Build Your Future in International Law in Chicago

The John Marshall Law School®
Why Study International Law?

If you’ve always been interested in the world around you, if you’ve wondered how you might combine an interest in international affairs and law, and if you’re looking for a way to make a difference—consider a career in international law.

Perhaps you see yourself working with an international agency in the human rights area, or as a large firm attorney negotiating cross-border mergers, or as a customs and trade law attorney managing the compliance issues for a large corporation. There are infinite possibilities when you expand your education and professional life into the global sphere.

We urge you to explore the many international offerings at The John Marshall Law School, both inside and outside the classroom. By taking advantage of all we have to offer in the realm of international law, you will develop the knowledge, skills, and experience to be practice-ready from day one.

Your future in international law begins here—at John Marshall—on your first day of law school.
Cutting-Edge Curriculum

JD Course Offerings

We provide the foundation you need to excel in international law through our innovative curriculum at the JD and graduate levels, allowing students to tailor their education to their needs. You may take international law electives or pursue a JD certificate, or if you’re looking for more in-depth specialization, you may earn an LLM in International Business and Trade Law.

JD Certificate in International Human Rights Law

You can focus your JD on public international law, human rights, and humanitarian law by pursuing the JD Certificate in International Human Rights Law. In addition to required courses, you’ll select elective courses on constitutional law, human rights issues in specific geographic regions, and issues of gender, race, and sexual orientation as they pertain to human rights. Students must complete 16 credits (eight required credits and eight elective credits) to receive the certificate.

International Courses at the LLM Level

While earning your JD, you may elect to take up to six credits of more advanced LLM courses through the following LLM programs: International Business and Trade Law (IBT), Information Technology and Privacy Law, Intellectual Property Law, Real Estate Law, and Tax Law, with the approval of the appropriate Center. You are also welcome to register for IBT courses with field trips to Washington, DC and Europe.

Joint JD/LLM in International Business and Trade Law

A Master of Laws (LLM) in International Business and Trade Law will give you advanced skills an edge on the competition. If you pursue an LLM at the same time as your JD, you can apply the first 10 credits of LLM coursework towards both degrees—a considerable savings of both time and money.

Faculty

At John Marshall, our faculty bring a wealth of knowledge and practical experience in international law to the classroom. In addition to the full-time faculty, more than 40 adjunct faculty members—from the U.S., Europe, and China—offer their perspectives as practitioners.

Our faculty has experience with numerous international organizations, including:

- European Court of Human Rights
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
- Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- U.S. Court of International Trade
- United Nations
- United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
- World Bank

Our JD program offers more than 15 elective courses in international law.

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Earn Hands-On Experience

In this competitive legal marketplace, practical experience is crucial. At The John Marshall Law School, you’ll gain the real-world experience employers need.

Moot Court Competitions

Moot court competitions allow you to take what you’ve learned in the classroom and apply it in the courtroom. Students immerse themselves in an international law issue and meet law students from around the world, gaining valuable insight into international law practice.

John Marshall typically enters teams in the following competitions:

- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- International Client Counseling Competition
- International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Stetson University
- Niagara Moot Court Competition (U.S.-Canadian Law)
- International Academy of Dispute Resolution/Chicago Bar Association National Law School Mediation Tournament
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna

International Internships

The Center for International Law can help you research and identify international law internships both in the United States and overseas. An internship is an ideal way to gain experience and show potential employers your dedication to international law. John Marshall students have interned with many organizations, including the following:

- U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Office of the Vice President of the United States
- New South Wales Disability Discrimination Centre in Sydney, Australia
- Independent Commission for Human Rights in Ramallah, Palestine, West Bank
- Law firms in China, Taiwan, and Europe

Research Assistantships

As a research assistant, you can expand your international résumé and hone your legal research and writing skills, while working with a faculty member on an article or book on an international topic.
Network—Start Your Professional Career Right

While studying at John Marshall, you’ll have many opportunities to build a strong professional network—one that can help you throughout your career in international law.

International Organizations

There are numerous organizations with an international focus in Chicago, many of which offer student memberships at a reduced cost. These include the following:

- Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- WorldChicago
- The Chicago Chapter of the Organization of Women in International Trade
- The International Trade Club of Chicago

The International Law Society

John Marshall’s International Law Society (ILS) is a student organization that sponsors panel discussions, presentations, and social events throughout the academic year. These programs allow members to network with their peers while learning more about the basics of international law.

Bar Memberships

You can apply to become a member of various bar and international law associations for nominal fees. Bar association membership is a great way to network and to learn more about various career paths in law.

- Chicago Bar Association (CBA), www.chicagobar.org
  - Customs and U.S. International Trade Law Committee
  - Immigration and Nationality Law Committee
  - International and Foreign Law Committee
- Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section
  - Immigration and Nationality Law Committee
  - International and Foreign Law Committee
- Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), www.isba.org
  - International and Immigration Law Section
  - Human Rights Section
- American Bar Association (ABA), www.abanet.org
  - Section of International Law
- American Society of International Law (ASIL), www.asil.org
- International Law Students Association (ILSA), www.ilsa.org
Gain Insight at International Programs and Events

The Center for International Law hosts events throughout the year that provide in-depth insight into current international law issues.

Career Programs in International Law

Every semester, the Center for International Law, the Career Services Office, and the International Law Society sponsor panel discussions focused on careers in various areas of international law.

Panelists discuss their international career paths and recommend courses and extra-curricular activities that will help you build a well-rounded international résumé.

International General Counsels Roundtable Discussion

The Center hosts informal discussions with general counsels of international corporations every year. These allow students to hear firsthand about the counsels’ practices, the legal issues they deal with, and their recommendations for students interested in working for an international corporation.

Continuing Legal Education

The Center also offers an array of international law lectures, programs, and conferences for the Chicago legal and business communities. Because many attendees are current practitioners, these events are excellent networking opportunities for students.

International Jurist-in-Residence Program

In 2010, the Law School inaugurated the International Jurist-in-Residence Program, which brings the Chief Justice of another country’s Supreme Court to campus for five days of lectures, meetings, and classroom visits. Past participants include Chief Justice Robert Shenton French of the High Court of Australia and Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada. This program provides our students with a rare opportunity to meet and discuss legal issues with some of the world’s most outstanding jurists.
Study International Law around the World

Studying overseas can provide you with a unique perspective into international law. As a student at John Marshall, you may enroll in JD or LLM courses with field trips, study for a semester abroad at a partner law school, or take a summer program in China.

Courses with Field Trips

Several JD courses include a field trip abroad. The field trip components of courses typically take place over winter or spring break or during the early summer session. Currently, the law school offers courses with field trips to the following locations:

- The Czech Republic
- Ireland
- Italy
- Scotland
- Spain
- South Africa
- Vietnam

International Collaboration in the Classroom

Over the years, John Marshall has welcomed students from around the globe, and we are proud to have alumni on six continents. Our international students and U.S. students have a collaborative relationship, each bringing their unique experiences and valuable insights to the classroom. Visiting students and scholars also participate on comparative law panels.

Study Abroad

You may apply to spend a semester abroad in the Czech Republic at either the Metropolitan University in Prague or the Masaryk University in Brno, or in Switzerland at the University of Lucerne. John Marshall’s Center for Intellectual Property Law and Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center also offer a month-long ABA-approved summer program in Beijing, China, which is open to students from other law schools. In addition, you may take up to six hours from other law schools’ ABA-approved summer study abroad programs.

For more information about study abroad programs at John Marshall, please visit www.jmls.edu/global.
Chicago—A Dynamic Legal Market

Chicago is one of the world’s centers for commerce and business. Studying international law at The John Marshall Law School gives you all of the advantages of living in a world-class city.

To learn more about how the Center for International Law can help you start your international law career, visit www.jmls.edu/international.

To apply online, visit www.jmls.edu/admission.