

**2009-2010**

**DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM:**

**J.D./M.A. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Boston University**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Juris Doctor and Master of Arts in International Relations provides advanced training for students assuming positions in national governments or international agencies, and for international lawyers who need to understand the global environment in which they will operate.

Candidates in the dual-degree program should first apply to the Boston University School of Law indicating on their application their interest in the J.D./M.A. in International Relations dual-degree program. Once the Law School admits an applicant, the Law School Admissions Office will forward the application to the Graduate School Admissions Office, which will forward it to the International Relations Department for review. The Graduate School will separately inform applicants of their admission to the dual-degree program. Applicants who are admitted into the J.D. program but not the dual-degree program remain eligible for the J.D. program; applicants who are not accepted into the J.D. program may apply separately to the Graduate School for admittance to the MA/IR program.

Students in the program typically may receive both degrees in three and one-half years. The requirements for the dual degree include courses in the I.R. core areas of Theory and Policy, Political Economy, Security Studies, and Regional Studies. The required J.D. Courses in the School of Law provide professional background and preparation for law practice.

**II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The requirements for the dual-degree program include:

1. Admission:
  - a) Completed application to the Law School;
  - b) A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, or enrollment in a course of study that will result in the award of such a degree before commencement of law study;

- c) A non-refundable application fee, payable to Boston University;
  - d) Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate schools attended;
  - e) All applicants must take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) no later than February of the year for which they are applying;
  - f) All applicants, except those who completed all of their undergraduate work in countries outside the U.S., must register with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS) during the current processing year;
  - g) Two letters of recommendation and a Dean's clearance from the undergraduate school granting the applicant the B.A. or B.S. degree;
  - h) Personal statement;
  - i) Demonstrated proficiency in English for non-English speaking candidates (TOEFL).
  - j) For the Master's degree program in International Relations, you must identify a foreign language in which you are competent.
  - k) If you apply to the International Relations master's degree program during your first year of law school, their deadline is April 15.
2. During the first year of the program, dual-degree candidates will take the prescribed first-year LAW curriculum.
  3. During the second and third years of the program,<sup>\*</sup> dual-degree candidates will take:
    - a) Six graduate-level courses in the Department of International Relations, which will constitute three International Relations core courses and three GRS/IR International Affairs electives;
    - b) At least four Law School courses (BUT in any case, a minimum total of 12 credits) in the areas of international, foreign, and comparative law, according to the following guidelines:
      - i) The School of Law's introductory International Law course (JD927);

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<sup>\*</sup> *NOTE:* Some GRS/IR courses may be offered during the summer. Please check with the International Relations department whether those courses may be applied toward the M.A. degree requirements. (Note: The Law School does not offer summer courses). GRS/IR courses taken during the summer may **not** be applied toward the J.D. degree to reduce the Law School's semester or yearly credit requirements.

**EITHER:**

ii)

Two courses from among the following **2009-2010 School of Law** offerings in international, foreign, and comparative law: English Legal History; European Union Law; Immigration Law; International Business Transactions; Responses to Massive Violations of Human Rights. With permission of the Graduate Tax Program and on a space available basis, International Tax I. With permission of the Graduate Banking and Financial Law program and on a space available basis the following Banking and Financial Law Program Courses: International Economic Institutions; International Securities Transactions; Microfinance and Development; Transnational Lending.

**AND**

One seminar from among the following School of Law offerings in international, foreign, and comparative law: Comparative Law; E-Commerce; Globalization of the Legal Profession; Health Law, International Business Agreements; International Business Arbitration; International Competition Law Research; International Intellectual Property; International Law for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; International Legal Research; International Project Finance; Islamic Law; Jewish Law; Law & Development; National Security Law; Refugee and Asylum Law; The Constitution and Foreign Affairs.

**OR:**

One course from the above list of the School of Law **courses** in international, foreign and comparative law.

**AND**

Two seminars from the above list of School of Law **seminars** in international, foreign, and comparative law.

- c) In addition to the six IR graduate-level courses, students must take a sufficient number of LAW courses to satisfy the regular residency requirements of the Law School. Students may receive credit toward the Juris Doctor degree for graduate-level course work at GRS/IR consistent with School of Law regulations governing non-law, graduate-level courses.
- d) Students must satisfy all other requirements for the Juris Doctor degree that the School of Law sets.

4. Thus, the M.A. degree requires a total of 6 GRS courses plus the required Law courses and seminars. The course requirements for the dual degree program incorporate the core requirements of both schools' degree programs and provide opportunity for seven courses of elective study in international affairs (four in the Law School and three in the Graduate School).
5. A Master's Research or Policy Paper, prepared with an International Relations Department faculty advisor or, **with prior approval by the Graduate Programs Administrator at the IR Department**, a School of Law faculty advisor as a capstone to the program, to be defended in an oral examination organized by the Department of International Relations.
6. A statistics requirement that may be satisfied by presentation of documentation of having passed an undergraduate course in statistics, or by passing IR 702 (Research Methods for International Relations Practitioners), CAS MA 113, or CAS MA 115 at Boston University. (IR strongly prefers that students take IR 702).
7. To complete the dual degree program, students must satisfy a foreign language requirement by: 1) taking a written exam involving translation from a foreign language into English, which is administered and evaluated by the Department of International Relations; OR 2) by taking and passing any of six Graduate Reading Knowledge courses offered by the MFLL Department. These are zero credit courses taken pass/fail, and which focus on teaching reading knowledge only. They are: LF 621 (French); LG 621 (German); LI 621 (Italian); LR 621 (Russian); and LS 621 (Spanish). Students are not permitted to submit or defend their MA paper until this requirement has been fulfilled.
8. Students in the dual degree program ordinarily would be eligible to receive the J.D. degree after the third year of the program, and would have one year to complete the remaining requirements for the M.A. degree (two GRS/IR electives and the Master's Paper, if these requirements were not completed earlier).\*\*\* Students then would receive the M.A. degree.

III. For further information, please contact:

- A. Associate Dean Christine Marx (for information on the LAW program)  
Boston University School of Law  
765 Commonwealth Avenue  
(617) 358-1800  
cmarx@bu.edu
- B. Michael Williams  
Graduate Programs Administrator  
Boston University

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\*\*\* *NOTE*: Students in the program can complete all requirements for the M.A. degree in six semesters if they take two GRS/IR electives during the summer after the first or second year of the program, and if they complete the Master's Paper during the third year of the program.

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