

Keio University (Private) Law School

◆ Program name

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Global Legal Practice/
Professional Degree Program



◆ Degrees:

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Specialization certificate is available in:

- Business Law
- International Dispute Resolution
- Japanese Law
- Law and Development in Asia
- Intellectual Property Law

For more details and requirements, please see Features of the Program, IV Certificate for Specialization.

◆ Credits and years needed for graduation:

- Expected Full-time Period of Study: 2 years (for JDS program)

- Degree Requirements:

At least 30 course credits required for completion.

At least 4 credits in either category

(1) Global Business and Law, or

(2) Global Security and Law.

At least 4 credits in the Practical Training category (e.g. moot court, negotiation and arbitration seminars, internships, drafting, and other practical training courses).

For more details, please see the links below.

• Key Points

<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/lm/keypoints.html>

• Course List

https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/lm/course_list.html

◆ Address:

2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku Tokyo 108-8345 Japan

Features of University <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Founded in 1858, Keio University is a comprehensive institution with 10 undergraduate faculties, 14 graduate schools, over 30 research centers, a university hospital, and a university library boasting one of Japan's largest collections of books. Between its undergraduate faculties and graduate schools, Keio offers an extensive range of subjects, including numerous degree programs offered entirely in English. Three of Keio's undergraduate faculties and 9 of its graduate schools offer degree programs in English. The Japanese Language Program also provides students with high-quality Japanese language training and fosters students' affinity for Japan and specialist knowledge of Japan. Many of the students leverage their program experience to pursue successful international careers.

Features of Graduate School <https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Keio University Law School (KLS), was established in 2004 with the founding principles of "internationalism, multidisciplinarity and pioneerism." Since 2004, KLS has taken a position as one of Japan's top law schools. It has established a strong track record of "internationalism", with many non-Japanese adjunct and full-time research faculty members, and a curriculum that includes more than 50 courses conducted in English. In addition, the Law School accepts around 20 exchange students each year from partner law schools in the United States, Asia, Europe and elsewhere. With this background, it is preparing to undertake further training of legal professionals who can work in many fields that have developed as a result of the globalized society.

I. Internationalism

The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and this has led to a rise in international legal disputes and crime. It is, therefore, crucial for legal professionals to adopt an international outlook. KLS aims to meet this need by offering a rich range of optional courses teaching the basics of law in the United States, Europe, and Asia. American law, in particular, is taught primarily by full-time international instructors with legal and educational experience in Japan. Based on a hands-on study of international business law, students are trained to solve legal issues that span national borders from an international perspective.

II. Developing an Interdisciplinary Outlook

In today's fast-changing society, new legal problems are arising all the time, and legal professionals must be able to keep up with and deal with these problems as they arise. They must, therefore, be armed with the critical legal thinking skills to produce innovative solutions that are not constrained by conventional wisdom, and this is where interdisciplinarity comes in. With its 10 undergraduate faculties and 14 graduate schools and 160-year history as a leader in the field of liberal arts education in Japan, Keio University is the ideal place for students to develop a balanced historical sense in an environment that provides ample opportunity for the study of neighboring subjects and experience of international exchange.

III. Varied Range of Advanced Optional Courses

The four fields that are increasingly in demand on the business front are corporate law, financial law, international business law and intellectual property law. The KLS curriculum has been designed on the assumption that most graduates will go on to play a pivotal role as legal practitioners in these areas. As a result, a rich selection of related electives is offered, centered around a core set of four workshop programs. Taught by faculty who are themselves active as practitioners in these fields, students are given the opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding of the functions of law in these areas through hands-on experience in legal practice, enabling them to acquire academic knowledge and skills that can be applied in the real world. This is, of course, not the only pioneering element of the KLS curriculum, which also consists of advanced courses on subjects such as administrative law, tax law, criminal law, labor law, social security law, environmental law, and medical law.

IV. Support for International Students

KLS accepts international students from various universities. For example, between 2017 and 2023 we are receiving international students from leading law schools around the globe such as Cornell Law School (USA), University of Washington (USA), University of Illinois (USA), University of British Columbia (Canada), Georgetown University Law Center (USA), Universität Hamburg (Germany), Humboldt University (Germany), National Taiwan University (Taiwan), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), Technische Universität Dresden (Germany), The University of Melbourne (Australia), University of Southern California Gould School of Law (USA), Tsinghua University (China), UCLA Law School (USA), University of Auckland (New Zealand), Hanoi Law University (Vietnam), National University of Economics and Law in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), Pannasastra University (Cambodia), Thammasat University (Thailand), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), University of Dhaka (Bangladesh), University of Rajshahi (Bangladesh), University of Chittagong (Bangladesh), University of Zurich (Switzerland), Freiburg University (Germany), University Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne (France), Sciences Po (France), etc.

KLS faculty members provide a great deal of support and advice to help students to work on their studies and become effective professionals after they return to their countries. In addition, KLS has established an Advisory Board and intends to draw upon the professional and academic experiences of its members to provide guidance on the KLS's academic programs and related matters.

Due to the difference in semester schedules between Japan and foreign countries, securing enough school days for international students is a consideration for their acceptance (e.g. introducing a quarter semester).

To promote studying in Japan, KLS cooperates with Keio University International Center and provides necessary information for foreign students, including daily life information.

Some of the staff who belong to KLS have long been engaged in legal assistance for Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, and other countries. They understand well the features of the laws in those countries and their current problems through legal assistance activities such as participating in seminars in aforementioned countries, teaching at the study trip to Japan, TV meetings, among other opportunities. They recognize that the importance of promoting access to justice by strengthening the functions of the judiciary. Thus they can adequately provide advice for various topics to enhance the functions of the judiciary including the reform of practices in court procedures, capacity building for legal professions such as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, legal education in universities and comparative study with useful experiences of other Asian countries in the process of development in accordance with the needs of students so as to promote the Rule of Law.

Features of the Program

In 2017, a new Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Global Legal Practice program (KLS LL.M.) was added within KLS, while retaining the current Juris Doctor (J.D.) program for prospective Japanese legal professionals. The new KLS LL.M. program allows many students to obtain an LL.M. degree in one year with classes taught in English and has been the first program of its kind at a Japanese law school.

KLS believes that students should learn from each other. The KLS LL.M. program is designed to be integrated with Keio's entire law school curriculum and seeks to attract the right mix of top-level international and Japanese students. Most of our English language courses will be open to both our LL.M. and our Japanese J.D. and international J.D.-level exchange students.

About KLS:

<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/about/cls.html>

About KLS LL.M.:

<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/>

I. Program

The KLS LL.M. course will allow students to obtain a master's degree. English will be the exclusive language of instruction and the program will allow students to obtain an LL.M., in principle, within a single year of instruction. KLS will actively accept international students who are international legal professionals or who hold a J.D. This approach will have a synergistic effect on learning with Japanese legal professionals at our campus and will lead to the formation of a global network.

The KLS LL.M. program will target enrollment of approximately 30 students. This small size class ensures that you will not get lost in the crowd and can expect individual attention to help you achieve your goals. The KLS LL.M. offers every student an option for individual research courses supervised by professors specializing in areas of international business law, constitutional law, administrative law, civil law, law and development, public international law, environmental law, EU law, and intellectual property law, among others.

II. Professional Courses

The KLS LL.M. Course offers professional courses that are specifically created to meet the needs of a rapidly changing society. The curriculum of each of these classes is designed to train students to become experts in a global scale. The KLS LL.M. Course provides various classes: Japanese Law and Asian Law in Global Practical Perspective, Global Business and Law, Global Security and Law, Innovations and Intellectual Property Law, Area Studies, Comparative Law, Current Legal Issues, Legal Research, and Writing. For more information about classes, please visit,

https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/course_list.html

III. Practical Legal Education

The most important feature of KLS LL.M. is the emphasis on practical legal education. Not only legal researchers but also legal practitioners will teach courses in this program. Located only minutes away from the heart of Japan's international business center, KLS professors are joined by world-class practitioners—including partners from Japan's largest law firms, attorneys, general counsels of major corporations, and government lawyers such as prosecutors and antitrust enforcers—who come to the classroom as guest lecturers and adjunct instructors, bringing experience from headline-making dispute and deals. With these experienced professors, KLS LL.M. will provide professional and high-level practical legal education courses such as: Negotiation, Arbitration, Drafting International Agreements, Drafting and Negotiation of M&A and JV Transactions and Moot Court. Also, KLS LL.M. arranges Internship programs in various fields in law firms, companies, and NGOs. KLS offers the opportunity for students to earn a certificate demonstrating specialization in Business Law, International Dispute Resolution, Japanese Law, Law and Development in Asia, and Intellectual Property Law.



Externship in Myanmar (2020, Yangon)

IV. Certificate for Specialization

The Keio LL.M. program offers students the opportunity to earn a certificate of specialization in

- Business Law,
- International Dispute Resolution,
- Japanese Law,
- Law and Development in Asia, and,
- Intellectual Property Law

Each certificate will require satisfactory completion of at least 10 credits in the relevant field, as well as a 2-credit research paper. For the certificates in Business Law and International Dispute Resolution, at least one related 2-credit practical training class must be included. Since the course requirements set a minimum standard and a certificate represents significant focus and specialization, a student may apply for a certificate in only a single area of specialization.

About KLS LL.M courses: http://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/course_list.html

V. Double Degree and International Joint Program

Furthermore, double degree arrangements with partner universities around the globe will speed up the process. KLS entered into a formal double degree arrangement with the University of Washington School of Law. In 2019, KLS concluded a dual degree agreement with Hanoi Law University (Vietnam), and National University of Law and Economics in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), and in 2021, with Thammasat University (Thailand). Under these arrangements, students are able to apply credits from each school toward LL.M. degrees at both schools.

Furthermore, KLS began a new program called the “Program for Asian Global Legal Professions (PAGLEP)” with its partner universities in Mekong region countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar. KLS and its 6 partner universities provide joint study programs and exchange programs in Mekong region countries. It aims to produce global legal professionals who can solve legal issues from a truly global perspective.

About Double Degree Program:

<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/dd/uw.html>

About PAGLEP:

<http://keiglad.keio.ac.jp/en/paglep/>



Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

*Please see the links below. JDS Fellows will be enrolled in the LL.M. program.

- LL.M. Program Overview: <https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/>
- Key Points: <https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/keypoints.html>
- Course List/Catalogue: https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/course_list.html
- Syllabus: <https://gslbs.keio.jp/pub-syllabus/search>
- Requirements & Admission: <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/grad-admissions/masters/ls/>

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

Please refer to the links below for details.

- Faculty Members
<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/faculty.html>
- Adjunct Teachers
<https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/kyouin/part.html>
- Advisory Board
https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/advisory_board.html

Academic Schedule

Academic Calendar:

https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/en/llm/academic_calendar.html

Facilities

Dormitories

Students in the LL.M. program can apply for university housing (dorms), but Keio does not subsidize the dorms. Therefore, the rent is roughly equivalent to the market rate. More information on the dorms is available at http://www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/housing/ryu_boshu.html.

Please note that not every student will be accommodated at the Keio University dormitory housing since the number of rooms is limited.

Media Center (Library)

Media Center is open to all students. The center has one of the largest collections of books and journals in Japan. For more information, please see the website indicated below.

<https://www.lib.keio.ac.jp/en/mita/>

Health & Well-being

Keio University will ensure that its campuses are safe and that its students, faculty members, and staff have access to facilities that keep them healthy and active. See below for information on disaster relief, medical care, and counseling services available at Keio.

<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/student-life/health.html>

Message for Applicants

Following the Keio tradition, KLS is not simply a place where "teachers" teach "students," but is also a place where you can foster collaborative learning from both teachers and fellow students according to their unique backgrounds.

It also promotes a setting where students, who will forever be part of the Keio community, meet and play an important part in each other's growth and development as legal professionals. Furthermore, the Keio environment empowers students to pursue their own development in accordance with one of Keio's core principles: Independence and Self-respect. This process continues after graduation, with past graduates serving as a network of support for their juniors and current students. It is strongly hoped that the next class of ambitious students will take their place alongside their predecessors in contributing not only to the national interests of their own but also to the social justice and peace of the world.

KLS firmly believes that the international exchange program will form a critical part of your total educational experience. Students spending a semester or a full academic year at KLS are treated as members of the Keio community.

We are pleased to invite you to consider KLS as an excellent place to study as an international exchange student and to build lasting relationships with great teachers and students.



Interactive Class (June 2024)