

LL.M. Application Packet: 2009-10

Environmental and Natural Resources Law

Summary of Program

The program leading to the master of laws (LL.M.) in environmental and natural resources law is for U.S. and international law school graduates who want to emphasize this area in practice, teaching, research, or public policy. The program is intended for both recent law school graduates and established lawyers who want to enhance their current practice or develop a new specialty.

Lewis & Clark's LL.M. program requires completion of 26 semester hours of credit, including a 2-credit-hour LL.M. seminar in which students produce a paper and accompanying presentation on an environmental topic of their choice. U.S. students may also opt to complete a major written thesis.

The program can be completed in two semesters or spread over two and a half years. U.S. students can apply to begin their LL.M. studies in the fall semester (which generally begins in late August) or in the spring semester (which generally begins in mid-January). Absent unusual circumstances, we require international students to begin in the fall semester so they may attend our summer orientation program. This free summer program is designed to help prepare international students for law study in the United States.

Please consult our Environmental and Natural Resources Law brochure or our website, law.lclark.edu, for a complete description of the LL.M. program, courses, and faculty. International students should also consult our memorandum to potential international LL.M. applicants, available on our website or from our admissions office, for additional information.

Note: Current Lewis & Clark Law School students interested in the joint J.D./LL.M. degree should consult our student handbook, *What's What*, for details, as credit requirements differ from those above.

Admissions Criteria

Admission to the LL.M. program is highly competitive. Applicants must be graduates of a U.S. or international law school and must demonstrate an excellent academic record, strong legal research and writing skills, and an interest in environmental and natural resources law. Membership in the bar is not necessary for admission.

Each application is evaluated as a whole. We are interested in your scholarly capacity, your skills as a lawyer, your academic performance, and your interest in the environmental and natural resources law field.

We welcome applications from international law school graduates who wish to learn the major provisions of U.S. environmental law. However, the program is not suitable for students seeking an introduction to U.S. law or basic comparative law studies. The LL.M. alone is not designed to equip international students for U.S. practice or to take a U.S. bar exam. LL.M. students can expect extensive reading assignments, vigorous class discussion, and either a written examination or extensive research paper in each course. Superb English language skills are essential.

Costs and Financial Aid

Tuition for the 2008-09 academic year is \$1,074 per credit or \$27,924 for 26 credits. Contact the law school after January of 2009 for 2009-10 tuition. The actual cost in any semester depends on the number of credits a student takes. In addition, a fee of \$42.50 per semester plus \$1,500 for health insurance for nine months should be calculated into academic expenses, along with a book allowance of about \$500 per semester. Students should also anticipate a budget of \$14,000 for living expenses during an academic year.

Financial aid (in the form of loans) is available to qualified U.S. students.

International students are encouraged to explore funding options with their governments or private foundations. A limited number of scholarships are available to outstanding U.S. and international students based on merit and need. To be considered for scholarships, students should include a letter with their application materials explaining their need for assistance.

If you plan to apply for loans (available to qualified U.S. citizens), request financial aid forms by checking the box on the attached application. You should complete and return the financial aid forms as soon as possible. Because financial aid decisions may lag behind admission decisions, *you should not wait until you have received an offer of admission to apply for financial aid.*

Application Deadlines

For U.S. students, applications for fall semester (August) admission are due March 15 each year; applications for spring semester (January) admission are due August 1 each year. For international students, applications for fall semester are due by February 15. (As noted above, we require international students to attend a free summer institute to prepare them for law study in the United States, which begins the first week of August. For this reason, except in rare circumstances, we encourage all international applicants to begin in the fall semester.) However, we consider applications on a rolling basis and accept applications throughout the year. We will also consider applications past the admissions deadlines if there is still room in the class.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit the following to the LL.M. program director (address on next page):

- Completed LL.M. application (attached), *signed and dated*.
- Nonrefundable \$50 application fee (waived for international applicants).
- Letter explaining, in about 200 words, why you seek an LL.M. in environmental and natural resources law.
- Three letters of reference written by people who know you well. These letters should be written to help the Admissions Committee evaluate your academic capacity and ethical character, writing and research skills, and professional ability as a lawyer. The letters do not need to be sealed and may be submitted directly to the law school or with the other application materials. Letters for international applicants should discuss ability to study in a U.S. law school and facility with English, if known.
- Current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Writing sample of approximately 10-15 pages that will demonstrate your ability to organize, reason, and communicate. The sample need not be environmental in nature, but should be an example of *legal* writing that demonstrates your best writing, research, and analytical skills.
- Official transcripts from law school.
- International students only:
 - For students for whom English is a second language, a TOEFL score or other measure of facility with English (e.g., other tests of English or previous study in an English-speaking school). We generally look for a paper-based TOEFL score of at least 600 or an equivalent measure of facility.
 - Certificate of financial responsibility.*
 - International student information sheet.*

*If you are admitted, we need these two forms to process your visa. Both forms are available from the admissions office or online at law.lclark.edu/dept/iso/lawfincert.html and law.lclark.edu/dept/iso/lawintappsup.html. All international students need these two forms.

Admission Process

Your admission file is created when the law school receives your completed application form and application fee. You may choose to submit all of your documents at once or to submit as many of the documents as you can at one time, with other items such as transcripts and reference letters, to follow. For U.S. students seeking loans, please submit and file financial aid forms as soon as possible; *do not wait until you have received an offer of admission*.

Once your file is complete, the Admissions Committee will review it and contact you regarding the decision. If you accept an offer of admission, you must submit a nonrefundable tuition deposit of \$250 within three weeks after notification of admission to hold your place in the class.

Academic Calendar

The law school is on the semester system, with 14 weeks of classes and two weeks of exams in each semester. The fall semester generally begins the last week of August and ends the third or fourth week of December for a three-week winter break. The spring semester generally begins in mid-January and ends in early May, with a one-week spring break in March. The summer institute for international students generally begins early in August.

Questions

For more information about the LL.M. program, please contact:

U.S. Applicants

Janice L. Weis
Associate Dean and Program Director
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97219-7799
503-768-6649
elaw@lclark.edu

International Applicants

Lin Harmon
Assistant Program Director and Director of International LL.M. and Visitor Programs
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97219-7799
503-768-6882
elaw@lclark.edu

Lewis & Clark Law School is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

The law school adheres to a nondiscriminatory policy with respect to employment, enrollment, and program. The law school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or marital status and has a firm commitment to promote the letter and spirit of all equal opportunity and civil rights laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and their implementing regulations. We encourage applications from persons in groups historically underrepresented in the legal profession.

Application for Admission: LL.M.

Office Use: ID #

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LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL

LL.M.

LL.M. phase of joint J.D./LL.M. program (current Lewis & Clark J.D. students only)

Applications should be mailed to:

LL.M. Program Director
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97219-7799
Phone: 503-768-6649 or 503-768-6784
Fax: 503-768-6751
E-mail: elaw@lclark.edu

Social Security number
(U.S. citizens)

LSAS Code Number R4384

NAME: Last First Middle

CURRENT ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE: Home () Work ()

PERMANENT ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE: () E-MAIL

FAX: ()

Application for Year _____

Fall semester

Spring semester (U.S. students only)

International Students Required Statements

If not a citizen of the U.S., are you a Permanent Resident? Yes No VISA TYPE _____

COUNTRY OF: Citizenship Residence Birth

Education Information

List all colleges, universities, graduate, and professional schools you have attended. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

SCHOOL	MAJOR	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	DEGREE	DATE AWARDED OR EXPECTED
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List all scholastic or academic honors you have received after secondary school including scholarships, fellowships, prizes, honor societies, etc. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

AWARD NAME	DATE RECEIVED	PURPOSE OF AWARD
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References

List three individuals who will furnish the required letters of recommendation.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT
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Work Experience

List your last four positions of employment, including present employment and summer employment.

DATES	EMPLOYER	POSITION/DUTIES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Are you a member of the bar? Yes No If yes, indicate in what jurisdiction(s) and when admitted.

Miscellaneous

Have you been charged, convicted, or forfeited bond or bail in any court proceeding of a criminal nature (including major traffic offenses)? Yes No If yes, attach a detailed explanation on a separate sheet.

Have you ever been dismissed from or suspended by any school, college, university, or law school? Yes No
If yes, attach a detailed explanation on a separate sheet.

Answering "yes" to either of the above two questions does not automatically disqualify you from consideration for admission.

Have you served in the armed forces? Yes No If yes, indicate location(s), name, branch, rank, date, and type of discharge.

Do you plan to apply for financial assistance? Yes No

Do you need the law school to send you financial aid information (for loans for U.S. citizens)? Yes No

You need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor at the earliest possible date if you want to be considered for loans. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Answers to the following questions are needed if you are admitted, but are not used by the law school to make an admission decision.

DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
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Ethnic classification:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native
(Enrollment _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Chicano/Mexican American | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian |

If you wish to discuss any special factors in your personal, family, social, ethnic, or economic background that we should consider in evaluating your application, please attach an explanation.

How did you hear about our LL.M. Program? _____

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is complete and accurate.

SIGNATURE	DATE
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