



INTERNATIONAL LL.M. IN LAWYERING PROGRAM ▶▶▶

University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law
Powered by *Experience*
Kansas City, Mo. • law.umkc.edu



WELCOME

In today's global economy, UMKC School of Law is powered by experience and stands ready to equip you with the skills necessary to add a global dimension to your legal career. Our LLM. in Lawyering program includes a wide range of opportunities to take courses in the J.D. program with American students and to develop the legal skills for which U.S. lawyers are admired. UMKC was founded in 1896 by a group of lawyers and judges and for more than 100 years we have been committed to preparing students for the practice of law.

Our program also provides excellent preparation for taking the bar exam. With proper educational qualifications, students may take the bar in several states, including California and New York. Our LLM. students have had great success with the bar exams in these jurisdictions. Missouri also permits international LLM. students to take the bar exam and join the Missouri Bar if they are admitted as lawyers in their home countries. Graduates have access to our special bar preparation course which is one of the finest in the nation and boasts a pass rate of more than 90 percent on the Missouri bar exam.

We put an emphasis on maintaining a student-oriented atmosphere and provide an outstanding educational environment. LLM. students get all the attention and benefits of J.D. students, plus appropriate allowances for language and cultural differences. Our program also provides academic enrichment opportunities designed to help you meet your educational goals as efficiently as possible. We are invested in our students and strive to make your time at UMKC powered by experience.

At the center of the nation, Kansas City is "real America." It is a thriving city with many entertainment, sports and cultural activities. You can study law in a safe, comfortable environment while still enjoying a rich experience of urban American life.







A STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH

UMKC understands and addresses the needs of international LL.M. students, and our support begins in the application process and continues through the academic program and beyond.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our program is competitively priced and we offer more than \$140,000 in scholarships annually, primarily in the form of partial tuition scholarships.

LEGAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

This month-long program offered in July prior to the academic year provides daily instruction from English language instructors

and law faculty as well as individual tutoring with a native and non-native speaking teaching assistant. Additional fee applies.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

LL.M. students and J.D. students take part in a week-long summer enrichment program designed to help students transition to law study at UMKC. The program focuses on the various components of legal education and includes mock classes and exams as preparation for the academic year. Additionally, the enrichment program extends through the academic year with lectures and study groups to support student success.



OVERVIEW

The LL.M. program provides an introduction to the American legal system and to the skills taught to American lawyers. The 24 credit hour program can be taken in either two or three semesters. There is no thesis requirement, but students produce significant written work in the required courses.

Students may choose from a wide range of elective courses from the J.D. program. This allows students to take a variety of courses or specialize in a particular area such as business and commercial law, litigation, family law, real estate law, intellectual property, international law or urban land use and environmental law.

The program is small in order to maintain a low faculty-to-student ratio and to create a more personal experience. LL.M. students are integrated with J.D. students to promote cultural exchanges, provide an international perspective and enhance diversity.



LL.M. TUTORIAL

In both the fall and spring semesters, an optional tutorial is offered on a weekly basis for international LL.M. students. The tutorial focuses on class preparation strategies, outlining skills and exam preparation.

MOOT COURT COMPETITION

UMKC faculty and staff support students to participate in moot court competitions. Students can gain invaluable research and oral advocacy skills through participation.

PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING

UMKC is known for its practical skills training

approach to legal education, which provides students with opportunities to learn about and practice essential lawyering skills.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Students in the three-semester format may undertake a summer internship with a judge, law firm or a company.

BAR PREPARATION COURSE

LL.M. students who are eligible to sit for a U.S. bar exam may take part in UMKC's bar preparation program upon completion of the LL.M. program. Nearly all students who actively participate in the program pass the Missouri bar exam. An additional fee applies.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Earning the LL.M. degree requires:

- Completion of required LL.M. courses with grades of pass or better.
- Completion of 24 total credit hours which includes the required LL.M. courses and electives approved by the LL.M. adviser with grades of pass or better.
- Successful completion of all coursework within three years from the beginning of the course of studies leading toward the degree.

COURSES

The required LL.M. courses cover a broad spectrum of legal theory and practical skills. Particular emphasis is focused on legal research and writing skills. Additionally, students gain oral negotiation and advocacy skills through simulated client meetings, negotiations, and business deals.

Elective courses are selected from the J.D. program with approval from the student's adviser.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Qualifying students may transfer to the J.D. program based on performance in J.D. courses without taking the LSAT. Elective

credits earned during the LL.M. program may be applied toward the J.D. degree at UMKC or at most other U.S. law schools as long as the student earns a grade of C or better. (Credits for the required LL.M. courses cannot be transferred for J.D. credit.)

ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible students will have a degree in law from a recognized school.
- There is no minimum GPA required for admission, but academic ability will be considered.
- Applicants must have demonstrated English proficiency, which will be evaluated by an interview and through standardized test scores (either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam—successful applicants typically have a minimum TOEFL score of 80 (iBT) or a minimum IELTS score of 6.0).
- The LSAT is not required.

In some cases, the law school may require participation in the Legal English Workshop prior to the program year or full-time English study at UMKC for a semester or year prior to the start of the LL.M. program as a condition of admission.

A complete LLM. application packet consists of the following:

- Application form
- Application fee payable by check, money order, credit or debit card in U.S. dollars
- Autobiographical essay or personal statement
- Official academic credentials for undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate study (transcripts and degree certificates)
- Official TOEFL or IELTS score
- Original or certified copy of a financial statement proving financial ability
- If the applicant will rely on funding from a family member or other sponsor, a notarized letter of support explaining the relationship to the applicant and pledging financial support
- One signed letter of recommendation
- Copy of the biographical information/ photo page from your passport
- Résumé or curriculum vitae

* All documents must be translated into English.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

DEADLINES

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For fullest consideration of scholarship opportunities, applications should be submitted by January 1. All materials should be submitted by April 1 in order to allow time for immigration and visa-related paperwork. Applications are reviewed once the file is complete, and admission is available for qualified candidates based on seat availability.

INTERVIEW

In addition to the admissions packet, applicants must have an interview, which is an important component of evaluation. The interview can be held in person, by Skype or telephone.



FURTHER INFORMATION

We invite you to learn more about the law school at law.umkc.edu

If you have further questions, please contact Bernardo Zito Porto, Assistant Director of the LL.M. Program, at zitoportob@umkc.edu or Nancy Kunkel, Senior Program Coordinator, at kunkeln@umkc.edu.

UMKC's International Student Affairs Office provides additional ongoing support and visa paperwork processing for all international students at UMKC. You can learn more about their services at umkc.edu/isao/

