2015

LLM Admissions Publications, 2015

Law, School of

Boston University

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Boston University
One of the first. One of the best.

BU Law’s Graduate Tax Program (GTP), established in 1959 as one of the nation’s first graduate tax programs, stands as one of the best. We are #7 in tax studies among US law schools, according to U.S. News & World Report (2016 edition). And for four consecutive years, we’ve been ranked among the country’s top five LLM in Taxation programs in the annual TaxTalent survey of corporate tax department heads. Employers value the BU Law LLM credential because it signals rigorous training and superior preparation. Simply put, we equip students with the practical skills required for immediate success in the field of taxation, whether they earn the degree through residential studies in Boston, online from home, or through a combination of both formats. Our graduates—over 3,000 strong—consistently tell us that their BU LLM degree has been an essential ingredient to their professional success.

IS IT FOR YOU?
The Graduate Tax Program is designed for lawyers who seek advanced training in the complexities of tax law. It draws a broad range of students, from recent law school graduates, to mid-career attorneys seeking new expertise, to seasoned lawyers from both the public and private sectors, including many from the nation’s leading law and tax consulting firms. International students include practitioners, in-house counsel, academics, and government officials. The program’s online option is particularly attractive to practitioners whose jobs—or locations—make residential studies difficult.

LEADING PROFESSIONALS: OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTORS
The superior instruction you receive will define your experience. You’ll learn from scholar-teachers who are members of BU Law’s full-time faculty, as well as leading tax professionals drawn from law firms, accounting firms, tax consulting firms throughout New England, and from federal and state government revenue departments. We select instructors not only for their professional achievements, but also for their outstanding teaching abilities, accessibility, and interest in student success, inside and outside the classroom.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: OUR PRIORITY
An advanced degree gives you a powerful credential in the specialized world of tax law. Even in today’s highly competitive legal job market, myriad opportunities exist for qualified tax attorneys, particularly those with a BU Law credential. As of January 2015, 92% of the program’s 2014 graduates were employed by accounting firms, law firms, the government, and as in-house counsel.

Your professional development is our priority. You’ll receive career and job search support from our full-time associate director and visiting professional development advisor. And you can apply to interview with a broad range of employers at the Tax Attorney Recruiting Event (TARE), a job fair in Washington, DC, dedicated to recruiting for positions in the “Big 4” accounting firms, law firms, and certain government agencies.

FOUR PATHS TO A DEGREE
The GTP offers four paths to complete the 24 credits required for the BU Law LLM in Taxation degree. Our residential program options—both full- and part-time—provide access to one of the most expansive tax law curricula available. The five required courses and more than 35 challenging electives ensure that you receive a solid foundation in essential tax subjects, as well as the opportunity to concentrate in a sub-specialty such as Estate Planning, International Tax, or General Business Taxation.

Full-time residential.
Our full-time residential option is designed to be completed in one academic year. For recent JD graduates looking to obtain both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed for a successful career in tax law, this is an ideal option.
Part-time residential. If you are a lawyer working within commuting range of Boston and aspire to augment your tax law knowledge and qualifications, the LLM program is open to you on a part-time basis. All residential classes are scheduled during the late afternoon and evening. As a part-time student, you may enroll for up to eight consecutive semesters to complete your degree requirements.

Online. The Graduate Tax Program offers the same challenging program of LLM studies in an entirely online format, an attractive alternative for domestic and international lawyers whose jobs preclude them from attending classes in Boston. You can begin the program during any of the three online sessions—fall, spring, or summer—and enroll in a variety of tax courses taught by the same highly experienced instructors who teach our residential courses. You can complete your degree in as few as four sessions.

Residential and Online. To accommodate student schedules, the GTP also allows you to pursue our LLM degree by enrolling in both residential and online courses. For more information on this blended course of study, please contact the GTP directly.

STUDENT LIFE
Residential students receive individual guidance and support on all matters, large and small, from the GTP staff. They’ll also help you connect with other students outside of class through a range of special lectures, social gatherings, dinners, and other community-building events. And you’ll network with lawyers from around the globe through multiple events that bring together the School’s entire LLM student body—over 300 lawyers from 54 countries.

If you are an online student, you’re still an integral part of the BU Law community, no matter where you’re based. Our web-based learning platform offers rich opportunities for interaction among students. To support your online studies, you can contact your student services coordinator, the course facilitator, or the course instructor with questions about exams, coursework, and other related matters. This team-based approach to online student service ensures that you have the support you need, when you need it.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS
Qualified applicants hold a JD degree from an American Bar Association–accredited law school or an equivalent first degree in law from a comparably recognized law school or law faculty outside the United States. International applicants must be highly proficient in English. Online students are held to the same admissions standards as residential students.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
Each year, BU Law’s LLM Scholars Program recognizes a small number of LLM applicants to the full-time residential program who have demonstrated outstanding academic and/or professional achievement. Acknowledgment includes a scholarship award in the form of a partial-tuition waiver and designation as an LLM Scholar. All applicants for admission to our full-time residential programs are automatically considered for this merit scholarship; no separate application is required. In addition, domestic applicants to our full-time residential program are eligible to apply for the Frederic G. Corneel Scholarship, which provides partial scholarship awards based on merit and financial need. Online students are not eligible for scholarship support at this time.

MORE INFORMATION
Learn more about the Graduate Tax Program, including details on the application process, at www.bu.edu/law. Prospective students may also contact the Graduate Tax Program Office at:

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Graduate Tax Program
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Fax: +1.617.358.2720
Email: gradtax@bu.edu

Please email info@onlinetaxllm.bu.edu with inquiries about the online program option. Or call 877-308-9945 to speak with an enrollment advisor.

My experience at BU Law was highly satisfying and rewarding. I know that I now have acquired the tools needed to address the complexity of international tax law.

—Tulio Florez Alzate
Senior In-House Counsel, Grupo Argos S.A. (Colombia)
LLM in Taxation, 2011
Specialization degree, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin
LLB, Universidad Eafit