within two weeks of receiving a complete application. Students may apply on the Law School Admission Council website (www.lsac.org), which is preferred, or through a paper application available at law.ggu.edu/admissions/apply.

Q: What is Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and what are its benefits?

A: CPT allows a student on an F-1 Student Visa to work as an intern or employee, while attending school. . Having practical US work experience can help graduates advance their careers when they return to their home country or enter international practice. Please speak to GGU Law's Designated School Officials (DSOs) for more information on CPT and eligibility.