HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
GRADUATE PROGRAM & INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

2027-2028 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.) PROGRAM

The information and instructions below are for applications to the Harvard Law School LL.M. program only. If you wish to apply to the S.J.D. or the Visitor program, please return to the application home page and select the appropriate program.

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1. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Your application and all supporting documents must be received by the Harvard Law School Graduate Program office no later than 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern time on December 1 (and preferably by November 15).

Please note that the application deadline of December 1 will be strictly observed. It is your responsibility to make certain that all supporting materials (e.g., unofficial transcript, recommendations, TOEFL report) reach the Graduate Program office by the deadline.

Please do not call or email us about the possibility of submitting materials after the deadline. If you have completed and submitted your online application by the deadline, we will not disqualify your application if some of your supporting documents (e.g., unofficial transcript, recommendations, TOEFL report) have not been received by the deadline. However, we will begin our review process once the deadline has passed, even if some of your supporting documents are missing. Therefore, you will be at a competitive disadvantage when compared to other applicants whose files are complete.

We strongly encourage applicants to submit their applications before December 1 so that any technical problems that may arise can be resolved before the application deadline.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the Harvard Law School LL.M. program, an applicant must have a J.D. (Juris Doctor) degree from an accredited U.S. law school or a first law degree (J.D., LL.B., abogado, or the equivalent) from a law school in another country. Harvard Law School is rarely able to accept into its LL.M. Program anyone who already holds (or is pursuing) an LL.M. from another law school in the United States.

3. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admission to the LL.M. program is highly competitive. Each year a substantial number of applicants compete for a limited number of places in the LL.M. program. Most applicants are fully qualified for the program, and the Harvard Law School Committee on Graduate Studies must select from among a vast pool of candidates who have excellent credentials. In evaluating applications, the Committee takes into consideration applicants' grades and rank in their university and law studies, their ability to write a cogent legal essay, their English language proficiency, the quality of their letters of recommendation, their professional and personal accomplishments, and other factors, including the following:

For LL.M. Applicants from Abroad
The Harvard Law School LL.M. program is designed for intellectually curious and thoughtful candidates who come from a variety of legal systems and backgrounds and who have demonstrated intent to return to their country to contribute to the academy or legal profession. We are equally interested in applicants pursuing careers in law teaching and research, government service, the judiciary, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and private practice.

For LL.M. Applicants from the United States
For applicants (regardless of citizenship) who hold a J.D. from a law school in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico), the LL.M. degree is intended as preparation for a career in law teaching. The strongest candidates will have had at least two or three years of experience beyond law school and will have demonstrated a commitment to law teaching. In the admissions process, the Committee on Graduate Studies looks for applicants who have excelled in their basic law school studies, who elicit strong letters of recommendation from law school teachers and others familiar with their work, and who have spent at least two years working as a law school teacher, judicial clerk, or practitioner in a public agency or private practice. A strong publication record and graduate education in a field other than law would also be significant. Weight will be given to materials demonstrating the applicant's interest in, commitment to, and aptitude for a career in law teaching. On rare occasions, the Committee may consider an applicant who is not primarily interested in a teaching career but who makes a strong case for study at Harvard as contrasted with other schools, based on the applicant's area of specialization or other factors.

4. ENGLISH PROFICIENCY/TOEFL REQUIREMENTS

A high level of English language proficiency is a requirement for admission. All applicants from non-English-speaking countries who did not complete their basic legal education entirely in the English language must take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) within two years prior to submitting their applications. The Harvard Law School Graduate Program requires a score of at least 100 on the Internet-based test (IBT), with at least 25 in each of the four subsections for tests taken before January 21. 2026. For tests taken after January 21, 2026, we require a minimum overall score of 5.5 with at least 5.5 in the reading and listening subsections, and at least 5.0 in the writing and speaking subsections.

We will accept scores from the *TOEFL iBT*® Home Edition but reserve the right to condition admission on an in-person test. We do not accept *MyBest*™ TOEFL score reports or the TOEFL *Essentials*™ test.

If your TOEFL score does not meet our minimum required score, your application will still be reviewed; however, you will be at a competitive disadvantage when compared to other applicants.

The TOEFL is offered by the Educational Testing Service at locations around the world. For more information, visit the ETS website. **Harvard Law School's TOEFL Institution code is 3457.**

Please arrange to have an official TOEFL score report sent directly to the Graduate Program via ETS or LSAC by the application deadline. Faxes or photocopies of score reports are not acceptable as official reports, nor are scores that are more than two years old.

TOEFL Waivers
Applicants with near-native English fluency and at least two consecutive years of full-time university education conducted entirely in English may request a waiver of the TOEFL; however, such waivers are very rare and are granted at the sole discretion of the Committee on Graduate Studies, whose decision is final.

To submit a TOEFL waiver request, select "I am requesting a TOEFL waiver" on the English Proficiency/TOEFL page of the online application and complete the TOEFL Waiver Request within the application. **NOTE:** If you have not completed at least two consecutive years of full-time university education conducted entirely in English, your request for a TOEFL waiver will be automatically denied. The Committee on Graduate Studies will not make a decision on your TOEFL waiver request until all transcripts have been received.

We do not accept IELTS in place of the TOEFL requirement.

5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the LL.M. program, carefully complete and submit the online Application for Admission. The application requirements include the following items.

Checklist of application materials:

- Online application form
- Personal statement
- CV/Résumé
- Transcript(s)
- Diploma(s) (for degrees that have been granted)
- LSAC Report (if applicable)
- Recommendations (at least two)
- Official TOEFL report (if applicable)
- Financial aid application (if applicable)
- Application fee of US$90

**Please note that we do not require an LSAT or GRE score.

You will need to upload your Personal Statement and CV/résumé and pay your application fee in order to submit the online application form. Please follow the instructions below regarding submission of your transcripts and diplomas, LSAC report (if you are using this optional service), recommendations, and official TOEFL report.

You are responsible for assembling and submitting all of the credentials necessary for evaluating your application, and for making sure that all materials are received by the deadline.

6. ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form carefully. You will not be able to access or change any part of the form after you have submitted it. Please do not use ALL CAPS to complete the form (other than for acronyms such as UNICEF, etc.).

A note about names: Please include your full name exactly as it appears on your passport in the application and on all documents, but do not write it in ALL CAPS. Failure to submit your name exactly the way it appears on your passport will cause delays in reviewing your LL.M. application and may compromise the issuance of your visa documents should you be admitted to the program.

To determine how your name is listed on your passport, look at the bottom of your passport biographic page.

- Your Surname is listed at the bottom of your passport biographic page **before** the "<<" sign.
- Your Given Names are listed **after** the "<<" sign. Include any middle name(s) in the Given Names field.
- For example, if your passport says P<xxxTORRES<SANTIAGO<<PABLO<LUIS<MANUEL<<<<<<, then you should list "Torres Santiago" as your Surname and "Pablo Luis Manuel" as your Given Names, even if you write your name differently in your home country.

Do not use nicknames, except in the Preferred First Name field. Please notify us of any legal name variations that may appear on requested documents.

7. PERSONAL STATEMENT

The Personal Statement is an essential component of your application. It provides an opportunity for you to present your ideas and demonstrate your writing ability to the Committee on Graduate Studies. Please limit your statement to no more than 1,500 words —anything exceeding this limit will be disregarded. Please note that footnotes do not count towards the overall word limit as long as they are limited to providing sources and citations.

The Personal Statement must be solely the product of your own efforts. We reserve the right to disqualify the application of a candidate who has submitted a Personal Statement written by, or with the help of, any other person or artificial intelligence program.

Your Personal Statement should address both of the following questions specifically, with Part (A) constituting at least half of the total length:

(A) Briefly describe either an important issue in your field of interest or a current legal problem facing a particular country, region, or the world, and then propose and analyze a theoretical framework or legal strategy to address this issue. For the avoidance of doubt, your response should not be limited to outlining a research plan or proposal. Successful essays will contain substantive analysis of the issue identified.

(B) Please tell us something about yourself — in particular, why you wish to pursue an LL.M. degree at Harvard and how doing so connects with what you have done in the past and what you plan to do in the future.

Please follow the instructions on the Personal Statement page of the online application to upload your Personal Statement. Note that your Personal Statement must be uploaded and submitted with the rest of your application. We will not accept any Personal Statement sent to us separately from the online application.

8. TRANSCRIPTS AND DIPLOMAS

You must submit a transcript **and** diploma (i.e., certificate of degree conferral) for every university or law degree you have received. (Applicants who have received a degree from a U.S. educational institution are not required to provide a separate diploma for that degree unless the transcript lacks a clear indication of degree conferral.) If you have a diploma supplement, you must submit both a transcript and diploma supplement (not just the diploma supplement).

If you are enrolled in a degree program that is still in progress, you will need to submit a current transcript for that program. If your school is unable to provide a transcript, you must provide an enrollment letter from your school's registrar. In such cases, your application will not be complete without an enrollment letter. Please note that your qualifying law degree **must be conferred by June 2027** in order to be eligible to attend the 2027-28 LL.M. program.

Law Exchange Programs
You must provide an official transcript for any exchange program for which you received credit for your law degree, unless the name of the exchange school, all credits earned, and individual class grades from the program are clearly reported on your official law school transcript.

Summer Programs/Certificate Programs
Please do not submit transcripts for summer programs, or for certificate programs shorter than 6 months.

Multiple Degrees from the Same School
If you have received more than one degree from the same university or law school, you may submit a single transcript (as long as the transcript provides detailed information, including credits earned and individual class grades, for each degree).

Bar Schools or Programs
If you attended one of the following bar schools or programs in Australia, Barbados, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, or the United Kingdom, you should include the bar school/program in the list of institutions on the Education page of your application, selecting "Other" for the level of study. You will also need to provide a transcript for the bar school/program attended. Applicable bar schools or programs are Australian Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (GDLP), Commonwealth Caribbean Certificate of Legal Education, Ghana School of Law, Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), Legal Training and Research Institute (LTRI), Kenya School of Law, Judicial Research and Training Institute (JRTI), New Zealand Professional Legal Studies Course, Nigerian Law School, Sierra Leone Law School, Law School of Tanzania, Law Development Centre, Legal Practice Course (LPC), and Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC f/k/a BVC). ***If you did not participate in one of those programs, or if you attended a bar school or program in another country, please disregard this instruction.***

A. Instructions for Submitting Transcripts and Diplomas

During the application phase, applicants must provide electronic versions of academic records (transcripts, diplomas, enrollment letters, class rank statements, etc.) either (a) through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service; or (b) by email to the Graduate Program Admissions Office at gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu (but not both).

IMPORTANT: All applicants who submitted academic records by email to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu during the application phase and who are admitted or offered a place on the waiting list will be required to submit official hard copies of their academic records to the Graduate Program *immediately* upon receiving their admissions decision. Applicants who submitted their academic records through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service in accordance with Section 9: LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (Optional) will be required to submit official hard copies of final academic records for *degrees that were in progress* at the time of application. While there is no penalty for using one method over the other, we encourage applicants to use the LSAC Credential Assembly Service to reduce the burden to provide official hard copies of academic records.
If you choose to submit your academic documents by email to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu, **we strongly recommend** that you obtain two official copies of each material from your registrar or school official: (a) one copy that you can submit (unofficially) to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu; and (b) one copy in a sealed envelope, unopened, that you can have ready to submit without delay if you are admitted or waitlisted. Please do not send official hard copy documents at the time of application.

Please note that these requirements apply to Fulbright/Institute of International Education (IIE) applicants.

Select which method you will use to submit your academic records on the "Application Data" page of the online application and use the instructions below to format your materials. Please make sure to follow these instructions carefully to ensure that your materials are accepted for review.

Option 1: Submit your academic records through the LSAC Credential Assembly Service
If you use LSAC to submit your academic records, please skip to Section 9: LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (Optional).

Option 2: Email your academic records directly to the Graduate Program
If you choose to email your academic records to the Graduate Program at gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu, you must follow the instructions below carefully to put your academic records in a format that will be accepted by the Graduate Program:

1. Send all of your academic records in a single email. **Do not send multiple emails with multiple transcripts attached**.
2. Send the academic records from the email address you provided in your online application.
3. Include your name and the word “Transcripts” in subject line of the email as follows: Surname, Given Name-Transcripts
    a. For example: Pablo Luis Manuel Torres Santiago should use the following subject for his email: ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-Transcripts***
4. Combine all materials (including translations, if applicable) for each degree or program into one pdf file per degree/program in the following order:
    a. English versions:
        i. Diploma (required for degrees that have been granted)
        ii. GPA and/or Class Rank Statement (only if available)
        iii. Transcript (including grade key)
        iv. Letter of enrollment (**only** for PhD programs or programs in progress for which no transcript is available)
    b. Original language versions (if the original language is not in English) of the same documents, in the same order (for the sake of clarity, you must submit original language documents in addition to the English versions):
        i. Diploma (required for degrees that have been granted)
        ii. GPA and/or Class Rank Statement (only if available)

iii. Transcript (including grade key)

iv. Letter of enrollment (**only** for PhD programs or programs in progress for which no transcript is available)

5. Name each pdf file using the following convention: "Surname, Given Name-University Name-Degree Name.pdf" (You may abbreviate the name of the university if necessary.)
    a. For example, if Pablo Luis Manuel Torres has a B.A. degree from the University of Auckland, an LL.B. from the University of Auckland, and an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge, spent a law exchange semester at the University of Chile, and obtained a B.L. from the Nigerian Law School, he should attach five files to the email labeled as follows:
        i. ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-Auckland-BA***
        ii. ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-Auckland-LLB***
        iii. ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-Cambridge-LLM***
        iv. ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-U of Chile-Exchange***
        v. ***Torres Santiago, Pablo Luis-Nigerian Law School-BL***
6. Your email with transcripts attached **must be received by 11:59 p.m U.S. Eastern Time (4:59 A.M. UTC) on December 1**.

IMPORTANT: If you do not follow these instructions, we will not be able to accept your transcripts via email and your application will be considered incomplete.

When you send your transcripts to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu, you should receive an automated response. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive it. This is your confirmation that your documents have been received.

**As a reminder, gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu is for sending transcripts and other academic materials only. If you have any questions, please write to gpquery@law.harvard.edu. Please only contact us from the email address you provided in your online application.

Applicants who submit transcripts by email to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu who are admitted or offered a place on the waiting list will be required to submit official hard copies of their academic records immediately upon receiving their admissions decision.

B. Transcript FAQ

Can I send my transcripts and other academic records before submitting my application?
Yes.

Can I send my transcripts and other academic records both by email and through LSAC?
No – you must choose only one method.

If I submit official academic records to LSAC (including certified translations, if applicable), will I later need to submit additional copies to the Graduate Program if I am admitted or waitlisted?
No, unless a degree was in progress at the time of application. If a degree was in progress at the time of your application, then you will need to send final, official hard copies for that degree (once awarded) directly to the Graduate Program. Additionally, the Graduate Program reserves the right to condition admission on the receipt of official hard copy academic documents sent directly to the Graduate Program.

Can my school send my transcripts and other academic records to you during the application phase?
No. If you are not using the LSAC Credential Assembly Service, please send all of your materials together in a single email from the email address you used in your online application.

Can I go ahead and send official hard copies during the application phase if they are available?
No. Please do not send official hard copies to the Graduate Program until and unless we ask you to do so.

What if I have already sent hard copies of my academic records?
We will not be able to process them, and you will need to re-submit them using one of the approved methods for this year's application process.

What if my academic records are not in English?
Follow the instructions for certified translations in Section 11: Certified Translations.

9. LSAC LL.M. CREDENTIAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE (OPTIONAL)

The LL.M. Credential Assembly Service is a service for international applicants provided by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). For a fee, the LSAC will collect your transcripts and TOEFL scores and send them to the participating schools. If you are applying to several schools at the same time, you may find this service to be an efficient way to submit your official transcripts and TOEFL scores, since you will have to supply those records only once, to LSAC, even if you apply to multiple schools. The service is **strongly encouraged but not required** for applicants to the LL.M. program at Harvard Law School. Details about this service may be found at http://www.lsac.org/llm.

Please note: We do not accept recommendations through LSAC.

Notes on using the LSAC service:

- Register with LSAC at http://www.lsac.org/llm.
- If you earned your first law degree outside the U.S., you must sign up for both the Document Assembly Service and the International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service.
- Materials submitted to the Graduate Program through LSAC must satisfy the Graduate Program's application requirements.
- For every university or law degree you have received, submit a transcript **and** diploma (i.e., certificate of degree conferral) to LSAC. If you are enrolled in a degree program that is still in progress, you will need to submit a current transcript for that program. Submit only **official documents** to LSAC. If the documents are not provided in English, follow the instructions for Certified Translations in Section 11: Certified Translations, but send the translations to LSAC directly. **IMPORTANT**: If you do not provide certified translations that meet our requirements to LSAC, we will not be able to accept those documents even if LSAC accepts them.
- In the Graduate Program online application form, answer "Yes" to the LSAC question on the Application Details page. You will then need to enter your 8-digit LSAC registration number in the online application form (do not include the "L" at the beginning of the number). Please make sure to provide all 8 of the numbers in your registration number, and to list the number correctly.
- If you provide your 8-digit registration number, we will automatically request your materials from LSAC after your submit your application, typically within one week after you have submitted your online application.
- If you have questions about the status of your LL.M. Credential Assembly Service materials, please check with LSAC.
- If you use this service, you must not also submit your transcripts, diplomas, or TOEFL scores directly to the Graduate Program via gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu.

DEADLINE: If you intend to use the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service, you will need to have your transcripts and TOEFL score reports mailed to LSAC at least six weeks in advance of the December 1 deadline to be sure that the LSAC Report will be delivered to Harvard Law School by December 1. **Your application will not be disqualified if we do not receive your LSAC report by the December 1 deadline, but we begin reviewing applications immediately after the deadline, so your application may be at a disadvantage if your report is not received on time.**

NOTE: LSAC may require additional transcripts that we do not, e.g., for summer programs, certificate programs shorter than 6 months, or non-law exchange programs. In that case, **LSAC will not send us your report until they have received all of the transcripts that they require, even if they have received all of the materials that are required for your Harvard Law School LL.M. application.** Accordingly, please make sure to send LSAC all of the materials they require before the December 1 Harvard LL.M. application deadline (even if they are not required for your Harvard LL.M. application).

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

You must provide at least two letters of recommendation and no more than three. **We will not accept more than three recommendations under any circumstances.**

The letters that are most helpful are those written by law faculty members who know you well or by persons for whom you have worked in a professional capacity. Letters from personal or family friends, no matter how eminent, are generally not helpful. Recommendations that are confidential (i.e. where the applicant has waived access) carry more weight.

Applicants who hold a J.D. degree from a law school in the U.S. are strongly encouraged to submit three recommendations, at least two of which should be from law school faculty members.

Letters of recommendation may be addressed to the Committee on Graduate Studies.

Recommendations must be submitted through our online application (and not by email or on paper hard copy).

IMPORTANT: You must provide the names and institutional affiliations of your recommenders by completing the **Register Your Recommenders page** of the application. **Recommendations from unregistered recommenders will not be considered.**

If you have submitted your application *and we have not yet received recommendations from all of your registered recommenders*, you may add or make changes to your registered recommenders by clicking the recommendations page link on your status page before December 1. **No changes to recommender registrations will be permitted after December 1 under any circumstances.**

Online recommendation instructions (Required)
For each recommendation:

- Register the recommender (or qualified translator, if applicable – please refer to Section 11: Certified Translations below) using the "Add Recommender" link on the **Register Your Recommenders page** of the online application
- The recommender or translator will then receive a "Recommendation Request" email from Harvard Law School Graduate Program with instructions on how to submit the recommendation online

Note that your recommenders may upload their letters of recommendation at any time before the December 1 deadline, even after you have submitted your application.

IMPORTANT: Recommendations must be written solely by the recommender. If your recommender cannot provide a letter in English, please ask them to provide a letter in their own language. In such cases, the applicant should obtain a certified translation into English done by someone other than the applicant (please follow instructions in Section 11: Certified Translations below). We reserve the right to disqualify the application of a candidate who has played any role in writing or translating a letter of recommendation.

11. CERTIFIED TRANSLATIONS

Documents that are not provided by the issuing institution in English must be translated into English by third-party qualified (i.e., certified, professional, or formally trained) translators. For avoidance of doubt, applicants and their family members may not translate application-related documents even if they are qualified translators.

For the sake of clarity, you must submit original language documents, in addition to the English versions.

For transcripts and diplomas
If your school does not provide your transcript and/or diploma in English, we recommend that you obtain two official copies of your academic records. Please take the applicable documents in the original sealed envelope(s) to a qualified translator and ask the translator to:

(a) open the sealed envelope;
(b) translate the contents into English — the translation must be a literal and complete version of the original document;
(c) certify that the original is a true and official copy of your school documents as the translator received them from you;
(d) give you one copy of the translation along with the applicable academic record, so you can submit them during the application phase, either (a) to LSAC; or (b) if not using LSAC, by email to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu; and
(e) place a second copy of the original documents, the translation, and the certification in a new envelope, seal the envelope, and sign across the envelope seal.

You should keep the sealed envelope you receive from the translator on hand so that you can send it to us unopened if and when requested.

IMPORTANT: We must receive both the certified English translations AND the original language documents. If we do not receive both, your application will be at a disadvantage.

For letters of recommendation
If a recommendation is not written in English, please ask your recommender to provide a letter in their own language, in a sealed envelope that has been signed over the seal. (This must be done in hard copy - electronic letters are not acceptable.)

Instead of registering your recommender's name and email address in the Register Your Recommenders section of the online application, provide the name and email address of a qualified translator. (In the "Relationship" field, please specify "Translation for [Recommender Name]," but list the recommender's Organization and Position/Title.).

Take the recommendation in the sealed envelope to the qualified translator and ask the translator to:
(a) open the sealed envelope;
(b) translate the contents into English — the translation must be a literal and complete version of the original document;
(c) certify that the original is a true copy of the letter of recommendation as the translator received it from you; and
(d) upload the translation, together with a scanned copy of the original letter, using the link they receive by email after you register them in the Register Your Recommenders section of the online application.

You will not need to provide a second copy of your recommendations if admitted or offered a place on the waiting list.

12. APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

If you wish to apply for financial aid from Harvard Law School, you must also complete the financial aid application (including the Parent Financial Information Form and, if applicable, the Spouse's Form). **You will need to submit these forms even if you are also seeking funding through the Fulbright Commission, IIE, or other programs (e.g., Boas Scholarships) that send your application separately to Harvard Law School.**

Please note that Harvard's financial aid is need-based only, and that Harvard generally does not provide full-tuition grant awards. To increase the likelihood of substantial grant funding, we encourage you to apply for outside scholarships, both those administered by Harvard University as well as grant opportunities available in your country of residence, in addition to applying for HLS financial aid. For information on additional scholarships administered by Harvard University, please visit: https://scholarships.harvard.edu/.

To complete the financial aid application, please return to the application home page and select the financial aid application option. (You can work on an application for admission and the online financial aid application simultaneously, but you must complete the "Personal Data" page of the online admissions application before starting the online financial aid application.) Your application for financial aid will have no bearing on your application for admission, since the two decision processes are completely separate. Financial aid applications are not reviewed until after admission decisions have been reached.

We issue financial aid decisions available as soon as possible after admission offers have been communicated. We will make grant awards first to the students who submitted their financial aid application by the December 1 deadline. If you do not submit your financial aid application until after you receive an admission offer, we likely will not have any grant funds available to award to you, and will only be able to offer you loan assistance.

13. APPLICATION FEE

The application fee is US$90 and must be paid online by credit card when you submit your application. *Do not send cash.*

The application fee is nonrefundable and will not be credited to your program fee if you are admitted.

Fee waiver request: If payment of the application fee would present an *extreme* financial hardship, you may request a waiver of the fee by submitting a fee waiver request. (The Application Fee Waiver Request Form is available within the online application when you answer "yes" to the question "Are you applying for an application fee waiver?" on the Administrative Details page of the online application.) If you are requesting a fee waiver, you will need to submit the Graduate Program Financial Aid Application before your request for a fee waiver will be considered. If you do not submit a Financial Aid Application, your application fee waiver request will be automatically denied.

Application fee paid by sponsor: If your application fee will be paid by a sponsoring organization (e.g., IIE, government agency, etc.) that is unable to pay the fee with a credit card, please contact the Graduate Program (gpquery@law.harvard.edu) well before the application deadline to receive further instructions on how to submit your online application as well as instructions for how the sponsoring organization should submit the application fee.

14. REAPPLYING TO THE LL.M. PROGRAM

If you submitted your most recent application after August 2021, then during the application phase of the 2027-2028 application cycle you will not need to re-submit copies of transcripts already provided with your original application. **If you are admitted or offered a place on the waiting list, you may be required to provide official copies of your academic records, even if you have provided them in a previous application cycle.**

Reapplicants must complete and submit a new online application, indicating on the application form that you have previously applied to the LL.M. program as well as the academic year for which you originally applied.

Reapplicants must also provide:

- New personal statement
- New letters of recommendation (at least two) (If you are using the same recommenders, we would expect to see an updated letter and not the same letter submitted with your prior application.)
- Transcript(s) and diploma(s) for any additional academic credentials or coursework you have completed since your last application
- An updated TOEFL score if your TOEFL score is more than 2 years old
- New financial aid application (if applicable)
- Application fee of US$90

Reapplicants in the 2027-2028 application phase who need to provide academic records for coursework completed since their most recent application may use the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service or email their transcripts to gptranscripts@law.harvard.edu. Please refer to the Section 8: Transcripts and Diplomas and Section 9: LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (Optional), as applicable for further instructions.

The deadline for reapplications is December 1.

15. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION

To submit an application, you will need to make the required certification:

I certify that the information presented in my application is accurate, complete, honestly presented, and the writing is entirely my own and not that produced by any other person or artificial intelligence program. I also certify that any information submitted on my behalf is authentic, including letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and certifications. I understand and agree that any inaccurate information, misleading information, or omission will be cause for an investigation of misconduct in the admissions process, rescission of any offer of admission, and/or for discipline, dismissal, or revocation of degree if discovered at a later date. I agree to immediately notify the Graduate Program of changes or updates to information submitted within this application and I acknowledge that any changes or updates may affect the outcome of the admissions process.

Please refer to Harvard Law School's policy on admissions fraud in the Handbook of Academic Policies for more information (https://hls.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/academics-file/HAP.pdf#page=128).

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Harvard University and Harvard Law School do not discriminate against any person on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and gender expression, as well as pregnancy), genetic information, ancestry, religion, caste, creed, veteran status, disability, military service, sexual orientation or political beliefs in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.

Please refer to Harvard Law School's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Bullying Policies for more information.

Inquiries regarding the application of the Law School's nondiscrimination policy may be referred to:

- Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program and International Legal Studies: gpquery@law.harvard.edu or 617-496-8214.
- Sasha Tulgan (Office of Equal Opportunity) Assistant Dean for Equal Opportunity: (617) 496-0921

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies regarding race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability may also be referred to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202, (800) 421-3481, or OCR@ed.gov.

17. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

The application for admission, together with all supporting materials, becomes the property of the Harvard Law School Graduate Program upon submission. No materials will be returned to the applicant or forwarded to other schools or agencies. All information submitted by the applicant will be treated as confidential and, subject to relevant laws, will not be shared with persons outside of Harvard University without the applicant's permission.

18. INTERVIEWS

Evaluative interviews are not part of the admissions process because we believe that an adequate comparison of personal qualities and professional accomplishments is not possible on the basis of brief personal interviews. Therefore, an interview will not improve your chances of admission.

19. CHECKING THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION

You will not be able to check to see if your materials have been received until after you have submitted your online application. Once you submit your online application, you will be able to track the status of your application as it is processed by our office on your Status Page in the online application. Your Status Page will indicate whether your various supporting documents (recommendations, transcripts, TOEFL score reports, etc.) have been received. You will not have access to your Status Page and the status of materials sent to the Graduate Program will not be updated until AFTER your application is submitted.

If there is a problem with any of the materials you submit, we will contact you. Please do not contact the Graduate Program to inquire about the status of your application materials. Given the number of applications we receive and the limited time we have available to process, authenticate, and review each of them, it is not possible for us to reply to inquiries asking us to verify receipt of application materials or to confirm application status.

Instead, we ask that you check your Status Page in the online application and return to it periodically to see if specific items have been received.

NOTE: It may take several weeks to several months for the status of a particular item to be updated. As long as you have submitted your application and supporting materials by the December 1 deadline, you will not be penalized if the status of your materials is not updated until after the deadline.

20. ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

All admissions decisions for LL.M. applicants will be released in the online application system at the same time, typically in late March. Once the decisions have been reached, you will be notified promptly and will be able to log in to your Status Page to check whether you have been admitted, denied, or placed on a waiting list. Applicants on the waiting list likely will not know the final result of their applications until June and, in some cases, until August. To protect the confidentiality of applications, we do not release any information on an application decision to anyone other than the applicant.

Please do not contact the Graduate Program office to inquire about the status of your admission decision. This will only disrupt our workflow and prevent us from completing our decision-making process as quickly as possible.

21. WHERE TO SEND MATERIALS NOT SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

During the application phase of the admissions process, we will not be able to accept materials that are not submitted electronically**. No exceptions will be made.**

22. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE APPLICATION

Please note that the Graduate Program application works best when it is accessed through the Chrome web browser on a computer (as opposed to a tablet or smartphone). You can download Chrome here for free if you do not already have it installed on your computer.

Some actions within the application may require you to click a pop-up dialog box to confirm the action you have selected. If your browser has a pop-up blocker enabled, you may need to disable the pop-up blocker or create an exception for graduateprogram.law.harvard.edu. If you are completing the application on a public computer terminal and the application seems to be “stuck,” you may need to contact the system administrator to create a pop-up blocker exception in order to complete the application.

If you are using the Chrome browser, pop-up dialog boxes may offer the option to "prevent this page from creating additional dialogs." **DO NOT SELECT THIS OPTION**. Dialog boxes are required to perform certain actions (including submitting the application), and blocking dialog boxes will prevent you from being able to complete those actions.

If you inadvertently select the "prevent this page from creating additional dialogs" option in Chrome, you should immediately click "Continue" at the bottom of the page to save your work and then close the browser and completely exit the Chrome browser. When you reopen the browser and return to the application, dialog boxes should be re-enabled. If you do not know how to disable the Chrome pop-up blocker or if exiting and restarting the browser fails to restore the dialog box function, please consult the pop-up information on the Chrome support site for instructions before contacting the Graduate Program.

If you experience any technical problems using the Graduate Program application, please email gpquery@law.harvard.edu for assistance.