



# TOP 5 FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING AN LL.M. PROGRAM

The differences in LL.M. programs can be many including the variety in concentrations, faculty, course offerings, etc. Some LL.M. or master or laws programs require a first law degree, others do not. Do not waste time and money by choosing the wrong school.

To get the best fit, consider these five factors:

## 1. REPUTATION

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Look for a school with a good overall reputation. A degree from a respected accredited institution will give you creditably in the industry. Select programs with high caliber engaging faculty that combine technical knowledge with practical skills, and a supportive administrative staff that can assist you throughout the LL.M. journey.

## 2. LOCATION

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LL.M. programs can take a year or two of full-time study to complete. Consider if the school is located in a place where you want to spend that amount of time.

## 3. CONCENTRATIONS

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If you plan to work in a certain area of law, city or state, you might look at the schools your future colleagues attended to direct you to some good and viable LL.M. choices. Also, make sure your target schools offer a program in your focus area or at least offers one or more concentrations that will align with your professional goals.

## 4. BAR EXAM ELIGIBILITY

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If you are a foreign lawyer and you plan to use your LL.M. to help meet eligibility requirements to sit for a state bar exam, it is important to look carefully at the bar eligibility rules for the state. Most will require that your LL.M. program is associated with an ABA approved law school. There are only a few states that allow foreign lawyers to sit for the state bar exam (Texas is one of them) if they meet certain eligibility requirements most of which can be met through an eligible LL.M. program such as the U.S. Law LL.M. program at the University of Houston Law Center.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

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You spend many hours on campus. Consider if the school environment is comfortable, inviting and conducive for long hours of study. A great environment also provides opportunities to engage with other students and the legal community.

**“If you get the right fit (and that means the right fit for you!) you gain an LL.M. degree, a respected credential, credibility in the industry, depth of knowledge in a concentration area, an incredible alumni network of lifelong colleagues, and a career and life enhancing experience.”**

- Karen Jones | *UHLC Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs*

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