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ACADEMY ON HUMAN RIGHTS
& HUMANITARIAN LAW



THE LL.M. IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

The LL.M. Program in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (HRHL LL.M.) at American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) is ranked among the top advanced specialized programs of its kind globally. The program trains students from around the world with a commitment to social justice and a desire to make a positive global impact as active practitioners in the field of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Through its multi-track and bilingual options, the program equips students with a deep understanding of international human rights theory and practice through specialized courses, research, and externships. With a legacy spanning decades, the program has produced a dynamic community of lawyers dedicated to advancing global human rights which includes thousands of successful graduates from over 100 countries, many of whom play pivotal roles in shaping global policy and holding key positions in regional human rights courts and global institutions. Uniquely, the LL.M. program offers three distinct tracks (residential, hybrid, online) and is available in both Spanish and English (hybrid and online tracks only). The faculty, composed of world-renowned human rights leaders, foster stimulating and supportive learning environment that encourages critical thinking, practical skills, and effective advocacy for human rights and social justice. The LL.M. program offers comprehensive core courses in international human rights and humanitarian law, covering advanced topics such as international criminal law, asylum and refugee law, genocide prevention, strategic litigation in international human rights, human rights and terrorism, business and human rights, international human trafficking, and gender and cultural differences. Students have the flexibility to select from various electives, and gain hands-on experience through research and externship opportunities. Additionally, the program offers courses required for those seeking eligibility for the New York Bar exam.

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, a leading global academic center in the field, is committed to a culture that promotes human rights and humanitarian law worldwide by offering advanced, relevant, and empowering education for students from around the globe. As one of the most distinguished human rights and humanitarian law centers of learning, the Academy attracts the most renowned experts in the field while striving to strengthen the connection between human rights organizations, practitioners, and educators worldwide.



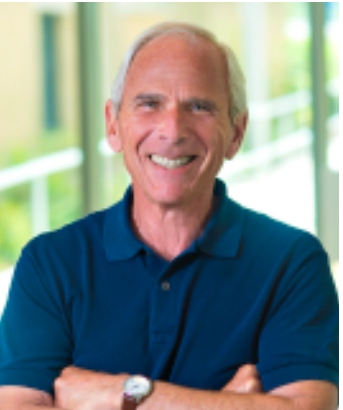
PROFESSOR DIEGO
RODRÍGUEZ-PINZÓN



PROFESSOR
CLAUDIA MARTIN



PROFESSOR
CLAUDIO GROSSMAN



PROFESSOR
ROBERT GOLDMAN

LEADERSHIP

The HRHL LL.M. is designed and co-directed by Professors Claudia Martin and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, both professorial lecturers-in-residence, with more than 25 years of experience teaching international human rights and humanitarian law. The Program is overseen by Professor Robert K. Goldman, academic advisor and co-chair of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Professor Claudio Grossman, co-chair of the Academy and Dean Emeritus of AUWCL.

SELECT FACULTY

The LL.M. in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law boasts an esteemed faculty comprised of more than 40 globally recognized experts. Notably, the faculty includes three former presidents of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, judges of the International Court of Justice, as well as special rapporteurs and committee members of the United Nations. Additionally, the faculty consists of experts from prominent NGOs, and professors from various corners of the world.

Their deep and active involvement in addressing human rights issues worldwide enriches the classroom experience and underscores the program's commitment to nurturing adept human rights advocates and promoting social justice, making the HRHL LL.M. stand among the foremost programs globally.



Quick Facts

- **Ranked 5th** in international law specialty by US News and World Report
- **Graded A+** by Prelaw Magazine for international law
- **Top 25 best schools** for foreign-trained lawyers, International Jurists
- **100+ full-time and adjunct faculty** specialized in various areas of international law
- Students from **70+ countries** and thousands of alumni worldwide
- **Only LL.M. in the US** offered in three tracks (in-person, hybrid, online) and two languages (English, Spanish)
- **90% of students** participate in internships in top human rights institutions
- **200+** conferences, symposia, and networking events annually

UNIQUE LOCATION

Located in Washington, D.C., a key center for international policy, AUWCL benefits from its proximity to leading global organizations and prominent non-profits. Its modern facilities offer students a chance to engage with diverse individuals and institutions from across the globe. This unique setting, nestled in the heart of the nation's capital, also provides extensive opportunities for networking within an international community, fostering personal and professional growth for aspiring human rights lawyers.

LL.M. PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM

Students must complete 24 academic credits to be awarded the LL.M.

Designed to provide students with maximum flexibility, the curriculum of the LL.M. program takes into account the differing interests and needs of students. The program combines a rigorous academic component and a breadth of practical skills training from an array of courses, externships, and opportunities to pursue research experience.

The program curriculum offers theoretical and practical approaches translated to more than 50 courses available each year in the fall and spring semesters.

LL.M. TRACKS

Residential track

- Live in Washington D.C.
- Offered only in English
- Benefit from a wide curriculum – Choose from over 50 courses
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) available upon graduation
- Internships and research credits available
- Opportunity to fulfill bar exam requirements*

**12 credits must be in the subject matters required by the New York bar. Please note that each state has different bar requirements. Additional credits may be needed.*

Hybrid track

- Offered in English and Spanish
- Fall and spring semester courses taught online via live classes
- Access from anywhere in the world
- Flexible curriculum duration
- Internships and research credits available
- Summer classes required in person (three-week intensive term)

Online track

- Offered in English and Spanish
- Fall and spring semester courses taught online via live classes
- Access from anywhere in the world
- Flexible curriculum duration
- Internships and research credits available

SUMMER TERM

Students in the program have access to a wide array of courses offered during the summer through the Academy's Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. This unique program includes more than a dozen specialized classes taught by leading AUWCL and guest faculty including notable figures in the regional and international human rights court systems, NGO members, and practitioners at the forefront of human rights. While all students can participate, students in the hybrid track must attend at least one summer program session as part of their in-person component of the LL.M. The summer program coincides with the Academy's Human Rights Month, offering an extraordinary range of human rights events.

EXTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Students can earn credits beyond regular courses through externships and independent studies, as well as through summer abroad programs. Following WCL's long tradition of experiential legal education, the program facilitates the development of professional networking relationships for career opportunities throughout the program. WCL's location and its proximity to international organizations, and governmental and non-governmental organizations provide students with exceptional access to valuable work experiences. Students may seek advice from a specialized career advisor for guidance on externships and career opportunities.

Students in all tracks are strongly encouraged to participate in externships, with many students securing positions at prestigious organizations worldwide. These include the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, Human Rights Watch, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the Center for Justice & International Law (CEJIL), Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), Robert Kennedy Human Rights, Women's Link Worldwide, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, among others.

Additionally, students interested in research receive direct supervision and guidance from expert faculty with extensive knowledge in various human rights areas. This mentorship helps students produce high-quality research papers suitable for publication.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

LL.M. students can also participate in programs abroad in The Hague and Geneva during the summer semesters. These programs provide an opportunity to study at the International Law Commission and learn from experts from the International Labor Organization, United Nations system, and other international organizations in Geneva. Students can also network with international practitioners and visit institutions such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

NY BAR TRACK

The program provides foreign-trained lawyers in the residential track with the courses required to qualify to sit for the New York Bar Exam. Foreign-trained LL.M. students must complete at least 12 credits of New York Bar-required courses out of the 24 credits needed for the LL.M. degree.

CAREER ADVISING

Encouraging students to engage in practical training experiences is a key focus of the program, extending to the various opportunities in Washington, D.C., and abroad. The program offers specialized guidance from an experienced LL.M. Career Counselor who, along with faculty, is committed to supporting students in pursuing these opportunities.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Eligible international LL.M. students may apply for an OPT permit. This training allows students who have lived in the US for at least one year the potential to obtain practical work experience in the US for up to a full year after graduation.

NETWORKING EVENTS

The Academy supports the career development of students and alumni through networking events, career coaching, and curriculum advising resources.

OTHER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

PROGRAM OF ADVANCED STUDIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

The annual summer program offers an immersive human rights learning experience to more than 150 participants from 25 countries with diverse professional backgrounds. This intensive three-week program provides a choice of more than 15 courses available in English and Spanish, all eligible for ABA credit. Participants have the unique opportunity to engage with judges from the ICC and ICJ, UN Special Rapporteurs and Committee members, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights members, renowned NGO experts, and global professors. The program aligns with the LL.M. in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and follows the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition. Contact: hrcademy@wcl.american.edu.

THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

This exclusive trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) annual competition trains law students to practice law within the Inter-American human rights legal system, providing a platform for addressing human rights violations. Since 1995, more than 6,000 students and faculty members from 365 universities in the Americas and worldwide have participated. The competition centers on a cutting-edge topic currently under debate in the Inter-American system. Students analyze the annual hypothetical case, drafting legal memoranda and presenting oral arguments to human rights experts serving at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Contact: iamoot@wcl.american.edu.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY AWARD

This annual writing competition encourages global lawyers to produce scholarly work in international human rights law. The Academy offers two awards, one for the best article in English and one in Spanish. Winners receive a scholarship for the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, with their articles also eligible for publication in the American University International Law Review. The competition is open to lawyers worldwide. Contact: humanrightsessay@wcl.american.edu.

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

This annual event features conferences, workshops, and a film festival. During Human Rights Month, the Academy provides a forum for education and discussion of human rights theory and practice. Participants have the opportunity to share first-hand experiences, as well as network with fellow practitioners, scholars, and activists in the field. All panels are open to the public. Contact: hraevents@wcl.american.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The HRHL LL.M. offers partial tuition reduction scholarships for eligible students with high academic merit and demonstrated financial need. Priority is given to early applicants. Candidates may apply for only one scholarship category. For more information regarding scholarship requirements, policies, application, and more, please visit: <https://www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/hracademy/llm/aid>

- Merit-Based Scholarship (up to 7 academic credits)
- Civil Society Scholarship (12 academic credits)
- Organization of American States OAS/AUWCL Scholarship (50% of tuition)
- Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition Scholarship (12 academic credits)
- Summer Program of Advanced Studies in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Scholarship (12 academic credits)

APPLICATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Applications are accepted year-round for both, the fall and spring semesters.

Application deadlines:

- Fall semester (August - December):

Residential: May 1

Online/Hybrid tracks: June 1

- Spring semester (January - May):

Residential: November 1

Online/Hybrid tracks: November 31

The application process is available online. To complete the application process, candidates must submit the following:

- Online application and application fee
- Resume
- Official copies of academic records from an ABA-accredited US or from law school or foreign law school with equivalent standards
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official proof of competency in English (TOEFL, Duolingo, PTE, IELTS or ILEC), if pursuing the program in English
- Statement of purpose

Review the Application Requirements:

<https://www.wcl.american.edu/academics/degrees/llm/how-to-apply/instructions/>

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants whose first language is not English must take one of four tests for English competency and reach a minimum score:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum score of 563 (paper-based) test or 84 (internet-based).
- Pearson Test of English (PTE). A minimum score of 56.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A minimum IELTS score of 6.5.
- Duolingo. A minimum Duolingo score of 110 or higher

Applicants only need to submit the results from one of the language exams. Applications will not be considered complete without exam scores.

Review the Application Requirements:

<https://www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/hracademy/llm/>





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