

International LL.M. Program

MASTER OF LAWS FOR FOREIGN LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES

SMU Dedman School of Law, founded in 1925, is located on a magnificent tree-lined campus, ten minutes from downtown Dallas, Texas, and situated in a beautiful residential community. Dallas is an expanding global center, ranking fifth in the country in corporate headquarters of Fortune 500 companies. It is also a great place to study law and live, with a strong legal community and one of the most vibrant cosmopolitan cities in the world.

The program for international students, established in 1949, was among the first in the country. Today the school is a leading international legal center with more than 2,200 international graduates from more than 80 countries. SMU Dedman School of Law graduates now occupy prominent positions in government, legal practice, business, the judiciary, and legal education around the world.

The primary goal of this LL.M. program is to provide the additional legal training to allow international students to work and succeed in the global legal market. There is the ability to concentrate studies in areas of the law that are relevant to student's interest and practice. This LL.M. program seeks to develop:

- an appreciation of the role of law nationally and internationally
- the ability to identify policy considerations of various legal rules
- an appreciation of the role of the lawyer in social and economic change
- legal analysis and problem-solving abilities
- a basic understanding of the U.S. legal system
- a frame of reference for dealing with business and legal interests in a transnational setting

International students are eligible to participate in the Corporate Counsel Externship Program. The Program combines a corporate counsel class with externships in 100 corporate legal departments.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

An applicant for admission to this LL.M. degree program must be a graduate of a recognized foreign law school. The applicant's undergraduate record must demonstrate scholarly legal aptitude. Applicants for whom English is a second language must present evidence of a TOEFL or IELTS English language proficiency test. U.S.-trained law students may not apply to this degree program.

FULL-TIME 2025-2026 LL.M. TUITION, FEES, AND ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Tuition Fees Living	\$60,844
Fees	\$7,842
Estimated Expenses	
Living Expenses	\$21,674
Health Insurance	\$4,260
Total	\$94,620*

*NOTE: If you are bringing family to the United States, you are required to provide additional funds to cover estimated living expenses for dependents.

• 1 Dependent	\$9,000
• 2 Dependents	\$13,500
• 3 Dependents	\$18,000
• 4 Dependents	\$22,000

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the Dean's Scholarships for international students, we offer two additional scholarships. The Helmut Sohmen Scholarship provides full tuition, fees and a monthly living stipend for up to eight (8) students from China. The Celis Law Group Scholarship provides three (3) full tuition and fee scholarships to applicants with Mexican law degrees. The applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in law from an accredited Mexican law school or university and be an admitted applicant from Mexico. There is not a separate application for LL.M. Scholarships. Your application for LL.M. admission serves as your scholarship application. Please visit smu.edu/law/scholarships for more information on the scholarships.



Scan for more information



TEXAS, NEW YORK, AND OTHER BAR EXAM ELIGIBILITY

International students who wish to practice law in this country and qualify for admission to the bar in one of the states or the District of Columbia should familiarize themselves with the bar admission requirements in the particular jurisdiction where they plan to practice. Bar admission requirements vary from state to state. Some states require applicants to have a J.D. degree, and others will require only a certain number of course credits from a law school in this country.

Many of our graduates sit for bar exams in Texas, New York, and other jurisdictions.

For complete rules governing Admission to the State Bar of Texas, see: <https://ble.texas.gov/rules>

CAREER ADVISOR

Students have a dedicated career advisor who presents career-related programming (i.e., networking, interview skills, and resume workshops), provides career development educational resources, informs students of networking opportunities at the local, state, and national level, and counsels students. Depending on visa status, students may apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) to obtain U.S. employment upon receiving the LL.M. degree. This temporary period of OPT is usually up to twelve months after the completion of studies.

LEADERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL LL.M. PROGRAM

SMU Dedman Law alumni have been managing partners of the largest law firms in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Taiwan. Graduates have served as the chiefs of staff of the presidents of Uruguay and Korea as well as ministers in Korea, Argentina, Taiwan, Mexico, and Costa Rica. The school has trained justices on the highest courts of Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Brazil, Taiwan, Korea, Egypt, and the Philippines. SMU Dedman Law has also trained a number of chief executive officers of companies around the world, including Cathay Insurance in Taiwan, DuPont Chile, and BW Group in Hong Kong.



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