



Advising LLM Applicants: From A-Z

PANELISTS :

Kara Madden, Academic Adviser, Fulbright Commission Spain

Jane E. Schukoske, Director, Master of Laws program in the Law of the United States, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD, USA

Jessica Richman Dworkin, Assistant Dean, International and Graduate Programs, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH, USA

Rosie Edmond, Assistant Director of Admissions, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, DC, USA

Celine Ouziel, Educational Adviser, Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange, in Paris, France

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

Advising LL.M. Applicants: From A-Z

Session Format

- Basics about the LL.M. degree
- Application Best Practices
- Funding
- Internships
- State bar
- Orientation programs
- Advising Tips
- Questions and Discussion



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



Kara Madden

adviser@comision-fulbright.org

Basics about the LL.M. degree

Advising LL.M. Applicants: From A-Z

The JD Degree

- **JD**, or Juris Doctor, meaning “teacher of law” in Latin.
- Basic law degree necessary to practice law in the U.S.
- Designed for practice in the United States
- Applying for it implies that one intends to live and work in the US long-term.
- **Graduate degree : one *Must have a bachelor’s degree to apply.***



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

Advising LL.M. Applicants: From A-Z

Popular LLM Concentrations

- General/U.S. Law
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Environmental Law
- Corporate/Business Law
- Constitutional Law
- International Law/Human Rights
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Children's Rights/Immigration



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

Advising LL.M. Applicants: From A-Z

Factors Involved in Choosing Right LLM

- Program Content- which Law Schools offer desired concentration?
- Location- for personal tastes as well as professional.
- Quality of faculty & their areas of research.
- Selectivity- how hard is it to get in?
- Scholarships- is there aid? How much?
- Added-value aspects of program, like internships, job fairs, pre-academic courses.



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



Rosie Edmond

redmond@wcl.american.edu

Submitting a Competitive Application Financing the Degree

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education
EducationUSA.state.gov

Submitting a Competitive Application

- Application rounds and deadlines
- Official test scores
 - Preparation
 - Test re-takes
 - Timing
- Official transcripts
 - Translations
 - Original copies
 - Credentials verification services



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

Submitting a Competitive Application

- Letters of recommendation
 - Selecting recommenders
 - How many letters to submit?
- Essays and personal statements
 - Specific questions vs. open topics
 - Submitting additional essays
- Resumés
 - Different than a *c.v.*
 - Preferred formats vary by type of program



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

Financing the Degree

- Merit-based scholarship awards
 - How admissions committees make award decisions
- Need-based scholarships
 - Demonstrating need as an international applicant
- Public vs. private institutions
- Third-party scholarship opportunities
- Fulbright Scholarships/Muskie Fellowships



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



Jane E. Schukoske
jschukoske@ubalt.edu

State Bar admission
Orientation programs

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

State Bar Admission for foreign lawyers

- State Bar Admission – educational requirements
- LL.M.s typically take the New York or D.C. bar exam
- Some states allow foreign law graduates to take the bar examination directly
- Some do not allow foreign law graduates to sit for the bar exam until they pass another state bar
- **Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements** published by the National Conference of Bar Examiners: <http://www.ncbex.org/comprehensive-guide-to-bar-admissions/>

Advising LL.M. Applicants: From A-Z

Orientation Programs

- LL.M. Programs are short – often nine months
- English fluency is a must
- On-campus orientation programs are extremely important to attend, some are required
- Summer programs in Legal English help students get acclimated
- Resource: “Summer Programs Offered By American Universities of interest to Foreign Lawyers and Advanced Law Students”



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



**Jessica Richman
Dworkin
dworkin.12@osu.edu**

Finding Legal Jobs/Internships in the United States

WHO

- Law school's "Career Development Office," "Placement Office", "Career Services Office"
- Common services provided:
 - General strategizing of the job search process
 - Resume drafting/editing
 - Cover letter drafting/editing
 - Networking assistance (what is it, how to do it, providing opportunities with alumni, lawyers in the region, etc.)
 - Mock interviews
 - Access to database of available opportunities
 - Access to directories of law firms, public interest organizations



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

WHAT

- **Internships** – professional student positions for employment during the academic year (can be paid or volunteer)
- **Externships** – professional positions students for employment during the academic year, and for which they receive academic credit (no monetary compensation)
- **Clerkships** – traditionally : jobs working for a judge, often doing significant legal research and writing (can be paid or volunteer)
- **Jobs** –all of the above categories as well as full-time, paid positions following graduation.



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

WHEN

- Most LL.M.s : not until January of their LL.M. year – continues into the spring
- Schools attending LL.M. job fairs and students with strong professional network: begins in the fall – continues into the spring



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

HOW

- Networking
- Resumes are different than C.V.s.
- Law schools' database of jobs
- Commercial job sites

Good Resources:

- www.nalpdirectory.com
- www.idealists.org
- www.pslawnet.org



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov



Céline Ouziel

ouziel@fulbright-france.org

How to prepare an LL.M information session

WHY WHEN WHO WHAT HOW

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education
EducationUSA.state.gov

WHY?

- Some of your most popular requests
- You have a large space
- To attract students or professionals to your advising center
- A lot of Fulbright applicants are applying to a US LL.M. program.
- To make students understand that LL.M. programs are many and diverse



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

WHEN?

- For France : in October every year
 - Just before a specific fair in which LL.M. program reps are participating
 - Deadline for Fulbright scholarship program : December 1st
 - Deadlines for LL.M. applications : from Dec 1st to March 15th



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

WHO?

- U.S. LL.M. admission officers
- Fulbright alumni who did an LL.M. in the US
- Other alumni of LL.M programs
- Education USA adviser(s)
- Fulbright program officer
- TOEFL or IELTS rep.
- A U.S. visa officer



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education
EducationUSA.state.gov

WHAT?

Common themes to develop :

Why an LL.M in the US?

How to choose an LL.M program?

LL.M. or JD?

State Bar Exam

The Law School environment

Differences between law schools in the US and in your home country

Admissions procedures and tips

Visa procedures

Internship opportunities

Fulbright program and other scholarship opportunities

What happens after an LL.M.



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

HOW?

- Contact potential speakers at least 3 months in advance
- Create a fancy poster
- Post on your website
- First e-mailing : one month and a half before the event :
 - To LL.M applicants who were in contact with you
 - To law schools in your country
 - LL.M. program officers can also use their own data base
- Send several reminders
- Confirm participation 2 days before (tentative schedule)



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

WHAT ELSE?

- One specific theme per speaker
- US reps : admissions tips or how to choose an LL.M
- Alumni : LL.M. experience and outcomes
- Adviser : coordinator/facilitator
- Power Point presentations
- Not more than an hour
- Leave ample time for questions



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

Some pictures ...



Your Official Source on Higher Education
EducationUSA.state.gov

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EducationUSA.state.gov

Advising LLM Applicants from A-Z Resource List

Volume 3: Issue 2: April 2009 of EducationUSA Connections. An excellent introduction to Legal Studies in the US for advisers. Includes:

handouts for applicants, put together by Céline Ouziel in France

handout for applicants, by the US-UK Fulbright Commission's Advisory Service

article for applicants: FAQ's on the LLM in the US

article for applicants: Interview of Tulane Law School Dean Susan L. Krinsky

ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools: contains information on preparing for the JD (the LSAT, Admissions Requirements, Tuition and Expenses, Financial Aid, Curriculum, Faculty, Career Placement, Bar Passage Rates and Useful Websites). Also includes post-JD degrees. The **list of LLMs by area of concentration** at the end of the book is particularly useful when your advisee already has a clear idea of his / her intended specialization.

This list also appears on the **American Bar Association** website:

<http://www.abanet.org/students.html>;

<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/postjdprograms/postjd.html>

LLMGUIDE, www.llm-guide.com: a database of LL.M. programs worldwide, plus articles and a discussion board.

www.LLMDIRECTORY.COM: limited list of LLMs available.

Financial Times LLM Listing for 2009

Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements published by the National Conference of Bar Examiners: <http://www.ncbex.org/comprehensive-guide-to-bar-admissions/>

"The Official Guide to Legal Specialties: An Insider's Guide to Every Major Practice Area" by Lisa L. Abrams, J.D.: provides candidates with a description of what the specialty entails in practice, what life is like for lawyers in said kind of practice, who their clients are and the types of cases on which they usually work, how lawyers with said specialty spend their time, what they find rewarding about their work, how to train for a career in said specialty, which particular skills are necessary to be successful, which classes at law school are recommended and the names of experts in the field interviewed, along with their alma maters and names of their current employers.

"Summer Programs Offered By American Universities of interest to Foreign Lawyers and Advanced Law Students," prepared by Celine Ouziel

Personal Contacts: Law School Admissions Reps, Alumni