

4.5.4 LLM in Intellectual Property Law

Programme content

This is a specialised LLM programme in intellectual property law.

Modules

Copyright Law
Trademark Law
Patent Law and the Law of Registered Designs
Intellectual Property Law in the Digital Environment <i>or</i>
Competition Law

Research assignment

You must complete a research assignment on a topic approved by the Faculty Board and under supervision of an appointed supervisor. The length of the research assignment is 15 000 to 20 000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography).

4. The LLM programme

The LLM programme gives you seven options: You may choose the research option or one of the five coursework options or the professional coursework option. The basic admission requirements are the same for all the options but for some of them you must also undergo selection.

4.1 Admission requirements for LLM studies

This is a selection programme and only a limited number of students will be admitted on academic merit. Even if you meet the minimum admission requirements, your admission is not automatically guaranteed. You may apply for admission to the LLM programme if you:

- have an LLB degree conferred by this University or any other bachelor's degree in law (excluding the Bluris degree) and have attained an average of 60% in the final year of the degree, or
- have attained a comparable achievement in another (for example, foreign) qualification, or
- have attained a level of proficiency or accomplishment in law which, in the judgement of Senate, is regarded as adequate for this purpose.

International students

If you are an international student applying for admission to the LLM by coursework programme, you must submit proof of your current level of proficiency in English (for example, your IELTS or TOEFL scores). This requirement does not apply if English is your home language or if you have completed your first degree in English.

Waiver of 60% requirement for LLM (research)

You may request and obtain a recommendation from a potential supervisor that the admission requirement of a minimum mark of 60% be waived for LLM (research). For such a request to be considered, you must submit an overview of no more than 600 words of the envisaged study and a sample of previous research of approximately 2 000 words to your potential supervisor. Your potential supervisor must confirm that they have the necessary capacity to perform the function of supervisor. Your potential supervisor must motivate in writing and recommend the waiver to the Research Committee for approval.

4.2 Selection

All the options for the LLM by coursework are subject to selection based on academic merit. Whilst the minimum admission requirement is specified as a 60% average in the final year of your previous degree, your full academic record is considered during the selection process. If you did not complete your previous degree in N+1 years (i.e. at most one year more than the minimum period specified for the degree), you cannot expect to be admitted, even if you have achieved the 60% average for the final-year modules of your undergraduate degree. If you apply for the coursework LLM in Intellectual Property Law or the Professional LLM in Intellectual Property Law, you must also write a selection essay.

The research option is also a selection programme and to be admitted to it, you must undergo a complete selection process. More information is available on the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law.

4.3 Enquiries

The Faculty Manager, Ms Karin Wiss, tel. 021 808 3780, e-mail: karinwiss@sun.ac.za, or

The Faculty Administrator, Mr Shirle Cornelissen, tel. 021 808 9111, e-mail: shirle@sun.ac.za.

You can request a prospectus with complete information on the LLM by coursework from Ms Wiss.

4.4 Research option

In addition to the provisions below, please consult the Postgraduate Guide on the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law.

Requirements for obtaining the degree

To obtain the LLM degree by research you must:

- a) conduct an approved research curriculum of at least one year (after attaining the bachelor's degree or reaching the required level of proficiency referred to above under "Admission requirements") at this university or at some other institution approved by Senate; *and*
- b) present for assessment a thesis of an acceptable standard; *and*
- c) complete any additional work or study as required by the lecturers concerned.

Application procedure

Apply in writing. You can download a full explanation of the application process from the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law. Choose "Postgraduate" under "Degrees and Diplomas" and click on the relevant link under "LLM (by research)".

Duration of programme

- As a full-time student, you will be allowed to register for a maximum of two consecutive academic years.
- As a part-time student, you will be allowed to register for a maximum of three consecutive academic years.
- If you want to register again after the total time allowed has expired, you must obtain permission from the Dean.

Thesis specifications

For thesis specifications and more on the provisions for master's degrees in general, consult Part 1 of the Yearbook.

4.5 LLM by coursework

An LLM by coursework is also offered. There are five options: General, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Intellectual Property Law, International Trade Law and Labour Law. All modules are taught in English but you may write your coursework assignments, research assignment and examinations in Afrikaans or English.

A complete prospectus on the coursework LLM options is available on the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law.

Below you will find information that applies to all the options. This is followed by the content of each option individually.

Application procedure and closing dates

The closing date for applications (**South African and international students**) is **30 September** of the year before registration. However, late applications will also be considered.

Applications to **start** with the programme **in the second semester** must be submitted by **31 March**. Late applications will also be considered.

Apply electronically at www.maties.com.

Duration of the programme

Full-time students

- You must normally complete the programme in one year by taking two modules in each semester. With permission from the Faculty Board you may also extend your studies over two years, provided that you take at least one module per semester.
- You may register for a maximum of two consecutive academic years.
- If you want to register again after the total time allowed has expired, you must obtain permission from the Dean.
- You may choose to begin your studies either at the start of the first semester or at the start of the second semester.

Part-time students

- You must normally complete the programme in two years.
- You may register for a maximum of three consecutive academic years.
- If you want to register again after the total time allowed has expired, you must obtain permission from the Dean.
- You may choose to begin your studies either at the start of the first semester or at the start of the second semester.

Class attendance

The LLM by coursework is not a correspondence course. Class attendance on the Stellenbosch campus is compulsory for all students.

Readmission

If you are registered for one of the coursework LLM programmes and fail three or more coursework modules, you will not automatically be readmitted to the next academic year.

Requirements for obtaining the degree

To obtain the LLM degree by coursework, you must:

- follow four modules in an academic year and pass the relevant examinations; *and*
- complete an acceptable research assignment.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Law Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Law Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **6. Admission requirements for all programmes.**