Opportunities for legal and professional advancement

Whether you are a practicing attorney seeking to enhance your skill set or change directions in your career, a recent graduate hoping to build on your legal foundation and strengthen your network, or an individual with scholarly aspirations, Emory Law’s LLM program will empower you to take your legal career to the next level. Our resources include an extraordinary breadth of faculty expertise, theoretical and hands-on training opportunities, and a friendly yet ambitious student body.

Those interested in international comparative law also have the option of studying abroad through our joint-degree program with Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Many of our foreign-trained LLM students are preparing for careers at global corporations or law firms where knowledge of the US legal system is relevant and beneficial. Emory’s LLM program offers a solid grounding in US law and can serve as a significant differentiator for students upon return to their home countries.

“Emory is an ideal law school because of its academic reputation and well-developed programs for international students. Moreover, Atlanta is a multicultural city where you can enjoy both dynamic city life and a peaceful residential environment. I’m convinced that you can actualize your professional goals at Emory.”

Jin Hyuk Park
LLM, Class of 2015
Studying general law
Graduate of Chung-Ang University; Seoul, South Korea
Incoming students work with an advisor to develop a curricular path, choosing from a full range of courses that will suit their goals and desired outcomes.

Option 1: General law
Students in general law design a course of study, drawing widely from Emory’s many areas of expertise — including intellectual property law, international law, global health/health law, tax law, transactional law, and labor and employment law — to align their coursework with their goals. All courses are taken at Emory Law.

Option 2: Predesigned concentrations
Students can select from six predesigned curricular paths, most of which combine a choice of foundational courses with relevant electives at Emory Law and Emory University’s Laney Graduate School (with approval). Each concentration includes the possibility of undertaking research and writing on a topic of the student’s choice for course credit.

Transactional Law: Establish a solid foundation in business and commercial law with our unparalleled transactional law curriculum.

Law & Religion: Explore the religious dimensions of law, the legal dimensions of religion, and the interaction of legal and religious ideas, institutions, norms, and practices.


Vulnerability & the Human Condition: Undertake an in-depth exploration of the various manifestations of vulnerability in both human beings and the societal institutions they create. Students pursue either a theory or a policy track.

Public Law & Regulation: Examine legal practice and theory in the modern regulatory state and the political, legislative, and administrative processes that create and control regulatory bodies of law.

Child Law & Policy: Develop advanced skills in the formulation and application of policies and laws affecting children. Students pursue either a theory or a policy track.
Option 3: Joint LLM, Central European University and Emory Law — International Commercial Law and Politics

Students can pursue a joint LLM with a focus on international commercial law and international politics with our partner Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in comparing European and US legal systems. Students spend one full-time semester at CEU and one at Emory Law.

“Emory’s reputation as a top-ranked law school was important to me, and so was its wide selection of courses. I was also pleasantly surprised to see how green the city is. It reminds me of my home in Jamaica.”

Sharian Hanson
LLM, Class of 2015
Studying public interest law and regulation
Graduate of University of West Indies; Cave Hill, Barbados
Emory Law’s faculty is comprised of leading scholars from around the world who are widely published and renowned for innovative and dynamic teaching. Select faculty include:

Robert Ahdieh  
K.H. Gyr Professor of Private International Law  
Professor Ahdieh’s areas of expertise include contracts, comparative law, federalism, emerging markets law, Russian law, and international trade law. A specialist in regulatory design, he co-directs Emory Law’s Center on Federalism and Intersystemic Governance.  
Education: JD, Yale University; AB, Princeton University

Martha Fineman  
Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law  
Professor Fineman is a leading authority on family law, feminist jurisprudence, and law and society. The author of several books and the recipient of many teaching awards, Professor Fineman teaches courses on family law, feminist jurisprudence, law and sexuality, and reproductive issues.  
Education: JD, University of Chicago; BA, Temple University

Abdullahi An-Na’im  
Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law; Director, Center for International and Comparative Law; Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion  
An internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights, as well as human rights in cross-cultural perspectives, Professor An-Na’im teaches courses in international law, comparative law, human rights, and Islamic law. His research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, and Islam and politics.  
Education: PhD, University of Edinburgh (Scotland); LLB and Diploma in Criminology, University of Cambridge (England); LLB, University of Khartoum (Sudan)

Tim Holbrook  
Professor of Law  
Professor Holbrook is a prominent US patent law scholar with expertise in intellectual property, international patent law, patent litigation, property law, and trademark law and policy. He has delivered over one hundred presentations around the world on patent law. Professor Holbrook has also been an advocate for the rights of the LGBT community.  
Education: JD, Yale University; BS, North Carolina State University

Margo Bagley  
Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law  
Professor Bagley’s scholarship focuses on comparative issues relating to patents and biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and technology transfer. She has published numerous articles and book chapters, as well as two books on issues of international patent law.  
Education: JD, Emory University; B.S. Ch.E., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Michael Kang  
Professor of Law  
Professor Kang teaches business associations, election law, and democratic governance. His research focuses on issues of election law, voting and race, shareholder voting, and political science. He serves as co-editor of the book series Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy, and his work has been published by the Yale Law Journal, NYU Law Review, and Michigan Law Review, among others.  
Education: PhD, Harvard University; MA, University of Illinois; JD and AB, University of Chicago
Sue Payne
Executive Director, Center for Transactional Law and Practice; Professor in the Practice of Law

Professor Payne is at the forefront of educating students and professionals on topics related to business transactions through her leadership of the Center for Transactional Law and Practice. The center’s rigorous, innovative curriculum and certificate program are designed to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills to practice in many areas of transactional law.

Education: JD, Northwestern University; MA, Ohio State University; BA, Denison University

Fred Smith Jr.
Associate Professor of Law

Professor Smith is a scholar of the federal judiciary and constitutional law. His research focuses on state sovereignty and representative government. His work has appeared in numerous law reviews.

Education: JD, Stanford University; BA, Harvard College

Michael Perry
Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law; Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Law and Religion

Professor Perry specializes in constitutional law, human rights, morality, and law and religion. He is a prolific writer in these areas, having authored twelve books and over eighty articles and essays.

Education: JD, Columbia University; AB, Georgetown University

Johan van der Vyver
I. T. Cohen Professor of International Law and Human Rights

An expert in human rights law and international criminal law, Professor van der Vyver has long been involved in human rights initiatives in his native South Africa and has served as a human rights fellow at The Carter Center, which he represented in proceedings that culminated in the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC). He continues to serve as an active member of the NGO Coalition for the ICC.

Education: LLD, University of Pretoria; BA, LLB, and BCom, Potchefstroom University; Diploma of the International and Comparative Law of Human Rights of the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg, France)

Polly Price
Professor of Law

Professor Price teaches citizenship and immigration law, torts, legislation and regulation, American legal history, and Latin American legal systems. She has also served abroad as a US representative in the US State Department’s Rule of Law Project.

Education: JD, Harvard University; MA, BA, Emory University

John Witte Jr.
Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law; Alonzo L. McDonald Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion

Professor Witte is an internationally recognized expert on legal history, marriage law, and religious liberty. His writings, which include 27 books and over 220 articles, have appeared in fifteen languages, and he has delivered more than 350 major public lectures, both in the US and abroad. Emory Law students have selected him as the school’s most outstanding professor twelve times.

Education: JD, Harvard University; BA, Calvin College

Teemu Ruskola
Professor of Law

Professor Ruskola’s areas of expertise include Chinese law, comparative law, contracts, corporations, international law, and international legal history and theory. The recipient of several national awards, Professor Ruskola — like many of our faculty — has taught and lectured across the globe.

Education: JD, Yale University; AM and AB, Stanford University

For more information on the broad expertise of Emory Law faculty, visit law.emory.edu.
Atlanta: a global city and a great place to live. With a population of over 5 million people, the Southeast’s largest city ranks third in the US for the number of Fortune 500 company headquarters. The regional offices of nearly every federal agency are nearby.

With a temperate climate and renowned southern hospitality, Atlanta offers a warm welcome for everyone. Leisure opportunities include major league and club sports; museums, theater, and culture; outdoor activities in our many parks; and a vibrant music scene. A restaurant hot spot, Atlanta boasts a diverse collection of cuisines and dining options — from elegant bistro to ethnic restaurants featuring global cuisine or southern-style barbecue showcasing local flavors.

14 Number of Fortune 500 companies headquartered in metro Atlanta, including The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, UPS, CNN, and Delta Air Lines

“I love walking around Atlanta. Wherever you go, you can see beautiful flowers and trees brightening up the city.”

Fernanda Cobo
LLM, Class of 2015
Studying public health law
Graduate of Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Mexico City
Emory: an internationally respected university

Emory University is recognized as one of the world’s leading institutions of learning, combining nine undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools with the largest health care system and sponsored research base of any university in Georgia. Emory maintains active partnerships with many of the city’s preeminent institutions, such as The Carter Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Georgia Institute of Technology. The campus is also home to multiple cultural venues, including a state-of-the-art concert hall that features international artists and provides discounted tickets to students.

Emory’s location in a safe, primarily residential community east of downtown Atlanta is one of many aspects that distinguish us among the nation’s best law schools. We offer personalized attention in a thriving, friendly environment, with the result that students feel both at home and connected to the world at large.

Living in Atlanta Students have access to a wide range of affordable housing options bordering the campus, within walking distance, along Emory’s extensive free shuttle system, or an easy bike ride away.
Applicants are considered for January and August start dates. Candidates must have received a first degree in law that allows them to practice law in their home country.

- For US-educated lawyers, applicants must have earned a JD degree.
- For foreign-educated lawyers, first law degree designations vary by country. For a list of law degrees that meet this requirement, please refer to the Minimum Degree Requirements by Country chart found on the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) website at lsac.org.

Admission is based on the applicant’s academic training, professional background, personal statement, and professional and academic references. Strong candidates will possess an excellent academic record and serious interest in experiencing legal education in a superior American educational environment.

All applicants must apply through the Law School Admission Council (lsac.org) and submit the following:
- LLM application
- Personal statement
- Resume
- Undergraduate or graduate transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Application fee
- TOEFL or IELTS (for applicants whose native language is not English)

Contact information:
Emory University School of Law
1301 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30322
404.727.6802
Email: llmadmission@emory.edu
**Emory's Master of Laws (LLM)** is a highly customizable 24-credit-hour program designed for individuals with a first degree in law who are seeking to build upon their legal background for professional and scholarly advancement.

Students can structure a curriculum around their interests, either through a general course of study, one of six predesigned areas of concentration, or a study abroad experience.

Emory Law is a top-ranked US law school, offering a world-class faculty, a diverse student body, a sophisticated and dynamic urban setting, practical opportunities to apply legal theory and skills, and a global alumni network. With abundant academic and community resources, Emory Law offers an ideal environment for personal and professional growth.

Emory Law's academic rigor, combined with practical learning opportunities, affords both foreign- and US-trained lawyers an unparalleled LLM experience.

**Program details**

- Full-time, two semesters, with August and January enrollment. A part-time program is available for students who do not need a student visa.
- Open to individuals with a foreign law degree or those who have earned a juris doctor (JD) in the US.
- A diverse and collegial class experience, where LLM students enroll in courses with JD and other graduate students.
- Experiential opportunities, such as simulation courses, externships, “Doing Deals” courses, and a focus on building practical legal skills.
- After successful completion of the LLM, foreign-trained lawyers may be eligible to sit for any US state bar open to foreign-trained lawyers with an LLM, including the New York and Georgia bars.
To learn more about a Master of Laws (LLM) degree at Emory Law, visit law.emory.edu/llm or email llmadmission@emory.edu.