A highly dynamic field. One of the nation’s most highly regarded programs.

In a world where people can send infinite copies of digital assets around the globe, instantly and at no cost, clients demand competent counsel to protect their substantial interests in intellectual property. Few schools will better prepare you for this challenge than BU Law. For six consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked us among the nation’s top ten schools for intellectual property law studies. Each year, we invite a select group of lawyers to seize the future through advanced training in this all-important field.

Is it for you?

Our LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program attracts domestic and foreign-trained lawyers who seek specialized training in the constantly evolving field of intellectual property law. Ideal foreign candidates have extensive backgrounds in intellectual property studies and practice, as well as a solid command of English. Ideal domestic candidates have strong academic and professional backgrounds with no significant academic exposure to US intellectual property law studies.

Because of its exclusive focus on intellectual property law topics, the program is not designed to qualify foreign-trained lawyers to take a US bar exam. (The LLM in American Law Program, with its concentration in intellectual property law, is a more suitable option.)

Our curriculum

The LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program is a one-year, full-time, 24-credit program. You’ll take at least three of four core courses—Intellectual Property (survey); Copyright; Patents; and Trademark & Unfair Competition. (Foreign-trained lawyers must also take Introduction to American Law and a Legal Research and Writing seminar.) In the spring, you’ll participate in an Intellectual Property Workshop seminar, reacting to and commenting on invited scholars’ works-in-progress. For the remainder of your program, you’ll choose from a broad range of electives, such as Biomedical Innovation, International Intellectual Property, IP & the Internet, Trade Secrets, and Patent Litigation, to name a few. Selecting courses offered through the School’s JD curriculum, you’ll work one-on-one with the program director to develop a study plan that’s best for you.

A faculty of renowned IP scholars

Your professors will include members of the law faculty ranked #2 in the nation by the Princeton Review. Our full-time IP faculty is acclaimed not just for its teaching excellence, but for its scholarly impact on cutting-edge issues. Professors Michael Meurer (Patents), Wendy Gordon (Copyright), and Stacey Dogan (Trademark) are each recognized nationally and internationally for their insights on the novel questions that emerge on a near-daily basis in their respective fields.

With a faculty of such depth and breadth, you’ll also find valuable opportunities for cross-disciplinary, multidimensional learning: seminars such as “The Economics of Intellectual Property,” taught by renowned antitrust expert Professor Keith Hylton, co-author of the book Laws of Creation: Property Rights in the World of Ideas, take you beyond fundamental doctrine and into an exploration of the economic underpinnings of intellectual property protection schemes.

Outside of class: IP speaker series and more

You’ll learn outside the classroom, too, by attending myriad IP-related workshops, brown-bag lunches, and conferences. In addition to participating in the required spring semester Intellectual Property Workshop seminar, you’ll be drawn to attend BU Law’s IP Speaker Series, which brings IP law thought leaders to campus to interact with students and faculty in small group settings. Recent visitors have included Joachim Henkel, a professor at the Technical University of Munich, who spoke on “Why Most Patents are Invalid—Extent, Reasons, and Potential Remedies of Patent Invalidity”; and John Simson, professor at American University and founding director of SoundExchange, who led a discussion on “Streaming Under Federal and State Law: Recent Developments in Copyright and Statutory Licensing.”

And you won’t want to miss the sorts of conferences BU Law hosts, such as the recent one on “Notice and Notice Failure in Intellectual Property Law,” which explored some of the challenges associated with notice and notice failure in patent, copyright, design patent, publicity, trade secret, and trademark law.
My year in BU Law’s LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program was a wonderful experience. I met exceptional teachers and new friends from all over the world. Working as a patent litigator for an international law firm in Germany, I benefit from my legal education at BU on a daily basis.

—Sara Burghart
Counsel at Taylor Wessing LLP, Munich, Germany
LLM in Intellectual Property Law, 2010
Admitted to the New York Bar
Completed German law studies at University of Augsburg

A member of Taylor Wessing’s patent practice, Sara specializes in advising and representing German and international clients on patent litigation issues.