

The Cornell Law School
J.D.-LL.M. Degree Program and Curricular Offerings
Course Offerings 2021-22 Academic Year

Cornell Law School offers an opportunity to Cornell J.D. students to earn both a J.D. degree and an LL.M. degree in three years, including one session at the Cornell Law School-Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne Summer Institute of International and Comparative Law in Paris. The program leads to the joint degree of “J.D. -LL.M.” This document is designed to give you a statement of the requirements and mechanics of the program.

Application process:

Cornell J.D. students may apply to be admitted to the joint degree program upon initial application to the Law School or after matriculation, provided application is made before completion of their first year. To apply, complete this [application form](#). You will need to provide a copy of your CV and transcript.

Degree Requirements:

The J.D.-LL.M program requires 20 upper-class credits in international and comparative law (in this document, the “**20 required credits**”), in addition to the credits required for the J.D. degree. This means that students must complete 104 total credits, rather than the 84 required for the J.D.

The 20 required credits must include:

- Two specifically designated “Group 1” courses one of which should be Conflict of Laws. Additional Group 1 courses are: Public International Law and International Human Rights.
- One specifically designated comparative law course that is general in scope and includes instruction in civil law systems. The course may have a regional focus. Students may satisfy this requirement by taking Comparative Law: Civil Legal Traditions or one of the other “Group 2” courses listed below.
- Participation in the Paris Summer Institute (students must receive at least four credits)

With the approval of the Assistant Dean for External Education, a course in the Law School’s Semester Abroad Program may be taken as a substitute for one of the required Group 1 or Group 2 courses. The course must be at least two credits. In the case of a proposed substitute for Public International Law or Conflict of Laws, the course must be substantially similar to the course that would have been taken at Cornell. In the case of a Comparative Law course, it must meet the criteria for such courses set out above.

The 20 required credits may include:

- A thesis option, which requires satisfactory completion of a five-credit thesis
- Graduate courses that are taken--in accordance with the law school’s rules and regulations and if related to international, comparative, or foreign law--in other divisions of Cornell University, including its area studies programs (East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Institute for African Development, Latin American Studies and the Institute for European Studies) (with approval of the Assistant Dean for External Education)

- Supervised writing courses in International or Comparative Law (with approval of the Assistant Dean for External Education)
- Approved courses that are taken by participants in the law school's Semester Abroad Program, in which J.D.-LL.M. students may earn up to sixteen credits for study at an approved foreign law school or faculty

Additional Program Requirements:

- Students must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 to be awarded the LL.M. degree at graduation.
- In no event may a J.D.-LL.M. student receive a total of more than 12 credits toward the required 20 credits from summer/winter intersession courses, including credits earned from the Paris Summer Program.
- Students in the program must comply with the credit hour and degree requirements for the Cornell J.D. degree in addition to completing an additional 20 credit hours for the LL.M. degree as set out above.
- J.D.-LL.M students will be allowed to take a maximum of 21 credits per semester during the second and third years. No exceptions can be made to the 21-credit maximum.

Courses:

Students interested in the **J.D.-LL.M. degree** will have the following courses to choose from during the 2021-22 academic year. The Director for International Programs, in consultation with the Chair of the International Committee and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, will update the courses in Groups 2 and 3 annually, in advance of the fall pre-registration period. Students are encouraged to speak with the Director for International Programs to discuss course selection before doing their pre-registration.

The Conflict of Laws course is required for all students in the program and must be taken before graduation. Students in the program must take at least one course from both Group 1 and Group 2 before graduation. Additional courses in Group 2 may be taken for elective credit towards the 20-credit requirement of the J.D.-LL.M. degree. The courses in Group 3 are elective courses that meet the requirements for J.D.-LL.M. degree.

Group 1

6191 Conflict of Laws (Course Required)

One of the following is required:

6561 International Human Rights (3) – **Available Fall**

6791 Public International Law

Group 2 (one of the following courses is required)

6154 Comparative Law: East Asian Legal Systems

6161 Comparative Law: Civil Law Traditions (3)* - **Available Fall**

6453 Comparative Constitutional Law: Individual Rights in the United States and India

7440 Law and Social Change: Comparative Law in Africa (4) – **Available Fall**

* The Comparative Law requirement also may be satisfied by taking 6177 at the Paris Summer Institute, together with a supervised writing on a comparative law topic during the following Fall semester.

Group 3 (electives available for Fall 2021)

UPPERCLASS COURSES

- 6307 Disaster Law (2) – Available Fall
- 6451 Federal Indian Law (3) – Available Fall
- 6561 International Human Rights (3) – Available Fall
- 6564 International Taxation (3) – Available Fall
- 7311 Immigration and Refugee Law (3) – Available Fall

COLLOQUIA, SEMINARS AND PROBLEM COURSES

- 7360 International Financial Regulation (2) – Available Fall
- 7371 Islamic Law and History (3) – Available Fall
- 7405 Law and Ethics of Armed Conflict (3) – Available Fall
- 7589 Seminar in National Security Issues & Policy (3) – Available Fall
- 7599 New Rights, Cyberspace and Law (3) – Available Fall
- 7675 Issues in Financial Regulation (3) – Available Fall
- 7785 Law of Genocide and War Crimes Trials (3) – Available Fall

CLINICAL COURSES AND EXTERNSHIPS

- 7801 Asylum and Convention Against Torture Appellate Clinic-(4) – Available Fall
- 7832 Externship - Full Time(12)* – Available Fall/Spring
- 7834 Externship - Part Time (4)* – Available Fall/Spring
- 7855 International Human Rights Clinic: Litigation and Advocacy I (4) – Available Fall
- 7860 International Human Rights Clinic: Litigation and Advocacy II (4) – Available Fall
- 7879 International Human Rights Clinic: Litigation and Advocacy III(4) – Available Fall
- 7914 Gender Justice Clinic (4) – Available Fall
- 7915 Advanced Gender Justice Clinic (4) – Available Fall

* If externship is outside the U.S. or with an international organization in the U.S. or a domestic organization in the U.S. practicing international law.