

Guidance for International LL.M. Students

Your year as a Georgetown Law student will begin soon and we are working to make it a very challenging and exciting year for you and your classmates. Course selection is the most important task you must do before you arrive in Washington. The Office of Graduate Programs emailed you on Friday, May 27th with all the information for your course selection. Please let us know immediately if you did not receive it and we will resend it. Please email directly to gradprog@law.georgetown.edu and provide an updated email address **and remember that from June 1 onward, we will send all official mail directly to your Georgetown email account.**

You should consider the course selection process as one of the most important events in your LL.M. year so please review the information carefully and follow the instructions. It is time-consuming and you will find that there are more interesting courses than you will be able to take during your LL.M. so you will have to make some difficult choices.

To assist you in the selection and pre-registration process, we will be holding a web-based seminar [a webinar] on June 8th to answer your questions. We will send you full details soon – to your Georgetown Law email account!

Here is some important basic information useful for all our international students:

- 1. You are eligible to request courses from the entire graduate and “upper-level” J.D. curriculum [except clinics].** It is not necessary, e.g., to be in the Securities and Financial Regulation program to request a course that is also part of that specialized curriculum, or to take a J.D. course such as Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights or Environmental Law.
2. You can change your specialization during your enrollment so we recommend you choose the courses that interest you the most without regard to whether they are part of the LL.M. degree you applied for. [Many of our students change their degrees while here.] The important thing is to choose courses you want; do not focus on the name of the degree.
3. Do the course selection for both the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters now.
4. U.S. Legal Discourse I is a required course [offered only in the Fall semester] for all international students who did not attend Foundations of American Law and Legal Education. You must register for it. All students can request the U.S. Legal Discourse II classes but it is an elective and not required. [In exceptional circumstances we will approve a waiver of U.S. Legal Discourse I so if you believe you qualify for a waiver, or need a waiver due to a time-conflict with another course, please email me.] Since we have sufficient seats in USLD I for all students required to take it, we suggest you give other choices priority; seats in USLD II are limited and you may want to list that course higher in your priorities.

5. You do not register now for the Externship Program in Spring 2012. You will apply in a separate process during the Fall 2011 semester. Plan your schedule without the Externship, and if you arrange an Externship, you can drop one Spring course and add the Externship later in the year.

6. We will hold a general information session during the first week of Foundations of American Law and Legal Education and, after that session, we will begin the individual appointments with each Foundations student. I will also hold “Pre-Orientation Week” meetings during August 16 – 19th and the first week of the semester to meet those students arriving in August. And, you will benefit from the many the academic discussions during Orientation Week. In the meantime, please feel free to email with questions [mayer@law.georgetown.edu; phone 202 662 9470].

We have listed below some course groups that you can use as a guide in doing your own planning. Remember, however, that these are just hints to get you started and you should review the entire curriculum to identify the best courses for your education, interests and career.

Also, remember that many students combine their interests, with a mixture of public and private sector courses, and U.S. and international courses. So, don’t feel limited in any way.

Students focusing on an international private practice career: Many students choose a few domestic U.S. business courses like Corporations, Antitrust Law or Antitrust, Economics and the Law, and then the majority of their classes in international law subjects. Students usually include courses in areas such as international trade, international business law, international commercial arbitration, international project finance, and international negotiations. We are also offering Comparative Corporate Governance in the spring 2012 semester. Then, you can add a few more specialized courses or seminars in these areas, or focus on your own specialized interest such as international banking, intellectual property, telecommunications, or competition law.

Students focusing on an international public law career: Consider courses such as International Agreements; International Human Rights; International Criminal Law; International Trade Law; National Security Law; International Law I [public international law if you have not already studied it], or International Law II. Comparative Law courses such as Law and Foreign Investment in China; Comparative Tax Law, and Cross-Border Transactions: Latin America are popular. Also think about U.S. law courses such as Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law; Constitutional Law II [Individual Rights & Liberties]; Environmental Law, Election Administration and the Law, and Civil Rights.

Students focusing on U.S. Business Law: Consider courses such as Corporations, Antitrust, Securities Regulation, Federal Regulation of Financial Institutions, Commercial Law, Environmental Law.

We look forward to your year at Georgetown Law!