INTERNATIONAL and COMPARATIVE LAW

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
GW Law offers students a legal education premised on “law in action” in the nation’s capital.

The law school is located just four blocks from the White House and the U.S. Department of State, across the street from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and close to major international organizations, nonprofit institutions, courts, and government agencies. Our students gain practical experience in externships at these nearby institutions. In addition, our students benefit from a world-renowned faculty, a broad curriculum featuring more than 275 elective courses, strong academic and personal support, and a wide variety of expert lecturers and visitors.

The GW Law experience is dynamic, rigorous, and practical. Simply put, there is no better place to study and participate in the engaging life of the law.
The International and Comparative Law Program at GW Law prepares the next generation of leaders in the legal profession to work in a complex, global marketplace. The program offers one of the most extensive international law curricula in the country. Courses in the program focus on public international law, international human rights, international trade and business law, international commercial law, foreign direct investment, international arbitration, and comparative law.

GW Law’s approach to international and comparative law is unique, giving students the tools and resources to rise to the challenges of the legal market. The program boasts one of the largest and most distinguished full-time faculties in the field, with faculty members who are recognized both for their scholarly accomplishments and for their real-world involvement in defining relevant legal standards.

A vital part of the GW Law experience is having international and comparative law available at every turn. Because of its location in the heart of Washington, D.C., the law school is able to draw from a pool of well-respected practitioners as adjunct faculty members. It also regularly attracts distinguished visitors. Recent visitors have included judges from the European Court of Human Rights and the U.S. Supreme Court, who engaged in a historic discussion about comparative approaches to human rights; the President of the International Criminal Court; and a Supreme Court justice from the United Kingdom.

“There are countless opportunities at GW Law that simply aren’t available anywhere else. I have studied with two of the world’s most eminent international law scholars. Outside the classroom, I have met two Supreme Court justices and even had the opportunity to ask a question of former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.”

— Mohammad Shouman, JD Candidate, Class of ’16
The curriculum fosters student expertise through foundation courses in International Law, International Business Transactions, International Trade Law, and Comparative Law. Students may explore specific topics in depth through more than 50 advanced courses, such as International Arbitration; International Banking and Investment Law; International Human Rights of Women; International Money Laundering, Corruption, and Terrorism; International Project Finance; Introduction to Transactional Islamic Law; and Regional Protection of Human Rights. All courses are open to both JD students and those in the LLM Program in International and Comparative Law.

In addition, the LLM Program in International Environmental Law, which prepares students for the international practice of environmental law, offers a range of additional courses, including Human Rights and Environmental Protection, International Climate Change Law, and Trade and Sustainable Development.

For course descriptions and a full listing of the law school curriculum, including courses related to this field, please view the law school Bulletin on our website at www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/publications.
Faculty

The faculty of the International and Comparative Law Program includes a current member of the U.N. International Law Commission, a former judge on the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the first woman nominated by the United States to become a member and subsequent President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and an expert on Chinese law, as well as noted experts on human rights, U.S. foreign relations law, immigration, international taxation and trade, comparative constitutional law, and international conflict resolution. In addition, more than 35 prominent legal professionals from leading law firms, nonprofit institutions, U.S. government agencies, and international organizations serve as adjunct faculty members. For more information, please visit [www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/faculty](http://www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/faculty).
The George Washington International Law Review is one of the law school’s eight student-edited journals.

Other Opportunities

Oxford—GW Summer Program in International Human Rights Law
Held at Oxford University each summer, the one-month program prepares students to contribute to the improvement of human rights conditions in their homelands and around the world.

Immigration Clinic and International Human Rights Clinic
Under faculty supervision, students in the Immigration Clinic handle immigration law matters for actual clients—real-life cases with real-life impact. Students in the International Human Rights Clinic are introduced to the practice of law in the cross-cultural context of international human rights litigation and advocacy.

Competition Law Center
Directed by Professor William Kovacic, the Competition Law Center sponsors research and promotes education in the field of competition law—also known as antitrust law—particularly relating to issues of international enforcement.
International and Comparative Law Colloquium
Held each month, the colloquium features speakers who present papers on a topic in the field.

Student Exchange and Study Abroad Programs
Students may broaden their perspectives with study abroad programs during the summer or the academic year in Augsburg and Munich, Germany; Oxford, England; the University of Groningen, the Netherlands; Università Commerciale “Luigi Bocconi,” Milan, Italy; Canada and Mexico through the North American Consortium on Legal Education; and the University of Sydney, Australia.

International Law Society and Human Rights Law Society
Two of the largest student groups on campus, the societies regularly host a wide range of activities, including lectures and social events.

Global Internet Freedom and Human Rights Distinguished Speaker Series
Established in 2011 with the generous support of the Microsoft Corporation, the series brings to the law school prominent experts in the fields of free speech and human rights. Past speakers have included Rebecca MacKinnon, co-founder of Global Voices Online.

Student-edited Journals
The George Washington International Law Review publishes articles and essays on public and private international law and comparative law. International Law in Domestic Courts, published online by Oxford University Press, provides commentary on domestic judicial decisions involving international law issues from around the world. GW students are the exclusive rapporteurs for the United States. Both JD and LLM students may be considered for participation in International Law in Domestic Courts.

Moot Court Competitions
GW Law students can compete in an array of internal and external moot court competitions that address international and comparative law. Two of note are the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, which features competitors from more than 550 law schools in 80 countries, and the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, held in Hong Kong or Vienna each year. As selection for the Jessup and Vis teams is done the year before the international rounds, only JD students are eligible team members.
Field Placement Program

Through the law school’s Field Placement Program, more than 600 students each year earn academic credit for dynamic, hands-on externships at organizations such as U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of State, World Bank, Public Citizen, Federal Communications Commission, and Organization of American States. Students receive supervision from leading legal practitioners and substantive practical experience that help jump-start their careers. For more information, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/fieldplacement.

Career Development

GW Law’s Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy (Career Center) features one of the largest legal career counseling teams in the country. The Career Center is dedicated to helping students develop personalized career plans. All of our counselors are former practicing attorneys with extensive experience working in both the public and private sectors. As a result, our counselors prepare students to hold clerkships; work at large, medium, and small law firms; serve in government positions; and work in international and domestic business ventures. The Career Center hosts nearly 100 programs annually, including panels and networking opportunities, the fall recruitment program, the spring interviewing program, diversity events and programs, and the public sector recruitment program. For more information, please visit www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/careers.
Contact Information

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Admissions Information

JD Admissions
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202.994.7230
admissions@law.gwu.edu

LLM and SJD Admissions
Graduate Programs Office
202.994.0715
For U.S. law school graduates: grad@law.gwu.edu
For non-U.S. law school graduates: igpo@law.gwu.edu

www.law.gwu.edu/gwl/international

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions programs against any person based on that person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.