Each year, distinguished lawyers from over 30 countries transform their careers through BU Law’s LLM in American Law Program. Fully integrated into the School’s JD curriculum, they obtain a US legal education at its finest: BU Law is home to America’s #2 teaching faculty and is ranked #7 for “Best Classroom Experience,” according to the Princeton Review. The American Law Program is the program for global practitioners seeking to learn how US lawyers think, approach legal problems, and handle client matters. And it’s the program for lawyers desiring a deeper grasp of the law in virtually any area of interest, be it corporate transactions, intellectual property, commercial agreements, litigation and dispute resolution, human rights, criminal law, or antitrust, to name but a few. You’ll complete a year of rigorous academic training to obtain one of the most coveted degrees in the profession, valued by legal employers throughout the world.

IS IT FOR YOU?
The LLM in American Law Program is specifically designed for lawyers trained outside the United States. Most students are professionals whose work transcends borders. Their clients or employers often have interests that implicate US law, so they seek greater knowledge about a specific field as taught from the US perspective. Many want to work more effectively in English with lawyers trained in the US or elsewhere. Others want to discover a new practice area or pursue an academic passion. Many are interested in qualifying to take a US bar exam, which is possible through the program’s courses.

A FLEXIBLE PROGRAM: PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE YOU WANT
The LLM in American Law Program is BU Law’s most flexible graduate program. Working with the program director and assistant director, you’ll design a study plan comprised of any of the JD program’s 190+ courses, including fundamental first-year JD classes (contracts, property, torts, civil procedure, constitutional law, criminal law, and legislation) and upper-class offerings, covering such fields as:

- Antitrust
- Banking and Financial Law
- Business and Trade Regulation
- Civil and Human Rights
- Commercial Law and Consumer Transactions
- Constitutional Law
- Corporate and Transactional Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Environmental Law
- Family Law and Gender Law
- Health Law and Human Services
- Intellectual Property Law and Technology
- International, Foreign, and Comparative Law
- Labor Law and Employment Relations
- Legal Theory and Legal History
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Public Law: Administrative Law and Legislation
- Real Estate, Land Use, and Development
- Taxation

You can also cross-register for classes in BU Law’s Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law, Graduate Tax Program, and other BU graduate schools, such as the Questrom School of Business and College of Communication.

To develop your corporate law competencies, you can take a special LLM course in transactional contracts and learn how to structure, draft, and negotiate commercial agreements, a critical cross-border skill.

If you’re interested in taking a US bar exam, you can enroll in special bar-related courses through the program’s spring semester “Fundamentals Track,” which offers LLM-only classes designed for bar preparation.
CONCENTRATED STUDIES
To specialize your studies, you may pursue an optional concentration in intellectual property law, international business practice, or taxation—important fields where BU Law’s reputation is renowned. We are #9 in the nation in intellectual property law and #7 in tax law, according to U.S. News & World Report. Our in-depth offerings in corporate, business, commercial, banking, and financial law are second to none.

ESTEEMED FACULTY
You’ll learn from America’s best teachers. They’re knowledgeable, accessible, and committed to supporting the unique needs of foreign-trained LLM students. Many classes have teaching assistants to work exclusively with the LLM students through weekly discussion and review sessions.

PERSONAL ATTENTION AND SUPPORT
The Graduate & International Programs Office is your home away from home, with a staff devoted to supporting you from the moment you arrive. The director and assistant director meet with you individually to select classes, answer questions, and address concerns. This personal attention makes a difference. Ask any graduate. Over the past five academic years, 95% of American Law students have said the program met or surpassed their expectations. Graduates regularly describe the year as “the best year of my life.”

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNSHIPS
BU Law is steadfastly committed to your professional success. This includes helping you secure post-graduation opportunities in the US or abroad. A full-time associate director for professional development and staff work exclusively with LLM students, delivering one-on-one advice to help each student achieve his or her goals.

During the spring, our Discovery Series will introduce you to a range of legal practice settings—private firms, corporate law departments, and the judiciary—through field trips and presentations by local alumni, expanding your network of connections.

To gain practical training after you graduate—an important goal for many students—you can pursue the American Law Internship Program. You’ll work with the Academic Internship Council to secure a short-term, law-related internship after your studies.

You’ll also receive comprehensive counseling on all aspects of taking the bar—from course selection and preparation strategies to the mechanics of qualifying, applying, and interacting with state bar authorities.

STUDENT LIFE
The LLM in American Law students form a tight-knit, high-energy, diverse community. To nurture connections, the Graduate & International Programs Office regularly organizes activities—a traditional New England lobster feast, an international potluck dinner, networking events, colloquia, and informal discussions on timely topics, to name a few. You’ll also be able to join any of the School’s 30+ student organizations and take part in a full range of JD events and activities.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
The LLM in American Law Program is a full-time program, running from late August to late May. Students complete a minimum of 24 credits, which includes two required fall semester courses—Introduction to American Law and a Legal Research and Writing seminar—and a spring graduate colloquium, Topics in American Law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS
Qualified applicants hold a first degree in law or its equivalent from a law school or law faculty outside the US.

All LLM in American Law candidates are eligible for merit-based scholarship awards in the form of partial tuition waivers. All applicants are automatically considered; no additional forms are required.

If you wish to transfer to the JD program, you may apply to do so during the spring semester of your LLM year. You’ll also need to take the LSAT. If admitted, you may transfer up to 30 LLM credits toward the JD degree, enabling you to complete the JD with only two more years of study.

To learn more about the LLM in American Law Program, including the application process, tuition, and financial information, visit www.bu.edu/law.

You can also contact us directly at:

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My year at BU Law was not only about gaining legal knowledge; it was about gaining leadership skills and thinking broadly.

—Laura Ratautaite, Vilnius, Lithuania
LLM in American Law, 2011
LLM, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, 2009
LLM, Vilnius University, Lithuania, 2006