FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT COURSE SELECTION

May I select courses from the J.D. Curriculum?

Yes. Many of the J.D. courses are cross-listed, which means that there are seats reserved for LL.M. students; these seats are listed in the schedule after the JD section as LAWG. You must register for the LAWG side of cross-listed courses. For J.D. courses that are not cross-listed, graduate students have priority below all J.D. students for getting into the course if there is a waiting list.

In a small number of J.D. cross-listed courses, when so indicated, first priority for LAWG seats may be given to students in a related specialized degree program (e.g. a National Security Law LL.M. student will have priority during preregistration for some National Security-related cross-listed courses). Other LL.M. students may request seats in those courses during the add/drop period.

Must all my LL.M. courses be taken from the list of classes in my degree program?

No. You may choose from the entire graduate curriculum as well as the second and third year of the J.D. curriculum. The list of courses meeting the specialization requirements for each degree program [see www.law.georgetown.edu/go/llm-registration] is useful in identifying courses that are of interest to you and satisfy the specialization requirements for your degree, but you should also look through the alphabetical list of graduate courses to get an understanding of the wide range of classes available to you. When selecting classes, bear in mind the number of “specialization credits” you need for your degree. For example, foreign-trained lawyers in the Taxation degree must complete 16 tax-related credits; foreign-trained lawyers in the traditional Securities & Financial Regulation degree must complete 14 securities-related credits; etc. The rest of your credits are “electives” and can be selected from our full curriculum.

What is the difference between the "traditional track" and the "practice-orientated tracks"? Why distinguish them?

Due to U.S. visa regulations, those students on F-1 or J-1 student visas who wish to enroll in courses involving an off-campus work experience [e.g., externships, most practicums, and most workshops] must obtain work authorization to be in compliance with visa regulations. To accommodate this, we have designed two “tracks” for the LL.M. programs for foreign students so that they can pursue the academic and off-campus work experiences they want without violating their visa status. We will address this distinction during Orientation, and we will switch a student to the “practice-oriented track” only when they enroll in a course requiring off-campus work experience. You do not need to be concerned about it during pre-registration.
I applied for one degree program but now realize another one better suits my interests. Can I change my degree specialization?

If you are certain you want to change your degree designation prior to registration, please make the request through the Office of Graduate Admissions (lawllmadmis@georgetown.edu). Please note that requests to change into another degree program will require an additional review by the Admissions Committee prior to approval. If you are thinking about a switch but prefer to make the decision after your arrival, you should discuss the change with your LL.M. academic advisor. Please note that you may need to start meeting degree requirements for a specialized degree program in the fall semester.

Should I try to meet the requirements of a certificate along with the LL.M.?

Generally, employers are interested in the legal knowledge and the professional skills that you have developed at Georgetown Law. We recommend prioritizing your overall educational goals above earning a certificate for future employment reasons. If you have a highly specialized career plan and we offer a certificate in that area – such as WTO Law or International Human Rights – you will find that you can complete the certificate requirements easily. Otherwise, it is better to focus on the courses that most interest you.

How should my career goals impact my course selection?

If you have identified a career path, there may be a series of courses that will help you to acquire substantive knowledge and develop useful skills for that particular career. Think about the goals you set when you decided to enroll in an LL.M. program. Is this a career change for you? Are you looking to specialize in a specific area of law? Do you want to enhance your writing skills? Do you want to learn negotiation strategies? Are you interested in litigation?

Generally speaking, employers do not require or express strong preferences as to specific courses. However, employers that focus on a particular subject matter or type of legal work often do expect that applicants will have taken at least a basic course in the related area.

We offer a broad range of courses to help you expand your legal knowledge. Searching the course catalog by topic will help you identify courses related to a specific practice area. Visit http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/curriculum/tab_schedules.cfm and select a degree or certificate program from the drop down menu. Be sure to press “submit” after you make the selection.

For more advice about course selection and your career path, please consult with your career and academic advisors. In addition, you soon will have access to webinars designed to assist you in the course selection process. The webinar schedule will be posted on the Admitted Student website and Facebook page. In addition, many of the sessions at Orientation will address the course registration process.
What is an "externship" and should I do one?

An externship is a for-credit placement in a legal office or work setting outside of the Law Center. Pre relevant guidelines and restrictions, LL.M. students may participate in an externship at a government agency, an NGO, an international organization, or a for-profit enterprise, such as a law firm or business. Students receive 2 credits for working under the direct supervision of a qualified lawyer for a minimum of 10 hours per week for at least 11 weeks during the semester.

Our LL.M. students have worked in a variety of organizations, including the World Bank, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, National Institutes of Health, the Trade and Health Office at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Big Four accounting firms, major law firms, the U.S. Joint Committee on Taxation, the Center for Justice and International Law, and the Center for Telehealth & e-Health Law.

Foreign-trained students are eligible to complete an externship only during the Spring semester of their one-year program. For more information, visit www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/externships/index.cfm. Please note that externships generally do not count toward the specialization requirements required for certain degree programs.

Note: You do not enroll in externships during pre-registration. Rather, you should select your spring courses as if you are not pursuing an externship. Once you have obtained an externship, we will work with you to update your course schedule accordingly.

Are there other practice-oriented courses available, in addition to externships?

We offer a number of courses that emphasize practical skills. Generally speaking, courses with “workshop” in the title are skills-based courses. Some experiential credits are courses offered on-campus and others include an off-campus placements.

For Tax and Securities students, these courses include International Business Planning Workshop, Business Planning Seminar, Drafting Partnership and LLC Agreements, and International Debt Workouts. For international LL.M. students, some courses that emphasize practice skills and writing include U.S. Legal Research, Analysis and Writing; International Negotiations; Pre-Negotiation Strategies for Cross-Border Transactions; Presentation Skills for Lawyers; and Advanced International Commercial Arbitration.

We also offer “practicum” courses that include a “classroom” component, as well as an “off-campus work experience” (fieldwork practicum) or a project (project-based practicum).

I am an international student who is thinking of taking the New York Bar. Should this affect my course selection?

Yes. Please see the U.S. Bar Exam Information page on the Graduate Programs website (www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/us-
bar/index.cfm). If you are seeking a specialized degree and wish to sit for the New York Bar, you should speak with your academic advisor to ensure that your course selections meet the requirements for both objectives.

**How do I get started with course selection?**

There are a number of tools designed to assist you in course selection, including the online Curriculum Guide, faculty biographies, past course evaluations, and information provided by the Office of the Registrar. Before diving in to these materials, it is helpful to ask yourself a few questions:

- What are your goals for your time at the Law Center? How would you prioritize them? Are you hoping to develop specific legal skills, such as drafting legal documents, public speaking, or managing client relationships? Do you plan to prioritize personal commitments or pursuits outside the law? Are you hoping to maximize your GPA? Are you planning to develop deep expertise in a specific field of law? Are you interested in taking a course outside your area of expertise? Are you interested in developing relationships with faculty or peers?
- What classes have you enjoyed in other educational settings, and why? Think about teaching style, substantive material, class size, evaluation methods (e.g., exam, paper, project), course material selection, etc.
- Do you have a clear idea of what you want to do after you receive your LL.M.? Are there several areas of law you hope to explore?
- We will also hold webinar discussions on the course selection process, the New York Bar, and the various degree programs in early June before the course selection process ends.

**Will it benefit me to submit my pre-registration request as soon as the system permits in early June?**

No, there is no rush provided you submit your requests by the June deadline.

Pre-registration requests submitted by the June deadline are treated equally. Take time to carefully think through your choices and do your best to put together a schedule that satisfies your goals and interests. There will be opportunities to amend your schedule later, during Orientation Week and the during the add/drop period for each semester.

**Are there courses every law student must or should take?**

Each LL.M. degree and certificate program has its own requirements. Review the degree and certificate requirements on the Graduate Programs website: [www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/degree-programs/index.cfm](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/degree-programs/index.cfm).
What are the maximum and minimum number of credits I can take per semester?

Students whose first degree in law is from the U.S. must complete at least 24 credits for their degree. Students whose first degree in law is from outside the U.S. must complete at least 20 credits for their degree (or 24 credits for those seeking NY Bar eligibility).

Full-time students must take at least 8, and no more than 13, credits in a fall or spring semester. Part-time students may not enroll in more than 7 credits in a fall or spring semester. All students are limited to 6 academic credits during the summer session (and international students may not use more than 4 summer credits toward the New York Bar eligibility). Students may not enroll in more than 30 credits during the academic year, including the 4 credits an international student may earn during the LL.M. Summer Experience 2017.

Should I register for both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018?

Yes, you should make your selections for both semesters by the 3 p.m. deadline on Monday, June 26th. If you do not submit your spring semester course selections now, you may find yourself subject to long waiting lists for spring courses. You will have the opportunity to modify your course selections after you get here, during our "add/drop period" which occurs during the first week of each semester. When creating your preferred schedule, be sure to note prerequisite and recommended courses for a given course.

May I enroll in a course that lists another course as a prerequisite?

Maybe. You do not need to have taken the assigned prerequisite course at Georgetown Law. For example, a common prerequisite is the course, International Law 1. If you have taken this course or a similar public international law course in your first legal degree, then you meet the prerequisite requirement. Faculty members may be willing to waive a prerequisite if you are taking the prerequisite course concurrently, or if you have knowledge through other study or work experience. If you are uncertain about whether you have the necessary background knowledge for a course, choose the course in the pre-registration process and consult later with the professor or an academic advisor.

Is it preferable to take a heavier load in the fall or spring semester?

The timing and nature of your course of study is more important than the number of credits per semester. A course-load of four exam classes will demand intense focus at the end of the semester, but may leave more room earlier in the semester for other commitments. By contrast, the deadlines for short papers or projects due over the course of a semester better complement a practice-oriented course or an externship. Foreign-educated students are reminded that writing more than one paper can be challenging, especially in the first semester, and externships are not available to foreign-educated students until the spring semester.