

MIAMI LAW

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

University of Miami School of Law LL.M. Dual Degree Program: Fact Sheet 2024-2025

About the University of Miami School of Law

The University of Miami (“UM”) was founded in 1925 as a private higher education institution. UM is considered one of the largest private research universities in the United States. UM’s School of Law (“Miami Law”) is located on the Coral Gables Campus in South Miami. Its strategic location in the Miami area allows students to take advantage of studying in one of the country’s leading economic centers. For instance, Miami is the second largest international banking center in the U.S. and home to 18 of the 25 largest law firms in the U.S. Miami Law has a diverse student body, 65% of students speak one or more foreign languages and students represent over 50 countries around the world.

Why Miami Law: Miami Law offers a small community feel and vast academic and professional options and opportunities.

Our Community: Miami – one of the nation’s most vibrant cities and a major economic hub, banking center and U.S. legal market – is strategically located and optimally positioned as the ‘portal to the Americas’ with ties to other parts of the world for you to take the next step in your legal career. Miami attracts top local, national, and international scholars to teach 300+ distinct courses including short courses in unique legal topics. With a 7:1 faculty/student ratio, Miami Law professors know your name and are engaged and approachable.

Study Side-by-Side with J.D. Students: Miami Law allows foreign-trained LL.M. students to take courses from Miami Law’s extensive course catalog of 300+ lectures, seminars, workshops, clinics and externships annually alongside American J.D. students, providing a more rounding legal education and an opportunity to connect and network with their fellow American law students.

LL.M. Program Options

With a 70+ year history of preparing effective global practitioners, Miami Law has offered LL.M. programs that draw foreign-trained lawyers from around the world. With 150 LL.M. students from more than 40 countries in our programs each year, there are many possibilities for

networking, cross-cultural learning, and friendship. Miami Law’s boutique programs provide the opportunity to develop a specialty or explore more broadly with offerings to meet all students’ needs.

General LL.M. Program:

U.S. & Transnational Law LL.M. for Foreign-Trained Lawyers: Specifically designed for foreign law graduates, the LL.M. in U.S. & Transnational Law for Foreign-Trained Lawyers is Miami Law’s general LL.M. program. This LL.M. programs focuses on the study of law in a context that emphasizes American common law and its impact in the global economy. This LL.M. allows students the greatest flexibility in choosing courses in their area of interest from the law school’s extensive curriculum and structure their studies according to their professional goals.

The U.S. and Transnational Law for Foreign Lawyers LL.M. Program requires a minimum of 24 credits, completed with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.3/4.00. Students take a certain number of required core concept and skills courses during their studies. Required courses include **Introduction to U.S. Law** and a two-semester **Legal Communication & Research** course, which provide a foundation in American common law doctrine as well as an introduction to the approach to written analysis and research in the U.S. legal system. Moreover, students have the opportunity to participate in Miami Law’s **LL.M. Practicum program** during their studies by completing a legal externship with prominent international firms and institutions in Miami and beyond. For the remaining credits, students may choose foundational American law courses, courses focusing on international and comparative law, and/or any other courses from **Miami Law’s vast curriculum** of 300+ annual lectures, seminars, workshops, clinics, and externships.

Miami Law offers its students a wide variety of courses in [18 areas of study](#):

Business Law	Constitutional Law	Criminal Law	Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law	Environmental Law	Estate Planning
Family Law	Health Care Law	Human Rights Law	Immigration Law	Intellectual Property Law	International Law
Litigation, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution	Maritime Law	Real Estate Law	Social Justice and Public Interest	Tax	Technology Law

Specialized LL.M. Programs:

- ❖ Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law LL.M.
- ❖ International Arbitration LL.M.
- ❖ International Law LL.M.
- ❖ Maritime Law LL.M.
- ❖ Real Estate/Property Development LL.M.
- ❖ Tax Law LL.M.
- ❖ Taxation of Cross-Border Investment LL.M.

Miami Law’s specialized LL.M. programs provide a unique individualized curriculum and opportunity for a small group of students wishing to acquire an **in-depth grounding in the specialized field** as a platform for a successful career.

Miami Law's specialized LL.M. Programs requires a minimum of 24-30 credits depending on the program, some of which must be in the specialized area of law.¹ Students take a certain number of required specialty core concept and skills courses during their studies. Students also choose from several elective specialty courses, including hands-on practical skills courses, academic writing seminars where students research and develop cutting-edge topics, courses on specific industry sectors, etc. in the specialty area. In most specialized LL.M. Programs, students also have the opportunity to participate in Miami Law's LL.M. Practicum program during their studies by completing a legal externship with prominent law firms and institutions in Miami and beyond in their field of specialization.

Foreign-trained students in these specialty programs also complete mandatory courses on Introduction to U.S. Law and Legal Communication & Research, which provide a foundation in American common law doctrine as well as an introduction to the approach to written analysis and research in the U.S. legal system.

For any the remaining credits, students may choose additional specialty courses, foundational American law courses, and/or any other courses from Miami Law's vast curriculum of 300+ annual lectures, seminars, workshops, clinics, and externships (see above).

Ranking Highlights & Honors

- With 70+ years of LL.M. programs, it is one of the oldest programs in the U.S.
- 77% of the 300+ upper-level courses have fewer than 25 students
- Ranked Top 25 in International Law and Clinical Programs by U.S. News & World Report
- Ranked among the Top 25 schools for foreign lawyers by International Jurist
- Ranked 5th most diverse faculty by Princeton Review Best Law Schools
- Ranked 43rd in U.S. Law by QS World University Rankings
- Named "Leader in Technology Law" by PreLaw Magazine
- Named Big Law's latest go-to destination by Bloomberg Law

Value of an LL.M. Degree from the U.S.

An LL.M. is an internationally-recognized credential in the legal community. Foreign-trained lawyers who pursue an LL.M. in the U.S. can expand their theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Pursuing an LL.M. in the U.S. enables foreign-trained lawyers to build and expand their global network, gain valuable legal research, writing and advocacy skills as well as further understanding the U.S. law and common law system. Additionally, an LL.M. can open doors to the bar exam and legal practice in the U.S. as well as advancement in the legal field at home. Moreover, non-native English speakers may strengthen their written and spoken English proficiency throughout their LL.M. studies.

LL.M. Program Dates

Dual Degree students should start their LL.M. in the **Fall semester**, which starts in early August. Some of Miami Law's LL.M. programs also allow for a Spring semester start (early January).

¹ Specific course requires differ for each program. Program-specific details on courses and requirements are available here: <https://admissions.law.miami.edu/academics/llm/>.

Fall – early August through mid-December

Spring – early January through mid-May

In person Orientation takes place prior to the start of classes each semester. Please do not make your travel arrangements until the dates for Orientation are confirmed.

Application Process & Requirements

Current law students at Miami Law dual degree partner schools must be nominated by their home institution for the dual degree program.

Miami Law currently has dual degree agreements with the following universities:

Country	University
Argentina	Universidad Austral (Buenos Aires)
Brazil	Universidade de São Paulo
Dominican Republic	Pontificia Universidad Madre y Maestra School of Law “PUCMM” (Santiago de los Caballeros)
Germany	Free University (Berlin)
Mexico	Anahuac University (Mexico City)

After a student is nominated by their home institution, they will receive instructions on how to apply for admission to one of Miami Law’s LL.M. programs as a dual degree student.

Application Requirements:

- Miami Law application ([Miami Law Application System](#) or [LSAC](#))
- Resume/CV
- Personal Statements
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts
- English-language proficiency test results; we accept both the TOEFL and Academic IELTS, we generally require a TOEFL score of 92 or higher, or an IELTS score of 7.0 or higher.

Waivers of the English-language proficiency test requirement may be granted in situations where the applicant can present other evidence of English language capability, such as a bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited institution in the U.S. or other English-speaking country or from an accredited institution where courses are taught entirely in English.

Once Miami Law receives the complete application file, it will be reviewed by the admissions committee and a decision will be made. Once formally admitted to one of Miami Law’s LL.M. programs, students will receive additional information on the required documents to obtain an F-1 student visa, if necessary. More information on the I-20 issuance and F-1 student visa is available from UM’s International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSS) [here](#).

Nomination Deadlines

Fall Semester: March 1st
Spring Semester: October 1st

Application Deadlines

Fall semester: April 1st
Spring Semester: November 1st

Tuition and Fees (including Health Insurance Requirements)

For the period spent at Miami Law, dual degree students will be required to pay Miami Law tuition and fees. Miami Law may award scholarships to some students participating in this program, and tuition for these students will be adjusted accordingly.

International students are **required** to obtain health insurance through the University of Miami. The 2024-2025 annual health insurance policy cost for International LL.M. students is \$3,700; the coverage start date is 1 Aug. 2024 and the coverage end date is 30 Jun. 2025². More information is available at [Student Health Insurance](#).

UM also provides a [Student Health Services and Counseling Center](#) on campus for students for approximately \$234/semester³. Dual Degree students are **required to pay** this fee and it is separate from the health insurance coverage. Some services at the Student Health Services Center are free upon payment of the fee; other services are not free and may be submitted for payment to the health insurance company.

Other **required semester fees**⁴ include: Activity Fee: \$59.00, Student Center Fee: \$214.00 and Wellness Center Fee (access to a full gym, indoor swimming pool, etc): \$171/semester.

Dual degree students may incur **optional fees** for on campus services like:

- Athletic Fee (access to UM sports team's home games): \$155/semester

Students can find the 2024-2025⁵ Cost of Attendance for International Law Students [here](#).

Financial Aid & Scholarship Opportunities

There are a limited number of **full-tuition scholarships** available in some LL.M. programs as well as **several other scholarship opportunities**. Specialty scholarships for participants of certain moot competitions, fairs, professional organizations, etc. are also available.

No separate application is required for most scholarships offered by Miami Law's LL.M. Programs. Students who submit a complete LL.M. application are automatically considered for all available scholarship opportunities upon admission to the LL.M. Program based on academic and professional skills and achievements. Some of Miami Law's LL.M. Programs offer special full- or half-tuition scholarships that may require a separate application, essay submission or additional documentation. For instance, Miami Law offers specialty scholarships for participants of certain moot competitions, fairs, professional organizations, etc. (e.g. AIJA Half-tuition Scholarship; DAJV LL.M. Fair Half-tuition Scholarship; E-Fellows LL.M. Day Half-tuition

² These figures are based on the 2023/2024 academic year, they are subject to change each academic year.

³ The Counseling Center fee showed is an estimate and is subject to change.

⁴ Optional Fees showed are estimates and are subject to change.

⁵ The cost of attendance is subject to change each academic year.

Scholarship; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) International Arbitration Moot Half-tuition Scholarship; Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Half-tuition Scholarship; and others). Applicants should provide documentation on their participation/membership in these competitions, fairs, and organizations. More information on LL.M. scholarships and funding is available [here](#).

Dual degree students who hold U.S. citizenship or permanent residence may qualify for federal loans through the U.S. government's financial aid system. International students usually are not eligible to apply for federal financial aid. However, international students may apply for private student loans with companies such as [Prodigy Finance](#), or find a private sponsor who will help finance their studies abroad. In addition, many countries provide scholarship support to their highly-qualified nationals to pursue LL.M. studies in the U.S.

More information on scholarships and other funding opportunities is available [here](#).

Dual degree students also may partially offset their expenses by finding on-campus work such as work-study, dean's fellow teaching assistant, research assistant, language tutor, etc. UM provides a job database for on-campus employment accessible to all students.

Lastly, UM offers a payment plan for tuition. [The Monthly Payment Plan](#) ("MPP") allows students to divide educational expenses into convenient monthly payments per semester.

Course Offerings & Registration

Information on courses being offered is available on the Miami Law Registrar's website under [CourseLink](#). Prior to arriving at Miami Law for orientation, dual degree students will complete a **1-on-1 virtual meeting with their Miami Law academic advisor**. Academic advisors guide students on everything from choosing their LL.M. course work and necessary courses to fulfill the requirements for admission to take their desired U.S. Bar Exam to transferring to the J.D. Overall credit and course requirements will depend on the specific LL.M. program, in which the student enrolls. After completing their course advising, students will be able to register for their courses directly through UM's student platform CaneLink. Students who must meet special home institution course requirements during their dual degree studies at Miami law may discuss them at the time of their 1-on-1 course advising session.

All international students on an F-1 visa must enroll in at least **11 credits** to be considered a full-time student; the maximum number of credits per semester for all students is 16 credits. Dual degree students on an F-1 visa **may only enroll in one online course (no more than 3 credits)** to fulfill the minimum course load. UM's ISSS office is available to answer any questions or concerns in regard to course load and F-1 visa status.

Please also note that there are some courses that have pre- or co-requisites and/or that are restricted to students enrolled in certain specialty LL.M. programs. If interested in taking such a course, dual degree students should discuss it during the individual course advising meeting. Permission may be granted by the course instructor and/or specialty program director, provided space is available.

Course offerings may change from semester to semester or from year to year, we cannot guarantee the availability of a specific course. However, given the large number of courses offered at Miami Law each semester, students will always have excellent options to choose from.

Grading Scale

The following grading system currently applies:

Letter Grade	GPA
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70
D	1.00
F	0.00

Practicum Opportunity

Most of our LL.M. programs offer students the opportunity to complete a [practicum](#). The LL.M. Practicum Program provides students with **valuable hands-on training and networking opportunities** in the legal field with participating law firms, companies and institutions.

The practicum is tied to a student's enrollment in the LL.M. Program. The term of the practicum is one semester. Students will be enrolled in the LL.M. practicum course at Miami Law (LAW889) and will **earn academic credit**, provided they complete a certain number of placement hours over the course of the semester. Students receive 2 academic credits for a min. of 90 placement hours over the course of the semester (roughly 8-10 hours per week on average). Students also may be required to attend a number of classroom lectures throughout the semester as part of the practicum. Placements usually are unpaid as this is an academic program.

Bar Exam in the U.S.

In the United States, law graduates are required to take a bar exam in order to practice law. Bar admission is regulated by each of the 50 U.S. states, and each state has complete discretion in the process. Some states **permit foreign lawyers with a qualifying LL.M. degree to take the bar exam** and be admitted to practice, including California, Florida, New York and Texas. The requirements for foreign-educated LL.M. students to seek admission to a state bar are complex and depend upon the particular background and circumstances of each applicant. Additionally, a student's course of study in the LL.M. program usually must adhere to certain guidelines (i.e., one must earn a specified minimum number of credits, and take particular courses while in the LL.M. program). If an international student intends to seek admission to the Bar following completion of an LL.M. program, they should carefully read the State Board of Law Examiners Guide for Foreign Educated Students and discuss with their academic advisor at the outset of their LL.M. studies.

Foreign-trained LL.M. students interested in sitting for the bar exam in the U.S. may benefit from **preparatory bar courses offered at Miami Law** during the LL.M. year.

Language of Instruction

Courses at Miami Law are taught in **English**. Miami Law also offers a course on “Spanish for Lawyers” for students with prior knowledge of the Spanish language (placement test required). Moreover, periodically, Miami Law may offer law courses in Spanish (e.g. Doing Business in Latin America, Latin American Contracts; Dispute Resolution in Latin America).

Extra-Curricular Activities

Dual degree students can participate in student organizations, write for journals/law reviews, and volunteer through the HOPE Public Interest Resource Center. Miami Law is challenging, but it is a collaborative community where students support and look out for each other. You can choose from 55+ student organizations and law reviews to join like-minded peers focused on business, environment, human rights, international arbitration, international law, maritime law and tax to legal areas of thought such as the Democratic Law Students Association and the Federalist Society. Affinity groups are also options including Miami Law Women, Brazilian Law Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Associations, Miami Law Women and OUTLaw. LL.M. students can also get hands-on experience competing in the International Moot Court Program, participating in our clinics, and more.

Post-graduation Employment Option

Miami Law’s **Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD)** is staffed with professional counselors who are former practicing attorneys. This includes an **experienced career advisor exclusively dedicated to foreign-trained LL.M. students**. The law school also provides career guides specifically for foreign-trained attorneys. In addition, foreign-trained students are eligible to participate in the International Student Interview Program (ISIP), which takes place each January in New York City. With 22,000+ law alumni represented in all 50 states, D.C., several territories and 85 countries, you have access to an alumni network of professional support.

Miami Law was ranked #8 in numbers of Super Lawyers in 2023. In Law.com's 2022 Go-To Law School Report, the law school also was a top 50 law school for the percentage of graduates in the largest U.S. 100 law firms and 25th in promotions to partner.

LL.M. students on an F-1 student visa also may qualify for a **one-year post graduation employment authorization in the U.S.**, providing students with a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience in the U.S.

Joint J.D./LL.M. Transfer Option

The Joint J.D./LL.M. option offers the opportunity to earn both degrees at once, saving both time and tuition expense. Current Miami Law LL.M. students may also receive up to

29 advanced standing credits for their foreign legal studies. This means that current Miami Law LL.M. students may earn the Joint J.D./LL.M. in as little as three semesters after their LL.M. year. Depending on their study trajectory, dual degree students may be eligible to apply to the [J.D./LL.M. Joint Degree](#).

Housing, Transportation & Cost of Living

J.D. programs at American universities are professional graduate-level programs. All graduate students attending the University of Miami, including the Law School, **live off-campus**. The University is located in Coral Gables, a residential area. Dual degree students will be invited to participate in the *Miami Law Housing and Living in Miami Online Session*, prior to the semester start date. In this [online session](#), dual degree students can learn more about living in Miami and its different neighborhoods, valuable tips, do's & don'ts, etc. More information and housing resources can be found by visiting Miami Law's [Housing & Living in Miami](#) page.

Dual degree students can find housing options within walking distance to the Coral Gables campus as well as neighboring areas close to the Miami-Dade Metrorail (public transport), which has a stop near campus. More information on the Miami-Dade Metrorail is available [here](#), UM students may qualify for a [discount](#) on the Metrorail Monthly Pass. UM also offers bus transportation within the campus, more information is available [here](#).

The **estimated cost of living**, including housing, food, books, personal expenses and transportation, is \$19,859 per semester for the 2024/25 academic year.⁶

Immunizations

All University of Miami students are required to show [proof immunizations](#) against:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis
- Hepatitis B

All international students also must be screened for risk of tuberculosis by completing page two of the immunization form.

Most students will be able to **obtain the required immunization information from their prior medical providers** or from their prior high school, college or university. Students who believe that they were previously immunized but are unable to provide proof of immunization may either **obtain blood tests confirming immunity** or obtain the necessary immunizations. Immunizations and blood tests documenting immunity are available at the Student Health Service.

Certain **waivers may be granted for medical or religious reasons**. Students will have to contact the office of Student Health Services directly for further instructions and requirements. Please email or call the Student Health Services regarding immunization waivers at:
Email: studenthealth@miami.edu; Phone: 305-284-9100.

⁶ Cost of living estimates are updated annually.

More information about immunization requirements, documentation, etc. can be found in the Student Health Service [website](#).

Travel & Visa Restrictions

Students should consider any government restrictions on travel that may impact their travel plans. As a reminder, UM is not liable for any related expenses students incur during their planning; as such, we recommend that, when possible, students avoid financial commitments (i.e. booking travel) until closer to the start of the semester and after they have obtained any necessary travel visa.

Dual Degree students under and F-1 student visa can find more information on their visa requirements and restrictions by visiting UM's International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) [website](#).

Accessibility

Miami Law is committed to providing all students with equal access to learning opportunities. To request accommodations please contact our [Accessibility Services](#). Here, international exchange students will find detailed information on how to request accommodations, services available and other important resources and contacts.

Obtaining your LL.M. Diploma

Upon completion of your first law degree and once your final and official transcripts and diplomas have been issued you must provide a copy, with official English translations, to Miami Law via intl-llm@law.miami.edu. Upon receipt, you will receive a graduation application form to designate your preferred LL.M. diploma delivery address. Following a comprehensive review of your documents, Miami Law will formally confer your LL.M. degree, and the Miami Law Registrar will promptly issue your LL.M. diploma. Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing and delivery via mail.

Additional Information

Please direct any questions to:

International Law Programs
University of Miami School of Law
1311 Miller Dr. Suite A-316
Coral Gables, FL 33146, USA
Email: [intlilm@law.miami.edu](mailto:intllm@law.miami.edu)

Phone: 305-284-5402

Website:

<https://admissions.law.miami.edu/academics/llm/>

Helpful Links

Miami Law: <https://www.law.miami.edu/>

ISSS: <https://iss.miami.edu/>

Honor Code: <https://student.law.miami.edu/exams-grades/student-honor-code/>