



Completion Ceremony Honors sCHolars



sCHolars tour our sCeniC Campus



U.S. Law and Policy Program for International Professionals

Program Schedule

Scholars typically participate in the program for six or twelve months, although different terms are available.

Presentations and other program activities are scheduled during the law school's Fall and Spring terms, which begin in mid-August and early January, respectively. For this reason, scholars will benefit most from the program if they start in August or January and the law school encourages Scholars to adhere to this scheduling. Scholars may, however, start the program at different times if the program director approves the variation in schedule in advance.

The program has in the past offered a 90-day session and may offer this shorter session, on a customized basis, to scholars whose career does not permit them to participate in the six or twelve month Program. Applicants interested in this shorter session should contact the program director directly to discuss scheduling, content and cost.

In some circumstances, it may be possible for a scholar to extend enrollment in the program for an additional period of time. To qualify for such an extension, a scholar must demonstrate a need for continuing research and receive approval from the program director and possibly the U.S. immigration authorities. Fees for program extensions must be paid in advance and are normally the same amount as the fees for the regular six or twelve-month sessions.

Application Procedure

Applicants must be non-U.S. professionals in government, business or law, seeking a mid-career opportunity to combine the intellectual stimulation of learning in the law school with the experience of living in San Diego, one of the world's most scenic cities. Please visit law.sandiego.edu/uslawprogram for more information on the required documents.

Visa Info

Each scholar in the program will require a J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa. The category of J-1 Visa and associated conditions and regulations will vary depending on the program attended. The Office of Graduate and International Programs will work with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) to assist each scholar in obtaining Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status).

Health Insurance

Federal law requires that all scholars on a J-1 visa carry health insurance for themselves and their dependents for the duration of their program. All scholars must provide proof of J-1 compliant health insurance coverage before their arrival in the United States.

For more information, visit law.sandiego.edu/uslawprogram

The University of San Diego School of Law offers a select group of Visiting International Scholars the opportunity to expand their career prospects by conducting research and participating in other elements of its U.S. Law and Policy Program for International Professionals. Scholars are international professionals in government, business or law. We offer them a mid-career opportunity to combine research in their individual area of interest, the intellectual stimulation of participating in program presentations and events at the law school, and the experience of living in San Diego, one of the world's most scenic cities.



What Does the Program Offer Scholars?

The program offers scholars a cultural and educational exchange program organized and coordinated by the University of San Diego School of Law, through its office of Graduate and International Programs. Law professor Fred Heller is the program director.

Orientation

- Scholars attend an orientation session, where they meet each other, the program director, law school deans, and international staff. Orientation introduces scholars to the program and the wide variety of educational and cultural opportunities offered by the university and the San Diego community. Scholars are encouraged to explore the wealth of cultural and educational opportunities available to them.

Research

- Each scholar conducts independent research, in an area of interest selected by the scholar, under the supervision of a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of the scholar's research. Before scholars commence research, our writing faculty introduce them to the art of legal writing, and the school's research librarians train them in conducting legal research.
- Each scholar commences research by meeting with the faculty advisor and program director to devise a plan for research. Following this initial meeting, scholars and their advisors continue to meet and communicate with each other as the scholar's research progresses.
- Research concludes with the scholar producing a substantive paper, written in the scholar's native language, along with a short (three-to-five page) English language summary, which must be approved by the faculty advisor.

Presentations on Law and Policy

- Scholars participate in a series of informative and interactive presentations on the U.S. legal system and U.S. governmental policies. The dialog between the scholars and the presenters provides an exciting basis for educational and cultural exchange. Faculty presenters and topics are different each term, in order to expose scholars to a wide range of issues in U.S. law and policy.

Law School Courses

- Scholars may audit up to two regular law school courses, as approved by the program director. The audited courses must be relevant to the scholar's proposed research project. "Auditing" a course means a scholar may attend and participate in class as a casual observer. Auditing does not include taking examinations, receiving a grade, or meeting other course requirements.

Outside the Law School

- The Program offers scholars the opportunity to see the U.S. legal system in action, through visits to San Diego courts, law firms, or legal clinics. We also welcome the families of scholars and offer events where scholars and their families meet law school faculty and their families. Outside of the program, scholars and their families experience daily life in an extraordinary setting, where beaches abound and mountains and deserts are within easy reach.



sCHolars visit u.s. Courts in San Diego

Completion Ceremony and Award

- After satisfactory completion of research, each scholar will be awarded a University Certificate of Achievement commending the scholar for successfully completing the program. At the ceremony, scholars completing the program celebrate with fellow scholars and are honored by their families and law school faculty. These ceremonies are scheduled twice a year.

Customized Programs

- Upon request, we work with governments, companies, and other organizations to develop a customized introduction to U.S. law and policy. For example, in 2017 and 2023, select legal staff from SK Group, a major Korean company, attended a two-week session tailored to the Group's requirements. Organizations interested in a customized program should contact the program director to discuss scheduling, content, and costs.