

JD Transfer for Foreign Lawyers Application Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicants must hold a first degree in law at a foreign law school and be eligible to sit for a bar exam or practice law in their home country. Applicants must also hold an advanced law degree (LL.M. or equivalent) from a U.S. law school accredited by the American Bar Association, or from a non-U.S. law school with equivalent standards. Under exceptional circumstances, the J.D. Admissions Committee will consider candidates who have completed their first law degree and are licensed to practice in their home country, but do not have an LL.M. These applicants may apply for admission to our Juris Doctor (J.D.) program, with advanced standing, under the following conditions:

1. Applicants must apply as transfer students, using the Transfer Application available on-line at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/admiss/transfer.cfm>. **Important:** once you have filled out the application you can either submit it through LSAC (if you do this there will be a fee) or you can download the application on your computer and submit it as an attachment in an email to mwalter@wcl.american.edu.
2. Matriculation will be allowed only in the fall or summer semester of the academic year following admission to the J.D. program.

APPLICATION

Applications submitted by applicants with an LL.M. or foreign law degree will be reviewed by the J.D. Admissions Committee and will be evaluated within the transfer application pool. These applicants must provide the following:

1. Transfer application; include a resume and personal statement. Application deadline is June 15.
2. Applicants must have transcripts submitted for both their first law degree and LL.M. For foreign educated candidates this can be done through the applicant's university (if the transcript is translated into English) or World Education Services www.wes.org. WCL requires transcripts that list every course taken and the grades received in each course. The transcript must include an approximate grade point average along with certification that you have earned at least the equivalent of a U.S. baccalaureate degree. If a transcript evaluation was done during the LL.M. admissions process at WCL or at another fully accredited U.S. law school, a copy of that report can be used for the J.D. program.
3. Letter of recommendation from a law professor.
4. Official transcript of LL.M. academic record, if applicable.
5. Original copy of undergraduate transcript sent to WCL directly from the school that awarded the baccalaureate degree or the equivalent at the time of matriculation.
6. TOEFL/IELTS- score report submitted to the LL.M. program will be used for J.D. admissions.
7. If applicant is a WCL LL.M. alumnus, a LL.M./J.D. transfer advising form must be signed by the WCL LL.M. academic advisor.

Note: Applicants admitted to the J.D. program will be required to pay a \$900.00 non-refundable seat deposit.

ACADEMIC

LL.M. or foreign law degree graduates admitted to the J.D. program must enroll and successfully complete all academic requirements for the J.D. degree.

1. Upon admission, these students are subject to all J.D. rules, regulations and requirements set out in the American University Washington College of Law catalog.
2. LL.M. alumni admitted to the J.D. program, must enroll in and meet the requirements of the full-time program.
3. Students in the J.D. program must complete required courses as a pre-requisite to enrolling in upper level courses.
4. These students will be awarded a maximum of 28 credits toward the J.D. for work completed in the LL.M. program or foreign law degree.
5. Credit for classes offered for LL.M. students only will not be transferred.
6. Grades earned as LL.M. students or foreign law students will **not** be included in the calculation of the WCL cumulative grade point average (CGPA) for the J.D. program.

The statements and provisions in these guidelines are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between an applicant for admission to the law school or a law student and American University, because the educational process necessitates change. American University and the law school reserves the right to change at any time, when warranted, any of the provisions, degree requirements, academic programs, schedules, rules, regulations, or tuition and fees, as might be required. Such changes or modifications shall be effective upon their promulgation by the duly constituted authority.