
ENTRANCE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

MASTER OF STUDIES IN LAW (MSL)

The degree of Master of Studies in Law (MSL) is designed for non-lawyer candidates who seek to obtain a deeper understanding of legal issues to enhance their professional development and career opportunities. This degree is designed for students who do not have an interest in pursuing a law degree, that is, the degree of Juris Doctor.

Entrance Requirements

MSL applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree or equivalent and ideally have three years or more of professional experience directly related to their area of concentration. Students whose undergraduate degree was earned from a non-U.S. school where English is not the language of instruction are required to meet the minimum language test requirement (see below).

General Instructions

If you are a United States citizen or permanent resident, your Social Security number is required in question 1. If you do not have a Social Security number, you must obtain one before submitting the application. If you are a non-U.S. applicant and do not have a Social Security number, leave this space blank. If you have attended any division of the George Washington University previously, fill in all parts of questions 10 and 11. Failure to furnish all information and supporting credentials requested will invalidate the application. **All application materials must be sent directly from the applicant or the issuing institution to:**

Admissions and Office
The George Washington University Law School
700 20th Street, NW, Lower Level
Washington, D.C. 20052 USA

Alternatively, this application form (signed electronically or signed with wet ink and then scanned), the resume/CV, and the personal statement can be sent as attachments to admissions@law.gwu.edu. Official transcripts and letters of recommendation also can be sent electronically to admissions@law.gwu.edu, but they must be sent by the issuing institution in the case of transcripts and by the person recommending the applicant in the case of letters of recommendations.

Application Fee

The \$80 application fee has been waived for all applicants for the 2026-2027 application cycle.

Application Deadlines

Applications for the fall and spring semesters are accepted on a rolling basis. For priority review, applications for fall admission should be received by March 15 but will continue to be accepted on a space-available basis until June 1. For spring admission, the priority deadline is November 1.

Application Requirements

All MSL applicants must submit the following to be considered for admission:

- A completed application form
- Official transcripts from all graduate and undergraduate schools attended; transcripts must be mailed by the issuing institution to the address above or e-mailed by the issuing institution to admissions@law.gwu.edu
- At least one letter of recommendation, sent from the person(s) recommending, accompanied by the enclosed recommendation form; letters can be mailed to the address above or e-mailed to admissions@law.gwu.edu
- A brief essay describing the applicant's professional goals, areas of interest, and how the degree advances those goals;
- If applicable, an official report of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score. Students whose initial degree was earned from a non-U.S. school where English is not the language of instruction are required to take the TOEFL or IELTS test. If English was the medium of instruction for an applicant's university education, please include documentation from the university registrar along with a TOEFL waiver request letter; and
- A résumé or CV.

*Official transcripts must be sent by the issuing institution directly to Admissions Office, The George Washington University Law School, 700 20th Street, NW, Lower Level, Washington, D.C. 20052 or enclosed with the application in envelopes sealed and signed by the issuing institution.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION MASTER OF STUDIES IN LAW (MSL)

Please type or print clearly. Do not staple any materials to this application.

Return to: Admissions Office • The George Washington University Law School • 700 20th Street, NW, Lower Level • Washington, D.C. 20052

SEE ENCLOSED INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR ENTRANCE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. _____
U.S. Social Security Number (if applicable)
2. _____
Last/Family/Surname First Name Middle Name
Enter the components of your name exactly as they appear on your passport, including middle names and hyphenated names.
3. Have you ever used a different name to register under any educational institution?: ☐ yes ☐ no
If yes, state other name used: _____
Where did you use this name?: _____
4. _____
Current Address – Number, Street & Apt. Number

City State/Province/District ZIP Code/Postal Code Country
5. _____
Daytime Telephone (including international calling codes) E-mail Address
6. Information in 4 & 5 is current until: _____
7. _____
Permanent Address – Number, Street & Apt. Number

City State/Province/District ZIP Code/Postal Code Country
8. _____
Daytime Telephone at Permanent Address (including international calling codes)

PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR MAILING ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, OR E-MAIL.

9. I am applying for:
☐ Spring 20_____
☐ Fall 20_____
Binding Early Decision Application
☐ Fall 20_____ Regular Action Application
As a:
☐ Full-time student
☐ Part-time student
Area of concentration:
☐ **Business and Finance**
☐ **Business, Finance, and Corporate Compliance**
☐ Environmental and Energy Studies
☐ First Amendment Speech and Expression
☐ General (student's design, with course approval)
☐ **Government Procurement**
☐ **Government Procurement and Cybersecurity**
☐ Health Law and Policy
☐ Intellectual Property
☐ International and Comparative
☐ **National Security and Cybersecurity**
☐ **National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations**
☐ **Privacy, AI, and Technology**

NOTE: Programs in bold can be completed either hybrid or fully online.

10. Have you applied previously for admission to any school of the George Washington University (degree or nondegree, on or off campus)?
☐ yes ☐ no If yes, for which semester and year?: _____
Semester Year
To which school was the application made?: _____

11. Have you ever registered in any school or department of the George Washington University, on or off campus?: ☐ yes ☐ no
 If yes, when did you last register?: _____ Semester _____ Year If yes, provide your GWID number: _____ GWID number
 And in which school or department?: _____
12. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female
13. Date of birth: _____ Birthplace: _____
 Month Day Year City State/Province/District Country (if other than U.S.)
14. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we are required to ask the following question of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Your cooperation is requested and appreciated, but is not required.
 Are you Hispanic or Latino?: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Please indicate one or more races from the following: ☐ American Indian or Alaska native ☐ Asian
☐ Black or African-American ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
☐ White
15. Country of citizenship: _____
 If you are a U.S. citizen and were not born in this country, indicate the date of entry into the U.S.: _____
 Month Year
16. Visa information for non-U.S. citizens:
 a. Are you presently in the U.S.?: ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, when did you arrive in this country?: _____
 Month Year
 What is your current visa status?: _____ I - 94 expiration date?: _____
(Optional) If presently in the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa, please provide a photocopy of your I-20 or I-94 Form.
 b. If you are applying from abroad, on which visa type do you intend to enter the U.S.?:
☐ A (Diplomatic) ☐ B (Temporary Visitor) ☐ F-1 (Student) ☐ Permanent
☐ G (Int'l Employee) ☐ J-1 (Exchange Visitor) ☐ Refugee ☐ Other: _____
 Specify
 c. Are you requesting an I-20 for an F-1 visa from this University?: ☐ yes ☐ no
17. English Proficiency:
 For all applicants who hold degrees from institutions where English is not the language of instruction, a TOEFL or IELTS score is required.
 The TOEFL or IELTS score requirement is not applicable if you received a degree from an institution where English was the sole medium of instruction. To choose "not applicable", be sure that your transcript indicates English as the sole medium of instruction or provide a letter from your university registrar's office to this effect.
 If English was the sole medium of instruction for your university education, submit a TOEFL waiver request letter along with this application.
 a. Have you taken the TOEFL or IELTS tests?: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable
 b. If yes, when?: _____
 c. Score: _____
If you have not taken the TOEFL or IELTS test, and the requirement applies to you, please note that your application will not be reviewed until the TOEFL or IELTS score is received.
 If you have registered to take the TOEFL or IELTS test on a future date, enter the test date: _____
Please arrange to send an official score report to the George Washington University Law School.
For the IELTS, list the George Washington University Law School to receive a score report.
For the TOEFL, use the Institution Code 5246, Department Code 03 for the George Washington University Law School.
18. Are you applying for Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits?: ☐ yes ☐ no (Question applies only to United States citizens)
19. Will you be funded by your employer? ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, name of employer and/or company: _____

20. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, or are such charges pending?: ☐ yes ☐ no
If yes, attach a separate explanatory statement. _____
21. Give the name of at least one person from whom you have requested a letter of recommendation in support of your application.
1. _____
2. _____
22. List chronologically every college, university, professional school, or other institution of higher learning previously attended.
All institutions must be reported, whether or not credit was earned or is desired.

Name of Institution	Location (City & State or Country)	Attendance Dates		Major Field	Type of Degree Received
		From	To		

23. Reason for leaving any school attended:

24. Have you ever been subject to academic or disciplinary action (e.g., probation, suspension, dismissal, warning, invitation to withdraw) from any institution attended?: ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, explain giving dates and details:

25. List completely and chronologically employment or other occupation since graduation from first institution of higher learning. (Do not repeat material covered in question 23 above. If unemployed for any period of time, indicate how time was used, e.g., in travel, at home, etc.)

Name and Location of Employer	Nature of Work	From (Month/Year)	To (Month/Year)

26. How did you hear about GW Law's MSL program?

27. Personal Statement: On a separate page or pages, please provide any additional information you think might be of assistance to the Admissions and Financial Aid office in evaluating your application, such as the reasons why you wish to pursue graduate study, a discussion of your background, or an explanation of any unusual aspects of your academic record. Include this statement with your completed application form.
28. A copy of your résumé and/or curriculum vitae is required with this application.

Please review your application carefully. By signing this application form, you certify that your application is complete and accurate. Purposefully omitting or inaccurately reporting information requested on this form may constitute an act of academic dishonesty. If such an act of dishonesty is admitted or discovered once you have gained admission, the law school may impose sanctions including, but not limited to: disqualification for, or loss or denial of, scholarships, academic awards, or honors; a permanent notation of academic dishonesty on the student record; suspension or expulsion from the GW Law; and suspension or revocation of a conferred degree.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided in response to the questions on this form, including information contained in any supplemental material submitted, is complete and accurate; and that the personal statement I have submitted in response to question 27 is my own work, and all factual representations made therein are true and correct.

29. _____
Applicant's Signature Date

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on any basis prohibited by federal law, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, or other applicable law, including without limitation, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. This policy covers all programs, services, policies, and procedures of the university, including admission to education programs and employment.

For more information, please see the university's Equal Opportunity Policy at: <https://my.gwu.edu/files/policies/EqualEmploymentOpportunityStatement.pdf>.

SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

GW is committed to assisting all members of the GW community to collectively achieve a safe campus environment. The annual security and fire safety compliance document is available on the GWPD website at police.gwu.edu.

If you would like to receive a booklet called "The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report" which contains this information, you can stop by the GW Police Department at 801 22nd Street, NW, Rome Hall 101, Washington, D.C., 20052 or you can request that a copy be mailed to you by calling 202.994.6948.

The website and booklet contain information regarding campus security and personal safety including topics such as: crime prevention, fire safety, university police law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures and other matters of importance related to security and safety on campus. They also contain information about crime statistics for the three previous calendar years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by GW; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.

This information is required by law and is provided by the George Washington University Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY MSL PROGRAMS

Admissions Office • The George Washington University Law School • 700 20th Street, NW, Lower Level • Washington, DC 20052

Name of Applicant (please print): _____

Name of Recommender: _____

To the Applicant:

Recommendation in support of your application for admission must be accompanied by this form. Please complete the form and send it to the person submitting your recommendation. All recommendations must be received by the applicable application deadline.

Federal legislation gives students an absolute right of access to letters of recommendation written on their behalf. If you matriculate, you may read these letters if you wish. You may also waive this right, but such a waiver may not be required as a condition of admission to or receipt of any other services or benefits from the George Washington University Law School.

It is entirely your choice whether to waive your right of access to letters of recommendation provided on your behalf. You should consider, however, that writers of letters of recommendation may be less candid in their evaluations if they know the candidate may read the letters than they would be if they knew that the letters remained confidential.

Please sign one of the following statements:

Waiver:

I have read the above information pertaining to letters of recommendation, and I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation. I authorize the recommender to provide all appropriate evaluations and information to the George Washington University Law School.

Signature of Applicant

Nonwaiver:

I do not waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation. I authorize the recommender to provide all appropriate evaluations and information to the George Washington University Law School.

Signature of Applicant

To the Person Writing a Letter of Recommendation:

Your recommendation will not be available for inspection by the applicant on whose behalf you are writing if the applicant indicates, by signing the waiver above, that he or she waives the right to see letters of recommendation written on his or her behalf. Letters of recommendation not accompanied by this form will be presumed to be available to the applicant. If you do not write on the reverse side of this form, please enclose it with your letter of recommendation.

The Admissions and Financial Aid office appreciates your independent evaluation of the applicant, noting limitations as well as merits. Please address, to the extent of your knowledge, how the study of law in the applicant's discipline will enhance their ability to succeed in their career. We must choose from among many more applicants than it is possible to admit. We seek, therefore, to choose those applicants whose preparation, intellectual capacity, and maturity will best enable them to benefit from our rigorous program.

Please return your letter and this form directly to the address above.