LLM in Comparative Law
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW
THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of San Diego School of Law is one of only 81 law schools in the country to have a chapter of the Order of the Coif, the most distinguished rank of American law schools. We are accredited by the American Bar Association and are a member of the Association of American Law Schools. As a long-standing leader in graduate legal education, USD School of Law offers our students personal attention from the time they apply until graduation.
PROGRAM INFORMATION

For more than 30 years, the University of San Diego has enjoyed a distinguished history of introducing the U.S. legal system to practitioners and scholars who received law degrees outside of the United States. Each year, numerous international law school graduates are afforded the opportunity to design a course of study that specifically suits their academic interests and professional goals within the LLM in Comparative Law.

LLM in Comparative Law candidates can benefit substantially from the opportunity to study side-by-side with JD and LLM students from across the United States and around the world. Being immersed into our contemporary and dynamic JD curriculum prepares LLM in Comparative Law candidates to deal effectively with U.S. attorneys on questions of common interest, and aids lawyers serving international governments and organizations in understanding issues involving U.S. law. It also offers international law professors a broader view of legal concepts and equips them to deal with comparative aspects of their subjects.

Successful completion of the LLM in Comparative Law degree may qualify graduates to sit for a bar examination in certain U.S. jurisdictions provided they have completed the necessary coursework as part of their degree program. We offer academic advising and informational workshops throughout the year to assist LLM students in pursuing this career goal.
The LLM in Comparative Law degree requires successful completion of 25 credits of coursework, including four credits of required courses. Candidates must complete the following courses as part of their first semester: Introduction to U.S. Law (2 credits) and Legal Writing and Research (2 credits). Candidates must also complete a written work requirement in the amount of two credits to obtain the degree. LLM students work closely with an academic advisor to select their remaining credits from a variety of elective courses offered in all areas of the law. The wide selection of elective courses can be viewed on our website at law.sandiego.edu/llmccourses.

Prior to the beginning of the semester, all entering students are required to participate in a week-long Introduction to U.S. Legal Education program. In addition to workshops and events, candidates begin coursework in their two required courses—allowing our new students to seamlessly integrate into the law school community and make the most of their studies at USD School of Law.

Not every course is offered each academic year. Course availability, descriptions, content, and requirements are subject to change.

Reimo Hammerberg, Estonia, 2006
Partner, Head of Regional Banking and Finance Practice, Sorainen Law Firm

Prior to coming to USD, I had practiced law as an attorney for three years and thought that a law school could offer me little new. Yet, at USD I was exposed to innovative areas of law, especially those relating to corporate and finance—making my year at USD a very mind-broadening experience. The law school was fairly small, making the relationships with the fellow students as well as with the professors quite personal. I can claim with confidence that the knowledge and experience gained from USD gave me a different understanding of finance and capital markets, and helped to lay a good foundation for my current career where I am a regionally responsible firm partner for the banking and finance practice area.
University of San Diego School of Law

My year at USD as part of the LLM program was very rewarding on a professional and a personal level. The quality and variety of the courses and the availability of the professors and fellow students gave me invaluable insight on both the theory and the practice of law in the United States. Foreign-trained lawyers are given wide discretion as to what courses they may take and are encouraged to participate. I always felt welcomed in the classes I chose. In addition, the atmosphere at the law school and the relationships developed with students and faculty made the entire experience unforgettable.

Sophie Bernabé, France, 2006
Associate, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Academic concentrations are available in:
- Business and Corporate Law
- Criminal Law
- Environmental and Energy Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- Taxation

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LLM in Comparative Law degree candidates have the option of pursuing a concentration in one of six key practice areas. These concentrations highlight curricular strengths, offering a rich selection of courses taught by leading scholars and expert practitioners. Enrolled students may consult the concentration curriculum as an informal guide for shaping their education or may choose to meet the specific requirements for earning a Certificate of Concentration and corresponding transcript notation. For detailed information about concentrations, go to law.sandiego.edu/llmc.
ADMISSION

Admission to the LLM in Comparative Law program is competitive and based primarily upon previous excellence in law studies and/or significant professional experience. Admission criteria include the following:

• Applicants must possess the equivalent of a U.S. law degree from an accredited institution outside the United States

• Applicants must have graduated in the upper half of their law school class or must otherwise establish qualifications indicating their ability to complete graduate law work successfully

• Applicants must establish competency in English through successful completion of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Candidates for the LLM in Comparative Law degree may complete the degree requirements in as little as one year as a full-time student, or may enroll on a part-time basis over a longer period, not exceeding three years. Enrollment status is subject to visa restrictions. For a helpful application checklist, go to law.sandiego.edu/llmcchecklist.
FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of San Diego School of Law is committed to providing financial assistance to eligible citizens and eligible non-citizens whose personal resources are insufficient to meet the cost of law school. Admission decisions and financial aid decisions are made independently.

Merit scholarships may be awarded to full-time LLM applicants who have demonstrated a high degree of excellence in their previous legal education or in the practice of law. These partial-tuition, non-renewable, merit-based scholarships are available to both domestic and international candidates.

International applicants may also wish to consider external sources of funding, such as Fulbright, Rotary, or private scholarship programs. For more information about financial aid, go to law.sandiego.edu/financial_aid.
USD’s law professors are nationally recognized legal scholars and dedicated classroom instructors. Their backgrounds as practicing lawyers, policymakers, and ardent legal educators provide the foundation for a robust learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

Many USD faculty members have national and international reputations for excellence in numerous areas of law including business and corporate law, intellectual property, public international law, environmental and energy law, criminal law, children's rights, and family law.

Most of our professors have taught and regularly are invited to lecture around the world. Several of our faculty are members of the prestigious American Law Institute.

Our faculty welcome and value the contributions of our international law graduates and attorneys for their unique backgrounds and diverse perspectives in the classroom.

For information about USD’s faculty experience and scholarly publications, go to law.sandiego.edu/faculty.

Doris Baumgartner, Germany, 2007
Rechtsanwältin, Attorney at Law

Participating in the LLM program at the University of San Diego has been essential for my work in an international law firm, as it has instilled in me the deep insight in the U.S. legal system, which I need for my daily work in cross-border transactions. In addition, the program gave me the opportunity to learn about different cultures—both legal and personal—which increased my networking abilities and overall work efficiency tremendously. I am truly grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in the program.
Let’s be honest, there are many universities which offer a great education – but in the end it is up to you and your personality to make any educational experience truly great. For this reason, I believe that the key goals of the university are to provide its students with all necessary tools for studying and to create a professional and friendly environment. In my opinion, the University of San Diego successfully reaches both goals. I value every moment I spent at USD, where I grew up as a person and as a professional.
About the University of San Diego
Located on 180 acres overlooking the city of San Diego, Mission Bay, and the Pacific Ocean, the University of San Diego campus features Spanish Renaissance-inspired buildings and beautiful landscapes. In addition to the School of Law, the University of San Diego has highly regarded schools of business, leadership and education sciences, nursing and health sciences, and peace studies.

Academic Excellence — The university pursues academic excellence in its teaching, learning and research to serve the local, national and international communities.

Knowledge — The university advances intellectual development; promotes democratic and global citizenship; cultivates an appreciation for beauty, goodness and truth; and provides opportunities for the physical, spiritual, emotional, social and cultural development of students.

Community — The university is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative community accentuated by a spirit of freedom and charity, and marked by protection of the rights and dignity of the individual.

Ethical Conduct — The university provides a values based education that informs the development of ethical judgment and behavior.

Compassionate Service — The university embraces the Catholic moral and social tradition by its commitment to serve with compassion, to foster peace and to work for justice.

For more information, please contact:

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