LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program

BU Law’s LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program attracts domestic and internationally trained lawyers who seek specialized instruction in the constantly evolving field of intellectual property law. 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 as well as BU Law does. Each year, we invite a select group of lawyers to seize the future through advanced training in this all-important field.

A Dynamic Curriculum for a Dynamic Field

The LLM in Intellectual Property Law Program is a one-year, full-time, 24-credit program. You will pursue a range of IP and IP-related courses offered through the JD curriculum, meaning you will have access to the law faculty consistently named to the top of Princeton Review’s “Best Professors” list. Students focus their studies in the primary areas of IP: copyright law, patent law, and trademark & unfair competition law.

In the spring, you’ll participate in the Intellectual Property Workshop Seminar, reacting to and commenting on invited scholars’ works-in-progress. You may also apply to the JD program as a transfer student to complete the program with only two additional years of study.

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, including a broad range of electives, such as:

- Trade Secrets
- Patent Litigation
- Economics of IP Law
- IP and the Internet
- IP Licensing in the Global Marketplace
- International IP
A Faculty of Renowned IP Scholars

Our full-time IP faculty is acclaimed not just for its teaching excellence but also 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.

Personal Attention & Immersive Experiences

The Graduate & International Programs Office is your home away from home, with a staff devoted to supporting you from the moment you arrive. This personal attention makes a difference. Ask any graduate.

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 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.

Admissions

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All applicants to the Intellectual Property Law Program are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships through one of BU Law’s LLM Scholars programs. No additional forms or documents are required. Scholarships come in the form of partial tuition waivers. Recipients are notified of their awards at the time of admission.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Intellectual Property Law Program is open to candidates who hold a Juris Doctor degree or an equivalent law degree from a law school outside the US. Admission is highly competitive and depends to a great extent on the demonstration of outstanding ability in previous law studies. Prior work experience in the intellectual property field is strongly recommended though not required.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

• 24 credits
• Three of four required foundational courses in Intellectual Property, Copyright Law, Patent Law, and Trademark & Unfair Competition
• Intellectual Property Workshop Seminar
• For internationally trained lawyers: Introduction to American Law and the Legal Research and Writing Seminar

Learn More

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

You can also contact us directly at bullm@bu.edu.

Is it for you?

This program is designed for: experienced lawyers seeking to specialize in intellectual property law

Applicants to this program often want to: become experts in copyright, trademarks, and patent law

This program is not designed for: lawyers seeking to qualify to take a US bar exam

One-On-One Support

BU Law is committed to your professional success and helping you secure postgraduation opportunities in the US or abroad. Professional development staff work exclusively with LLM students, delivering one-on-one advice to help each student achieve their goals.

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Select Program

—less than 10 students selected for admission each year

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BU Law is the perfect location to immerse yourself in intellectual property studies. Boston is one of the world’s leading high-tech centers, a vibrant market for innovation and discovery, boasting an unrivaled concentration of high-tech, biotech, life science, medical device, and pharmaceutical enterprises, labs, and research institutes. For you, this means you’ll learn from some of the nation’s foremost IP practitioners who teach in BU Law’s program, bringing their Boston-based expertise and experience to the classroom.