2015

LLM Admissions Publications, 2015

Law, School of

Boston University

http://hdl.handle.net/2144/19768

*Boston University*
Leading programs that develop invaluable skills.  
For studies. For practice. For success.

The law is language. Being able to communicate clearly, precisely, and persuasively is a requirement for career advancement. For global lawyers, this means mastering legal English. Few schools teach legal English communications skills as well as BU Law. We have helped hundreds of global lawyers succeed in their LLM studies and advance their careers by training them to communicate more effectively, while expanding their understanding of foundational legal concepts as well as providing them with the skills necessary to thrive in an American legal setting. Whether you need to improve your English skills before starting full-time LLM studies, or simply seek to enhance your day-to-day effectiveness on the global stage, BU Law’s Legal English programs are your starting point for success.

IS IT FOR YOU?

Our programs are mainly designed for lawyers who lack only one key qualification to enter a BU Law LLM program: sufficient English proficiency to meet the academic demands of full-time graduate studies. These candidates are otherwise well-suited for studies. They hold impressive academic and professional credentials and are highly motivated to propel their careers by obtaining an LLM degree.

LEGAL ENGLISH CERTIFICATE/ TWO-YEAR LLM PROGRAM

For many lawyers, BU Law’s Two-Year LLM Program is an ideal option. The Two-Year Program begins with BU Law’s Legal English Certificate Program (LECP), a 25-credit, full-time, two-semester residential program of intensive instruction in legal English and US law. Developed and taught by the regular teaching faculties of BU Law and BU’s Center for English Language & Orientation Programs (CELOP), the LECP exposes you to US legal discourse, culture, terminology, and the foundational aspects of US law. After completing the LECP, you will study in our Pre-LLM Summer Legal English Program, and then in the fall join the LLM program into which you’ve been admitted.

As a Two-Year LLM Program student, you will take:

Fall Semester
- Legal English I
- Academic Skills for Successful Legal Studies I
- Introduction to US Legal Culture

Spring Semester
- Legal English II
- Legal Writing
- Persuasive Legal Advocacy
- Topics in American Law
- Academic Skills for Successful Legal Studies II

Summer Semester
- Six-Week Pre-LLM Summer Legal English Program for LLM Students

Subsequent Fall/Spring Semesters
- Full-Time LLM Studies

THE LEGAL ENGLISH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: STAND-ALONE, CERTIFICATE-ONLY OPTION

Internationally trained professionals who work in legal services often need to communicate in English, using legal terminology. If you don’t plan to pursue LLM studies, you may still take BU Law’s Legal English Certificate Program (LECP) as a stand-alone option. The two-semester LECP curriculum is similar to that of the Two-Year LLM Program, except that an Independent Study course can be chosen to replace Academic Skills for Successful Legal Studies II. (Certificate-only students do not take the Pre-LLM Summer Legal English Program.)

EXTENDED LLM PROGRAM OPTION

If you want to begin your LLM studies in an upcoming semester but are not yet ready for full-time law studies, you can pursue a BU Law LLM program over three semesters.
through our Extended LLM Program option. This is a great choice for students looking for a “softer” start to LLM studies. You’ll begin your studies with the Pre-LLM Summer Legal English Program at CELOP. In the fall, you’ll combine an intensive English language class at CELOP with two Law School classes. You’ll take a full-time course load at BU Law in the spring and then complete the LLM degree the following fall.

THE BU LAW COMMUNITY
Whether you are a student in BU Law’s Two-Year LLM Program, LECP, or Extended LLM Program, you’ll be a true member of BU Law’s community, invited to participate in LLM and Law School activities throughout the year, including Red Sox games, pub nights, guest speaker events, international career panels, and networking events.

CELOP’S LEGAL ENGLISH PROGRAMS
CELOP offers a six-week Pre-LLM Summer Legal English Program designed to prepare students for US LLM studies, at BU Law or elsewhere. Over the years, hundreds of entering BU Law LLM students have profited from this advanced preparation: the background they receive on American law and early exposure to the ways of US law studies help bridge the gap between their prior training and upcoming programs. For admission, you’ll only need a letter of acceptance to a US LLM program for the fall semester. (BU Law students admitted to the Two-Year LLM Program are required to attend the Pre-LLM Program.)

For foreign-trained lawyers who don’t plan to pursue LLM studies but seek short-term, legal English training, CELOP also offers a four-week summer Legal English for Practitioners Program.

For more information on CELOP’s programs, contact celop@bu.edu.

PROGRAM FOR LEGAL ENGLISH ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (PLEAD)
Boston University, Cambridge University Press in the UK, and TransLegal, the world’s leading provider of legal English services, have developed an innovative program of legal English studies called the Program for Legal English Academic Development (PLEAD). PLEAD is a high-quality legal English course that combines the world’s leading Legal English course book with an online course. Law firms, universities, language schools, individual lawyers, and law students all over the world use the course materials, including potential LLM candidates.

For more information on PLEAD, visit TransLegal’s website at www.translegal.com/plead.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS
In light of the range of high-quality legal English training options available at BU Law, we often contact LLM candidates who are inadmissible to a two-semester LLM program due to their English skills, suggesting that they consider the Two-Year LLM Program or Extended LLM (three semesters) Program option. We do this with confidence that the training we provide can open the doors to an LLM degree for otherwise qualified and motivated students. So we encourage you to apply to our LLM programs, even if you know your English needs to improve.

You can learn more about the Two-Year LLM Program, LECP, and our Extended LLM Program option—including detailed information on candidate qualifications, the application process, tuition, and financial information—at www.bu.edu/law. You can also contact us directly at:

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I chose to participate in the Legal English Certificate Program (LECP) and Two-Year LLM Program because I believed that they were the best way to achieve my career objectives. I wanted to gain a deeper knowledge of the US legal system as well as practical skills that would prepare me for leadership roles in the global market.

—Zaruhi Mkrtumyan
Clerkship at the Civil Court of Appeal in Armenia
LLM in Business Law, Yerevan State University, 2012
LLB, Yerevan State University, 2010