For more information, please contact:

University of San Diego School of Law
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LLM in U.S. Law
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW
THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The University of San Diego School of Law is one of only 84 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.
As a foreigner interested in becoming an immigration lawyer, USD’s LLM in U.S. Law program was an obvious choice for me. Thanks to the interactive classes and Immigration Clinic, I was able to pursue my interests while exploring the American legal system. In particular, participating in the Immigration Clinic allowed me to gain hands-on experience while learning the intricacies of this complex field. On the other hand, writing courses sharpened my legal writing skills to the point of allowing me to pass the dreaded California Bar Exam and practice law in the United States. Finally, USD’s numerous networking opportunities ultimately led me to accept a position as an immigration attorney in San Diego and realize my professional dream.
ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS

LLM in U.S. 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.

Marcus Suether, Germany, 2016
Attorney-at-Law, Lorenz Seidler Gossel, Munich

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

The University of San Diego campus is voted one of the most beautiful in the U.S. every year. I chose the LLM program because it allowed me to focus on my interests (Intellectual Property Law & Unfair Competition). The professors were all very welcoming and provided useful course information. They help you achieve your goals by pushing you from the get-go. The mostly small classes allow a real discussion, rather than a mere lecture. Furthermore, the staff helps out with every inquiry you might have. The LLM program helped with my career goals because not only did I improve my English, but I also learned a lot about Intellectual Property Law, which I deal with on a daily basis. Moreover, the program offered great opportunities to network on both a personal and professional level. I met a lot of interesting people and made friends with students from all over the world. I am thankful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

ADMISSION

Admission to the LLM in U.S. 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 U.S. 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.
USD offers a great educational experience for foreign attorneys. The School of Law created an LLM program that allowed me to choose coursework that fit my personal and professional needs, while providing great staff who helped me through the whole process to achieve my goals. I chose to focus on subjects related to my practice area in Brazil (Labor and Employment law), enabling me to sharpen my skills as an attorney while continuing to develop my chosen career. Learning from a perspective based on common law enhances your critical thinking and enables you to be a better attorney. Lectures with highly qualified professors, who always make themselves available to talk to students about their specific needs, makes USD School of Law well known not only for having the most beautiful campus in the United States, but also for treating students in a special and unique way.

Juliana Mendes, Brazil, 2018
Labor and Employment Attorney, Brazil
I chose USD’s LLM program because it offers a concentration in Intellectual Property law. The LLM program enriched my understanding of the U.S. IP legal system and exceeded my expectations. Classes provided well-organized curriculum and utilized the Socratic Method, which requires students to answer probing questions to get to the heart of the subject matter. I found this method very useful for developing critical thinking skills. I also met incredible people in the IP field, which enlarged my professional and personal network. The faculty and staff were very helpful in guiding me as a foreign student, and were always ready to respond when I had questions or doubts. After completing the LLM, I passed the Illinois bar exam and found a job in a multinational company handling international legal work. I have to say that my academic achievement and new career were definitely thanks to my LLM program at USD. I highly recommend USD to international attorneys who want to experience the finest U.S. law school class. Finally, you can enjoy San Diego’s pleasant natural environment and beautiful campus during your LLM days.
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.

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