TWO-YEAR LL.M. WITH CERTIFICATE IN LEGAL ENGLISH FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED LAWYERS

The Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English was established in 2008 and is the first of its kind in the United States. The Program offers students a more comprehensive LL.M. experience than is possible with the regular two-semester LL.M. Students complete their LL.M. courses over four semesters of study, allowing them to integrate our innovative Legal English Curriculum into their LL.M. program and focus on a specific area of law more intensively. Students in the Two-Year Program also have more time to complete the requirements for special LL.M. Certificates (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/llm/llm-certificate-programs) and fulfill the requirements for the New York Bar Exam (http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/us-bar/New-York-Bar-Examination.cfm).

The Two-Year Program at Georgetown is unique because students begin the Program as members of the LL.M. class. In the first year, students take required courses in the Legal English Curriculum along with a limited number of courses from the LL.M. Curriculum. After the first year of study, students in the Two-Year Program can spend the summer between their LL.M. years continuing their legal studies in a number of ways, including working in internships, taking classes in the Georgetown London Summer Program (https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/transnational-programs), or participating in the Georgetown LL.M. Summer Experience (http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/graduate-programs/foundations). In the second year, students select all of their own classes from our extensive LL.M. Curriculum, with over 300 graduate course offerings.

All classes in both years of the Program, including the Legal English classes, are taught at Georgetown Law by Georgetown Law Faculty and Legal English Faculty (p. 5) who either have a Ph.D. in Linguistics, an American J.D., or both.

Students take the following courses in the first year of the Program:

- Academic Legal English: Torts (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3086+00)
- Academic Legal English: Criminal Procedure (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3088+00)
- Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts I (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3087+00) and II (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3089+00)
- Academic Legal English: Oral Communication Skills I (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3079+00) and II (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+3080+00)
- Introduction to U.S. Legal Systems (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAWG+978+00)
- U.S. Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%20844%20v09)
- Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law (https://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW+730+01&srcdb=201819)
- One or two elective LL.M. classes

Contact Information
To learn more, please contact:
Marta Baffy, Faculty Director of the Two-Year LL.M. Program
Phone: (202) 662 - 9235
Email Address: Marta Baffy (mbl258@georgetown.edu)

Please address any questions about admissions to the Office of Graduate Admissions (http://www.law.georgetown.edu/admissions-financial-aid/graduate-admissions). (https://dev.law.georgetown.edu/admissions-aid/graduate-admissions)

Search LL.M Two-Year Extended LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English for Foreign Law Graduates Courses (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?program=program_91)

LAW 2058 v00 Academic Legal English I (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%202058%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 6 credit hours
Academic Legal English is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This year-long course is designed to help prepare students for the linguistic and intellectual demands of LL.M. study at a law school in the U.S. The course focuses on enhancing students' language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with particular emphasis on developing language skills for both understanding legal texts (e.g., judicial opinions, law review articles, and court documents) as well as producing legal texts (e.g., case briefs, "issue spotter" exam answers, and academic papers). Throughout the academic year, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their skills development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 2092 v00 Academic Legal English II (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%202092%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 6 credit hours
Academic Legal English is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This year-long course is designed to help prepare students for the linguistic and intellectual demands of LL.M. study at a law school in the U.S. The course focuses on enhancing students' language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with particular emphasis on developing language skills for both understanding legal texts (e.g., judicial opinions, law review articles, and court documents) as well as producing legal texts (e.g., case briefs, "issue spotter" exam answers, and academic papers). Throughout the academic year, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their skills development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.
LAW 3088 v00 Academic Legal English: Criminal Procedure [link](http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203088%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 3 credit hours
Academic Legal English: Criminal Procedure is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This course is designed to help prepare students for the linguistic and intellectual demands of LL.M. study at a law school in the U.S. The course focuses on enhancing students’ language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with particular emphasis on developing language skills for both understanding judicial opinions, as well as producing legal texts (e.g., case briefs, course outlines, “issue spotter” exam answers). Throughout the semester, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their skills development. Legal cases in criminal procedure law provide the primary content for skills development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 3087 v00 Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts I [link](http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203087%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts I is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This course is designed with a particular emphasis on developing language skills for understanding and producing academic legal texts through improving your grammatical knowledge and accuracy. During the Fall semester, this course will work closely with the reading and written assignments (e.g., case briefs and exam answers) that you will use in the companion course ALE: Torts. Students will focus on understanding and accurately producing complex grammatical structures they will likely encounter in law school. Throughout the semester, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their language development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 3089 v00 Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts II [link](http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203089%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts II is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This course is designed with a particular emphasis on developing language skills for understanding and producing academic legal texts through improving your grammatical knowledge and accuracy. During the Spring semester, this course will focus on writing strategies (e.g., organizational strategies, stylistic choices, and accurate production of complex grammatical structures) that are characteristic of legal texts (e.g., “take-home” and “in-class” exam writing) students likely need to produce in law school. Legal cases in criminal procedure law, law review articles, and other secondary sources provide the primary content for skills development. Throughout the semester, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their language development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 3079 v00 Academic Legal English: Oral Communication Skills I [link](http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203079%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
Academic Legal English: Oral Communication Skills I is required for students in the Two-year LL.M. Program. This fall semester course will focus on speaking and listening skills necessary to succeed in law classes in the United States, and students will complete a variety of assignments that will help develop their oral communication skills to participate in class. At the beginning of the semester, students will be evaluated on their oral communication skills and will be provided with an individualized pronunciation plan that addresses problematic sounds and intelligibility issues unique to each student. Thereafter, class time will be spent working on the articulation of individual sounds and word stress. Students will also practice listening strategies to aid in the comprehension of a variety of American English accents they will likely encounter in the U.S. Finally, students will watch a variety of documentaries related to current legal topics and practice the essential skills of being a good discussion participant in a seminar class setting.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.
LAW 3086 v00 Academic Legal English: Torts (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203086%20v00)

LL.M Seminar | 5 credit hours
Academic Legal English: Torts is a required course for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This course is designed to help prepare students for the linguistic and intellectual demands of LL.M. study at a law school in the U.S. The course focuses on enhancing students’ language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with particular emphasis on developing language skills for both understanding judicial opinions, as well as producing legal texts (e.g., case briefs, course outlines, “issue spotter” exam answers). Throughout the semester, students will work closely with course instructors and receive extensive, individualized feedback on their skills development. Legal cases in tort law provide the primary content for skills development.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 3061 v00 Discussion Skills for International Lawyers (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%203061%20v00)

LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
Discussion Skills for International Lawyers is required for students in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This semester-long course will focus on speaking and listening skills necessary to succeed in law classes in the United States, and students will complete a variety of assignments that will help develop their oral communication skills to participate in class. At the beginning of the semester, students will be evaluated on their oral communication skills and will be provided with an individualized pronunciation plan that address problematic sounds and intelligibility issues unique to each person. Thereafter, class time will be spent working on the articulation of individual sounds, word and sentential stress, and intonation. Students will also practice listening strategies to aid in the comprehension of a variety of American English accents they will likely encounter in the U.S. Finally, students will read texts related to current legal topics and practice the essential skills of being a good discussion facilitator and participant in a seminar class setting.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Extended LL.M. with Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 2029 v00 Introduction to Torts (Two-Year Program) (http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW%202029%20v00)

LL.M Course | 3 credit hours
This course will introduce students to the American law of torts. It will focus first on negligence, and explore five major areas: duty, breach of duty, scope of liability, affirmative defenses and damages. It will then use product liability law as an example of the imposition of strict tort liability.

Note: This class is only open to foreign-trained LL.M. students (i.e. those students who do not have a U.S. J.D. degree).
LAW 730 v01 Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law (Two-Year Program)
LL.M Course | 2 credit hours
This course surveys landmark constitutional cases in their social and cultural context. The first half of the course focuses on how the U.S. Constitution affects the fundamental structure of American government. The second half of the course will focus on individual rights, with particular emphasis on equal protection and substantive due process. Emphasis will be placed on the distinguishing features of common law method, and students will use close reading techniques to identify the defining discourse characteristics of the U.S. judicial opinion.

Note: This class is restricted to students in the first year of the Two-Year LL.M. with Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis. Students who enroll in this course may not also enroll in the course Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law.

LAW 978 v00 Introduction to U.S. Legal Systems
LL.M Course | 2 credit hours
This course introduces students to the institutions, methods, and practices at the core of the American common-law legal system. During the first half of the course we will focus on the Judicial Branch of the Government. We will examine the structure and boundaries of judicial power; the procedural mechanisms through which that power is exercised; and the ways in which common-law courts make (or decline to make) law. We will pay close attention to the political and social contexts in which the cases that we study arise, and we will consider how changing contexts affect the judicial decision-making process. During the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to the Legislative Branch of the Government, with special attention to problems of statutory construction. We will examine the tools—both legal and linguistic—that common-law courts employ when called upon to determine the proper interpretation of a statute.

Mutually Excluded Courses: Students may not receive credit for both this course and Foundations of American Law.

Note: This course is graded honors-pass-fail and is only open to foreign-educated LL.M. students (i.e., those students who do not have a U.S. J.D. degree).

LAW 721 v00 Law, Society, and Culture
LL.M Seminar | 2 credit hours
Note: This class is restricted to students enrolled in the Two-Year (Extended) LL.M. with Certificate in Legal English for Foreign-Trained Lawyers.

LAW 861 v00 Presentation Skills for International Lawyers
LL.M Seminar | 1 credit hour
The purpose of the course is to give to the students tools to improve their public speaking and oral presentation skills in English in a law-related context. To achieve this goal, the class will analyze how to build and deliver an effective presentation. Each student will engage in several presentation exercises, will be filmed and will receive feedback from the professor and from other students.

The expectation is that by the end of the semester, students will have reviewed and practiced key skills that support the effective preparation and delivery of informative and persuasive presentations on law-related topics. After taking this class, students should know how to adapt a topic to an audience, select information, structure and deliver a presentation, with emphasis placed on connecting with the audience.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 989 v01 Transnational Legal Skills Workshop
LL.M Course | 1 credit hour
This is an intensive, problem based course that explores the role of law in a global context. The problem is one that involves both U.S. and non-U.S. law and forces students to examine how to be effective as lawyers in a dispute that crosses borders. Students will be broken into teams to represent “clients” and to participate in a mock negotiation, arbitration, or court hearing.

Note: Withdrawals are permitted up until the last class for this specific course. A student will be permitted to drop a course that meets for the first time after the add/drop period, without a transcript notation, if a student submits a written request to the Office of the Registrar prior to the start of the second class meeting.

This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

LAW 3068 v00 Two-Year LL.M. Program Assembly
LL.M Seminar | 0 credit hours
This course gathers the full Two-Year LL.M. cohort together each week to check in and offer support workshops. Students will receive support, guidance, and academic counseling. Among the topics covered will be: research skills, career and professional development skills, and general advice about the LL.M. The course will also offer excursions to learn about American legal culture in Washington, D.C.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.
In the first half of the semester, students will explore US legal discourse through a critical examination of legal resources, research methods, and analytical paradigms. During this first half of the semester, students will meet as a large group with Legal English faculty to review language, form, and rhetorical conventions that US lawyers use in legal writing.

In the second half of the semester, students will meet in smaller groups with adjunct faculty where students will apply what they have learned in the first half of the semester. Each student will do independent legal research and write a legal memorandum. As part of this legal writing project, students will also meet with law librarians to learn more about legal research and citation.

Each student will submit a first draft of the memorandum, and the Legal English faculty and the adjunct faculty will provide written feedback on the first draft. After an individual conference with a faculty member, each student will submit a final draft of the memorandum.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. Program. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis. Students who enroll in this course may not enroll in any other sections of U.S. Legal Research Analysis & Writing.

LAW 3056 v00 U.S. Legal Research Analysis & Writing Workshop
(http://curriculum.law.georgetown.edu/course-search/?keyword=LAW %203056%20v00)
LL.M Seminar | 0 credit hours
The U.S. Legal Research Analysis & Writing Workshop is a part of the required U.S. Legal Research Analysis & Writing class for students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with Certificate in Legal English. In the Workshop, students have the opportunity to build on the assignments that they are working on in the Class. In addition to providing support for the work in the Class, the Workshop will introduce supplemental material that will help students to deepen their understanding of how U.S. lawyers create and use legal texts.

Note: This class is mandatory for, and restricted to, students enrolled in the Two-Year LL.M. with a Certificate in Legal English. This course is graded on an honors-pass-fail basis.

Craig Hoffman, J.D., Ph.D.
Director, Legal English Program
Professor of U.S. Legal Discourse

Courses taught: U.S. Legal Research, Analysis & Writing; Introduction to U.S. Legal Systems

Craig Hoffman is a linguist and a lawyer who has specialized in transactional writing and negotiating during his nine years of practice in Austin, Texas and Washington, D.C. Professor Hoffman focuses on acculturating Georgetown’s foreign LL.M. students into United States Legal Discourse by teaching courses that introduce students to the ways that U.S. lawyers use language to communicate about the law. Professor Hoffman teaches classes and consults with law schools around the world on issues of language and the law. He also consults with law firms on the interpretation of statutes and contracts. Professor Hoffman has received several fellowships in linguistics, cognitive science, business, and writing. His areas of scholarship include forensic linguistics, statutory and contract interpretation, discourse analysis, and genre analysis.

Professor Hoffman received his B.A. from William & Mary, a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Connecticut, and a J.D. from the University of Texas.

Marta Baffy, J.D., Ph.D.
Faculty Director, Two-Year LL.M. Program
Lecturer of Legal English

Courses taught: Academic Legal English: Torts; Academic Legal English: Criminal Procedure

Marta Baffy is a linguist and a lawyer who has 15 years of teaching experience in Hungary and the United States. She has taught courses in English and linguistics at a variety of institutions, including New York University, The New School University, Columbia University, Boston University, and Georgetown. Since Fall 2013, she has been teaching in the Two-Year LL.M. Program and she is the academic advisor to all first-year Two-Year LL.M. students. Professor Baffy’s research interests lie at the intersection of law and linguistics, particularly in the contexts of the courtroom and legal classroom. Her work has been published in law and linguistics journals such as The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law; Linguistics & Education; and The Journal of English for Academic Purposes. She is the co-author of the legal writing textbook Academic Legal Discourse and Analysis (with Kirsten Schaeetzl).

Professor Baffy received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, an M.A. in applied linguistics from Columbia University, a J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and a Ph.D. in sociolinguistics from Georgetown University.

Mari Sakai, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Two-Year LL.M. Program
Lecturer of Legal English

Courses taught: Academic Legal English: Oral Communication Skills I; Academic Legal English: Oral Communication Skills II

Mari Sakai is a linguist who has a long and personal history with languages as she learned English, Spanish, and Japanese from her parents and relatives as a young child. Her multilingual childhood led her to a career teaching adult language learners in the college and university setting. Over the past 12 years, she has taught courses in English, Linguistics, and Education in Florida, D.C., Japan, and Cuba. Her academic and research interests include the cognitive processing of second language sounds, foreign accents, and pronunciation instruction. She is interested in how adults of all ages learn to hear and pronounce second language sounds intelligibly. Professor Sakai has published in Applied Psycholinguistics and The Journal of Second Language Pronunciation, and in 2017, she won a national award for her dissertation research.

Professor Sakai received her B.A. in English literature and Spanish from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, an M.A. in education from the University of South Florida, and a Ph.D. in applied linguistics from Georgetown University.

Benjamin Cheng, J.D.
Lecturer of Legal English
Course taught: Academic Legal English: Torts; Academic Legal English: Criminal Procedure

Benjamin Cheng is a lawyer who has years of experience advising, mentoring, and teaching. Prior to joining the Two-Year LL.M. Program, Professor Cheng worked first in the Office of Graduate Careers, where he administered the Taxation Interview Program and advised domestic and international LL.M. students of many backgrounds. He then worked in the Office of Career Strategy, where he oversaw career advising for a 1L section. In that capacity, he also specialized in advising students from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds as well as international students from all class years. Prior to Georgetown Law, Professor Cheng worked in private practice, where he was an associate at an international law firm. Before law school, he was a strategy consultant for a consulting firm in Boston and then served as an analyst for an international investment bank in New York City.

Professor Cheng received his A.B. in biochemical sciences from Harvard University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

John Terry Dundon, J.D.
Lecturer of Legal English
Courses taught: Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts II; Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law

John Terry Dundon is an attorney and language instructor with experience teaching English in a variety of institutional contexts in Washington, D.C., New York, N.Y., and South and Central Asia. Prior to his teaching career, Professor Dundon practiced as an attorney at the law firms of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Kirkland & Ellis LLP; and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. His practice at all three firms focused on private equity fund formation and management. Professor Dundon also served as a judicial law clerk on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and he maintains active bar admission in New York, the District of Columbia, and California. He is an enthusiastic student of foreign languages, including French, Russian, Farsi, Tajik, and Rushani, and he has travel experience in more than 80 countries.

Professor Dundon received his B.A. in philosophy and French from the University of Virginia, a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School, and an M.A. in applied linguistics from Columbia University.

Julie Lake, Ph.D.
Director of J.D. Legal English Programming
Lecturer of Legal English
Course taught: Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts I

Julie Lake is a linguist who has worked in the Two-Year LL.M. Program and the Center for Legal English at Georgetown Law since July 2015. Professor Lake’s classroom experience includes teaching ESL for Academic Purposes at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland. She also taught conversational English to children and adults in Berlin, Germany. While in graduate school, she carried out a teaching methods course for second/foreign language teachers at Georgetown University and conducted a second language teaching methods workshop in Camaguey, Cuba. In addition to her classroom experience, she has completed classroom-based and psycholinguistic research. She has researched and published about best practices for needs analyses for instructional settings. Her dissertation research focused on reading comprehension, examining the role of individual differences in first and second language processing.

Professor Lake received her B.A. in religious studies from Oberlin College and an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied linguistics from Georgetown University.

Heather Weger, Ph.D.
Lecturer of Legal English
Courses taught: Academic Legal English: Grammar in Legal Contexts I and II

Heather Weger is a linguist who joined the Two-Year LL.M. Program at Georgetown Law in 2018. Professor Weger’s classroom experience includes over 14 years of teaching ESL for Academic Purposes at Georgetown University, as well as teaching in Germany and delivering multiple assessment-training seminars and workshops in Barranquilla, Colombia. In addition to her work in the classroom, she maintains a robust service and research platform in the wider TESOL profession. A frequent presenter at international, national, and regional TESOL and linguistics conferences, she is currently co-editor of TESOL’s AL (Applied Linguistics) Forum, and has served as Vice President of WATESOL. Professor Weger’s research platform focuses on effective teaching strategies as well as the social and co-constructed nature of language learning and language teaching.

Professor Weger received her B.A. in literary criticism from Washington University in St. Louis, an M.A. in adult and higher education from the University of Oklahoma, an M.A.T. in TESOL and bilingual education from Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in applied linguistics from Georgetown University.