

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.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 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.