

LL.M. in International Law and Foreign Affairs



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The LL.M. in International Law and Foreign Affairs is a one-year program that offers world-class academic and professional training in international law and foreign policy decision-making on pressing global challenges facing today's world. Owing to its position at a crossroads in terms of culture, business, and geopolitics, Qatar is at the heart of a region that requires leaders who can manage multi-faceted relationships that span different legal systems and who have a command of a wide range of skills.

The specialized LL.M. program is ideal for lawyers and certain non-lawyers who wish to immerse themselves in the intricacies of international regulation in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment, infrastructure development, health care, new technologies, anti-corruption, and the global economy.

Program Focus

The program provides an ideal learning opportunity for lawyers, academics, members of the judiciary, and non-lawyers in the fields of international relations, political science, economics, and other fields related to global affairs and governance.

Courses combine legal studies with public policy analysis relevant to all aspects of international relations.

Graduates of this program will be equipped to:

- ▶ Engage with themes and ideas that cut across disciplines.

- ▶ Demonstrate methodological skills and competency in using various methods to undertake and produce interdisciplinary research in the frontier of the law and social sciences.
- ▶ Acquire superior knowledge of professional responsibility issues in the practice of transnational and international law.
- ▶ Demonstrate expertise in multiple fields within the law and social sciences.

Curriculum

Coursework is divided into mandatory core courses and electives. The program consists of 32 credits, including 26 credits for core courses and six credits for a thesis that must be completed within 12 months, and no more than 18 months, after course commencement.

The LL.M. curriculum comprises foundational courses, such as International Law, Administrative Law, Research Methods in Law, Advanced Human Rights, and Introduction to International Law and Foreign Affairs, and Global Legal Ethics, which unpack the nature of international law and



core principles of foreign policy decision-making in an increasingly turbulent world. They also provide the opportunity for students to reflect on the intricacies of diplomatic work, including the qualities and skills required for a career in international affairs in the 21st century.

The curriculum also has intensive courses and seminars on international law and global governance that are comparative and built on common law, civil law, and Shari'a traditions.

The thesis is the cornerstone of the LL.M. program. In consultation with a faculty advisor, students write a paper on a policy sector of their choice with the aim of analyzing the current legal framework, putting forward reasons for reform by using the skills developed in the methodological courses and making a policy proposal for legislative or regulatory reform.

Other integral features of the LL.M. program are professional skills training sessions, internships and placements that focus on such skills as contract drafting, trial advocacy, alternative dispute resolution, and effective negotiation and presentation techniques.

Admission and Application Requirements

Admissions to the LL.M. in International Law and Foreign Affairs program requires a bachelor's degree from a recognized university with a minimum 3.0 GPA (out of 4) in any of the following areas: Law, International Relations, Political Science, History, Economics, Business and Finance, Sociology or Anthropology. A strong preference is given to candidates with at least a 3.3 GPA (out of 4) in Law, International Relations, Political Science, or Economics.

Unless exempt, applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Please visit our website admissions.hbku.edu.qa for more details on the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption, where this is an option.

Application requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results

Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation from previous or current professors, employers, or other individuals familiar with the applicant's qualifications.

Personal statement of interest

The personal statement should introduce the applicant to the Admissions Committee. Topics that may be discussed include personal or professional goals and personal, academic, or career history.

The Committee looks beyond test scores and grade point averages in making selection decisions. The personal statement gives the Committee a means to consider a variety of factors in assessing applicants.

Research proposal

Applicants are required to submit a research proposal (1,000 words) that illustrates their readiness to explore a particular research question, along with their application.

Resume/curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

Identification document

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.