GRADUATE TAX PROGRAM

One of the first. One of the best.

BU Law’s Graduate Tax Program (GTP), established in 1959 as one of the nation’s first graduate tax programs, stands as one of the best. Employers value the BU Law LLM credential because it signals rigorous training and superior preparation.

IS IT FOR YOU?
The Graduate Tax Program is designed for lawyers who seek advanced training in the complexities of tax law. It draws a broad range of students, from recent law school graduates, to mid-career attorneys seeking new expertise, to seasoned lawyers from both the public and private sectors, including many from the nation’s leading law and tax consulting firms. International students include practitioners, in-house counsel, academics, and government officials. The program’s online option is particularly attractive to practitioners whose jobs—or locations—make residential studies difficult.

LEADING PROFESSIONALS: OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTORS
The superior instruction you receive will define your experience. You’ll learn from leading tax and estate planning professionals drawn from law firms, accounting firms, tax consulting firms, and federal and state government revenue departments, as well as scholar-teachers who are members of BU Law’s full-time faculty. We select instructors not only for their professional achievements, but also for their outstanding teaching abilities, accessibility, and interest in student success, inside and outside the classroom.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: OUR PRIORITY
An advanced degree gives you a powerful credential in the specialized world of tax law. Even in today’s highly competitive legal job market, myriad opportunities exist for qualified tax attorneys, particularly those with a BU Law credential. As of January 2017, 90% of the program’s 2016 graduates were employed by accounting firms, law firms, the government, nonprofits, and as in-house counsel.

Your professional development is our priority. You’ll receive career and job search support from our full-time associate director and visiting Tax LLM Career Advisor. You can apply to interview with employers at the Tax Attorney Recruiting Event (TARE), an elite job fair in Washington, DC.

YOUR PATH TO A DEGREE
The GTP offers multiple paths to complete the 24 credits required for the BU Law LLM in Taxation degree. Our residential program options—both full- and part-time—provide access to one of the most expansive tax law curricula available. The five required courses and more than 35 challenging electives ensure that you receive a solid foundation in essential tax subjects, as well as the opportunity to pursue an area of emphasis in a sub-specialty such as Estate Planning, International Tax, or General Business Taxation. A formal concentration in Estate Planning is also available.

Full-time residential. Our full-time residential option is designed to be completed in one academic year. For recent JD graduates looking to obtain both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for a successful career in tax law, this is an ideal option.

Part-time residential. If you are a lawyer working within commuting range of Boston and aspire to augment your tax law knowledge and qualifications, the LLM program is open to you on a part-time basis.

All residential classes are scheduled during the late afternoon and evening. As a part-time student, you may enroll for up to eight consecutive semesters to complete your degree requirements.

#8 in tax studies among US law schools

Five consecutive years among US’s top five LLM in Taxation programs
in annual TaxTalent survey of corporate tax department heads
Online. The Graduate Tax Program offers the same challenging program of LLM studies in an entirely online format, an attractive alternative for domestic and international lawyers whose jobs preclude them from attending classes in Boston. You can begin the program during any of the three online sessions—fall, spring, or summer—and enroll in a variety of tax courses taught by the same highly experienced instructors who teach our residential courses. You can complete your degree in as few as two sessions.

NEW YORK BAR QUALIFICATION ENROLLMENT OPTION
Foreign-trained students who seek to earn the LLM in Taxation and also to qualify to sit for the New York bar exam can do so through a 32-credit enrollment option. Over the course of three semesters, students fulfill both the requirements for the LLM in Taxation as well as the foreign-lawyer eligibility requirements set forth by the New York State Board of Law Examiners.

ESTATE PLANNING CERTIFICATE
Building upon the tax law fundamentals that comprise the GTP’s core curriculum, the estate planning certificate provides students with a set of courses designed to develop or enhance their expertise in the specialized area of estate planning within tax. Students are required to take Estate & Gift Taxation, Estate Planning, and Taxation of Trusts & Fiduciaries, and select three electives from other GTP course offerings, including Elder Law, International Estate Planning, and Tax Aspects of Charitable Giving, among others. An analogous concentration is available to degree-seeking students.

STUDENT LIFE
All students receive individual guidance and support on all matters, large and small, from the GTP staff. They’ll also help you connect with other students outside of class through a range of special lectures and community events. And you’ll network with lawyers from around the globe through multiple events that bring together the school’s entire LLM student body—over 300 lawyers from nearly 50 countries.

If you are an online student, you’re still an integral part of the BU Law community. To support your online studies, you can contact the tax program staff, the teaching assistants, or the course instructors with questions about exams, coursework, and other related matters. This team-based approach to online student service ensures that you have the support you need, when you need it.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS
Qualified applicants hold a JD degree from an American Bar Association–accredited law school or an equivalent first degree in law from a comparably recognized law school or law faculty outside the United States. International applicants must be highly proficient in English. Online students are held to the same admissions standards as residential students.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
Each year, BU Law’s LLM Scholars Program recognizes a small number of LLM applicants to the full-time residential program who have demonstrated outstanding academic and/or professional achievement. Acknowledgment includes a scholarship award in the form of a partial-tuition waiver and designation as an LLM Scholar. All applicants for admission to our full-time residential programs are automatically considered for this merit scholarship; no separate application is required. In addition, domestic applicants to our full-time residential program are eligible to apply for the Frederic G. Corneel Scholarship, which provides partial scholarship awards based on merit and financial need.

MORE INFORMATION
Learn more about the Graduate Tax Program, including details on the application process, at www.bu.edu/law. Prospective students may also contact the Graduate Tax Program Office at:

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Graduate Tax Program
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I knew I wanted to work at one of the Big 4 before I came to BU. The program offers many career events for us to interact with Big 4 professionals and takes us for their Boston office visits. Overall, the career office offered the best career counseling services I have experienced.

—Aiyao Zhou
Associate, Transaction Tax, EY Boston
LLM in Taxation, 2017
JD, Pennsylvania State University, 2014
LLB, Beijing Foreign Studies University