



# HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

## International Legal Studies

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### Foreign Student Exchange Program Information

As one of the world's premier centers for legal education and research, Harvard Law School provides unparalleled opportunities to study law and related disciplines in an energetic and creative learning environment. Students at HLS come from throughout the United States and more than 75 countries around the world.

Harvard Law School is home to one of the world's most intellectually interesting and diverse law faculties. The more than 100 tenured, tenure-track, and clinical professors of the Law School offer an almost breathtaking array of courses, seminars, and reading groups, which cover every major substantive area of legal study and approach the law from a wide variety of methodological perspectives. Each year, professors from other parts of Harvard University and other law schools around the world, as well as practicing lawyers from law firms, government, and public interest organizations, also contribute their specialized skills and knowledge to this rich curriculum.

Harvard is home to the world's largest academic law library. Its collections, numbering nearly two million volumes and containing materials from more than 230 jurisdictions, support the teaching and research activities of the School and serve as a resource for legal scholars throughout the world.

Harvard Law School is comprised of three academic programs: a three-year J.D. program, a one-year LL.M. program, and a multi-year S.J.D. program. Every academic year, there are approximately 1,740 J.D. students, 180 LL.M. students, and 60 S.J.D. students. The J.D. degree is graduate-level so all J.D. students have already earned a bachelor's degree before beginning law school, and many also have some work experience with over 70% of them having taken at least one year between college and law school.

Foreign students participating in the HLS exchange program will fall into one of two categories: pre-doctoral or doctoral. Pre-doctoral students participating in the exchange program are allowed to enroll in courses with HLS J.D. and LL.M. students. Doctoral students participating in the exchange program may not enroll in courses, but pursue their individual research projects (please see the "Course Offerings, Credits and Grading" section below for more information). It is expected that doctoral exchange students will come to HLS at the start of the semester (fall or spring) and stay for at least three months but no longer than a semester, unless approved for other arrangements.

### Course Offerings, Credits and Grading

Harvard Law School offers a legal curriculum with tremendous breadth and depth. Rather than emphasizing any single area of law, HLS provides introductory and advanced courses in every major area of legal endeavor. This varied and challenging educational program prepares students for leadership within legal practice, academia, the judiciary, government and other public service, and business.

HLS has a particularly strong focus on international law. More than half of the Harvard Law faculty incorporate international and comparative perspectives in their teaching, scholarship, and public service in a significant way. This year, HLS faculty members offer more than 90 courses and reading groups focusing on international, foreign or comparative law.

### *Instruction Method and Class Size*

Courses at HLS are taught using a variety of sources. Professors may assign reading from casebooks (collections of judicial opinions of particular cases from the relevant area of law), statutes, regulations, and a wide range of secondary and other sources. Student preparation for class often consists of reading assigned material and developing notes to ensure readiness for participation in class. Generally, students should expect to spend significant time outside of class reading and preparing.

Teaching styles vary by professor, but typically, students should expect more of a dialogue between professor and students, rather than solely a lecture. Often, the professor calls on a student (who may or may not have volunteered an answer) and questions him or her on a particular case or issue. Generally, the questioning will continue until the professor is satisfied with the student's demonstrated knowledge of the case, or until the student is unable to answer the questions.

Class size varies, often dependent upon student interest and/or professor preference. Large classes may have anywhere from 80 to 160 students, while smaller classes (for example, some seminars) may have around 15 to 25 students. HLS offers more than 200 classes with 25 or fewer students, and more than 100 seminars in which small groups of students work closely with faculty.

### *Course Offerings and Credits*

Pre-doctoral exchange students are invited to choose from HLS' extensive [course offerings](#). As some courses are particularly sought after, exchange students should be conscious of the fact that they — like HLS J.D. and LL.M. students — may not get a place in all of the classes they wish to take. However, as part of course counseling HLS will gladly offer suggestions and, where appropriate, alternatives.

Pre-doctoral exchange students should plan on taking a courseload of 10 to 12 credits; 10 is generally the minimum allowed in a term and HLS does not allow more than 12 for exchange students (note that the number of credits varies by course and is listed along with the course information).

Similarly, it is possible for pre-doctoral exchange students to cross-register and take one course at another Harvard school (Kennedy School of Government, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Business School, etc.) during their time at HLS. However, this requires special approval and a slightly time-consuming petition process.

Exchange students should note that credit earned during a semester as part of an exchange program cannot be applied toward later HLS degrees.

Doctoral exchange students are not allowed to enroll in courses for credit. However, with prior approval, they may audit up to two courses per semester. Students auditing a course may attend lectures and participate in class in a manner consistent with their status as observers. They will not receive evaluation of their work, nor are they allowed to sit for exams. Students do not receive course credit for auditing. It is generally not possible to audit a class for only a portion of the semester. Doctoral exchange students do not receive HLS faculty advisors or supervisors.

## *Exams and Grading*

Many courses have a final exam at the end of the term that covers material studied throughout the term. Students usually have the option either to type on a laptop or to hand-write exams. Some courses require a final paper rather than an exam. Factors contributing to a student's final grade will vary by professor, but often include some combination of class participation, midterm and final exams, and other coursework (for example, a paper). Exams are anonymous, and self-identification of any kind is not permitted.

Courses are usually graded according to the following scale: Honors, Pass, Low Pass, and Fail. Honors are generally the highest grade in the class; however, in courses with law student enrollments over 30, faculty may choose to designate the two top students, based on their exam performance, as "Dean's Scholars." Certain courses are designated as credit/no credit, meaning that instead of a grade Honors to Fail, students who do well enough to receive credit for the class will receive a "Credit" notation on their transcripts. Students who do not perform well enough to receive credit for the class will receive a "No Credit" notation on their transcripts, which is the equivalent of failing.

## **Application Process and Timeline**

Students who would like an exchange opportunity at HLS must be currently enrolled at [an institution with which HLS has a formal exchange agreement](#).

Students should apply through their home institution. As part of the application process, students must complete the HLS Student Exchange Program Application; the home institution will provide the necessary forms to its students, and then submit them to HLS with its recommendations of candidates. Students should contact their home institution for application deadlines. In addition to an application form, prospective exchange students must submit a statement of interest, official copies of academic transcripts (with certified translations to English if needed), and a score report for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (see section below on Language Proficiency.)

Students may apply to study at HLS for either fall term (September through December) or spring term (end of January through May). Exchange students may not enroll in HLS courses during winter term (January). Exchange students may not be at HLS for what would be the last semester of their studies at their home institution.

## **Language Proficiency**

The language of instruction for all courses at HLS is English, and students will be expected to participate in class and to write papers and exams in English.

All applicants whose native language is not English or who did not complete at least three years of their university education conducted entirely in the English language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam within two years prior to submitting their applications. An applicant must score a minimum of 600 on the paper-based test (with a minimum score of 60 on each of the three subsections and a score of at least 5.0 on the TWE), or a minimum score of 100 on the internet-based test (with a minimum score of 25 on each subsection). Applicants with at least three years of university education conducted entirely in English may request a waiver of the TOEFL exam; however, such waivers are not automatic, and are granted at the sole discretion of HLS. It is necessary for applicants to take the TOEFL enough in advance that their scores will be received by HLS along with their other application materials. Official versions of TOEFL scores must be sent to Harvard Law School using the reporting code 3457 and department code 03.

## **Tuition, Insurance, and Fees**

Exchange students pay tuition to their home institution. In addition, students are responsible for all other expenses related to their stay at HLS, including insurance, travel, food, housing, books, and supplies. The estimated cost for these additional expenses for a semester in 2014–2015 is \$13,014 (USD).

All HLS students, including exchange students, are required to enroll in the University's Student Health Plan, which provides both group health insurance and university health services. Exchange students will be automatically enrolled in (and billed for) the Student Health Plan.

## **Housing**

Exchange students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. HLS has a limited number of dormitory rooms available on campus, and exchange students are eligible to participate in the lottery for a room. Students may also contact Harvard Real Estate for Harvard-affiliated housing, or may look at off-campus housing options. More housing information is available on the [HLS Housing website](#).

## **Venue**

Members of the Harvard Law School community not only benefit from the Law School's tremendous range of international activity, but are also able to draw on the wealth of resources throughout Harvard University. These include a number of research centers and programs dealing with specific geographic regions and broad subject matters, as well as offices designed to assist Harvard students coming from other countries or going abroad. These programs and centers are located both at the [Law School](#) and across Harvard University (a list of internationally focused programs and centers is available [here](#)). Students may also be interested in exploring other programs and centers within the schools at Harvard (available through the various schools' websites which can be found on the [Harvard University homepage](#)).

The richness of student life also extends beyond the Harvard campus. HLS is located in one of the United States' most livable and historic areas. Harvard Square in Cambridge is an energetic place with fine restaurants and inexpensive meals, bars and music, theaters, dozens of bookstores, street performers, and various specialty shops. The thriving and exciting city of Boston is located directly across the Charles River from Cambridge, and is a short subway or bus ride from the Law School.

## **Contact**

Students should contact their home institution's exchange program representative with any questions about the exchange program. Questions may also be directed to HLS International Legal Studies staff: Sara Zucker ([szucker@law.harvard.edu](mailto:szucker@law.harvard.edu)) or Alicia Clemente ([aclemente@law.harvard.edu](mailto:aclemente@law.harvard.edu)).