
LL.M. IN GENDER, INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW



AMERICAN  UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
COLLEGE OF LAW

INTERNATIONAL

LL.M. IN GENDER, INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW

The only program of its kind, the LL.M. in Gender, International and Comparative Law equips its LL.M. graduates with the legal and policy skills needed to address challenges facing women and LGBTQ+ people worldwide.

Students will study the legal and social structures shaping the day-to-day lives of women and LGBTQ+ persons: family law, anti-discrimination law, political participation, economic development, and reproductive rights. Students also explore recent developments in the protection of women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights taking shape in international bodies, regional human rights mechanisms, and international tribunals. From there, students choose from an extensive array of specialized electives, including the prevention of human trafficking, labor exploitation, domestic violence, and the prosecution of rape as a war crime.

LL.M. students may intern at leading domestic and international non-governmental organizations addressing women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights, as well as international organizations with missions to mainstream gender into all aspects of their work. Our students graduate prepared for practice.

SELECT FACULTY

Janie Chuang, Prevention of Human Trafficking and Labor Exploitation, Gender and International Law

J. Jarpa Dawuni, Gender, International, and Comparative Law, Gender and Development

Susan Franck, Gender in International Trade and Arbitration

Rebecca Hamilton, Gender and International Criminal Law

Ian Harris, Domestic Violence

Daniela Kraiem, Gender and Law

Claudia Martin, Gender and International Organizations, Human Rights

Fernanda Nicola, Gender and Development, Comparative Law, International Organizations

Ingrid Nifosi-Sutton, Gender and Human Rights, Gender and Environment

Diane Orentlicher, Gender and International Law

Leslye Orloff, Gender and Immigration

Susana SaCouto, Gender and International Criminal Law

Macarena Saez, Gender and Human Rights, Comparative Family Law

Ann Shalleck, Feminist Jurisprudence, Family Law

Brenda Smith, Prevention of Sexual Violence

WCL QUICK FACTS

- Ranked 9th in international law specialty by *U.S. News and World Report*
- Graded A+ by *Prelaw Review Magazine* for international law and for family law
- Top 25 best schools for foreign-trained lawyers, *International Jurist*
- 100+ full-time and adjunct faculty specialized in international law
- Students from 50+ countries and 4,000+ alumni worldwide
- 90% of LL.M. students participate in internships
- 200+ conferences, symposia, and networking events annually

SCHOLARSHIPS

Alumni Fund Scholarship
(full tuition scholarship)

Global Talent Development Scholarship
(1/2 tuition scholarship)

Summer Programs Participant Scholarship
(1/2 tuition scholarship)

Merit Based Scholarship
(up to 40% of tuition discount)

LL.M. CURRICULUM

24 credits of coursework, with at least 12 credits in approved core and key elective courses related to gender and international law.

Required courses (7 credits):

Gender, International and Comparative Law (2 credits)

Gender, Cultural Differences and Human Rights (3 credits)

Advanced Legal Writing: Gender and Law (2 credits)

Domestic Violence (2 credits)

Family Law (3 credits; NY Bar Track)

The Rights of Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups (2 credits)

Women and International Human Rights (2 credits)

Key Electives (min. 5 credits):

Comparative Family Law (2 credits)

International Trafficking in Persons (3 credits)

Responses of International Law to Conflict-Related

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (2 credits)

General Electives:

The remaining credits may be chosen from among the wide variety of general elective courses, including New York bar courses.

Summer Programs

The LL.M. participants may take advantage of gender-related courses offered through the human rights summer program in Washington, D.C.; the Human Rights, Labor, and International Law Commission summer program in Geneva; and the International Criminal Law summer program in the Hague. More information available at www.wcl.american.edu/academics/summer-programs.

Externships & Careers

Our curriculum features experiential learning opportunities, including supervised externships with local, national, and international organizations dedicated to women's rights and LGBTQ+ advocacy. In the past, students have externed at organizations such as the Center for Reproductive Rights, Human Rights Watch, the International Association of Women Judges, MIL MUJERES Legal Services, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Our faculty and LL.M. Career Counselor are available to help students locate placements.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Eligible international LL.M. students may apply for an OPT permit. This training will provide students with the possibility of obtaining practical work experience in the U.S. for up to one year after graduation.

New York Bar Track

This LL.M. program provides foreign-educated law students with the courses required to qualify to sit for the New York bar exam. Foreign-trained LL.M. students must complete at least 12 credits of New York bar courses of the 24 credits needed for the LL.M. degree.

TESTIMONIAL

Achalie M. Kumara '18, ILSP LL.M. (Gender and International Law); Attorney-at-Law and Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka:

"Most of the courses that I took for my LL.M. at WCL had a gender focus. What was unique about all these courses is the guidance, attention, and feedback received from the expert professors who taught them. The guidance was not merely in terms of learning the subject matter, but in critical analysis, academic writing, and research methodology. It certainly enriched my overall learning experience at WCL."

APPLICATIONS

Applications are accepted for both fall and spring admissions. To apply, visit www.wcl.american.edu/llm/apply.cfm and submit the following:

- Application Form & Fee
- Official Copies of Academic Records
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- Official Proof of Competency in English (for non-native speakers) sent from testing agency

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall	International	May 1	U.S. Citizen/PR	July 1
Spring	International	October 1	U.S Citizen/PR	November 1

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Fall	All Full and Half Tuition Scholarships	March 1	Merit-based Scholarships	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis
Spring	All Full and Half Tuition Scholarships	October 1	Merit-based Scholarships	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis



INTERNATIONAL

International and Comparative Legal Studies
American University Washington College of Law
4300 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016 (USA)
EO/AA University and Employer

MORE INFO

Visit: <https://www.wcl.american.edu/academics/degrees/llm/>

For additional questions, contact: llm@wcl.american.edu or call +1 (202) 274-4110.

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