

Boston College Law School

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FOR DUAL DEGREE J.D./LL.M. PROGRAM WITH UNIVERSITE OF PARIS I / SORBONNE LAW SCHOOL

The Program

Boston College J.D. students have a unique opportunity to spend their entire 3L year enrolled as LL.M. students at the Sorbonne Law School of the Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Upon completion of all requirements at the end of the third year, students will receive both the Boston College J.D. and the Paris I LL.M. The aim of this tailor-made program, taught in French, is to offer law students and future lawyers the trans-systemic and global knowledge necessary for transnational legal practice, in-depth acquaintance with the intricacies of French and European Law and a new perspective on current global legal issues while learning in the best of the French academic tradition and Civil Law methodological techniques.

Most students interested in admission to the French Bar take the New York Bar exam and then apply for the French equivalency exam on the basis of their admission in New York. Graduates of this program are not eligible to gain entrance to the French Bar directly after this program. However, students who finish this LL.M. degree may register for an additional year in Paris and join the Master I and or in some cases the Master II degrees in Law. Graduates with the Master I or II may be able to sit for the French Bar Exam directly without admission in New York first.

A maximum of two Boston College students may participate each year.

The School

With eight hundred years of excellence to build on, the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, a descendant of the Sorbonne and the Faculty of Law and Economics of Paris, is one of the largest universities in France today. Some forty thousand students are enrolled in 14 teaching and research departments (Unités de Formation et de Recherche) and 5 Institutes, which offer top level degree courses in law, political science, economics, management and the humanities. Paris I is at the center of a rich network of international relations stretching across five continents and continues to play a major role in the training of researchers, academics, judges, lawyers, senior managers and top French civil servants.

The Sorbonne Law School, inaugurated in 2009, comprises the Law departments of the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and offers general and specialized programs including dual degrees and binational programs, the “LL.M. in “French Law and European Law” and the JD/ LL.M. Program named “LL.M. in French, European and International business law”.

The school is centrally located in the vibrant Latin Quarter, the Paris home of university students for almost a thousand years.

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Eligibility:

This JD/LL.M. program is open to Boston College law students who are fluent in French (spoken and written) and who have completed four semesters in residence at Boston College Law School. In addition, students must complete all BC Law graduation requirements prior to matriculating at the Sorbonne.

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction at the Sorbonne Law School is French. All courses are taught in French, and examinations (which may be written or oral) are conducted in French. Boston College law students will meet the French proficiency standard required through the TCF (Test de Connaissance du Français) paper-based overall score of 400 points (level 4-B2).

The TCF is the French language test awarded by the French Ministry of Education. Detailed information on the test components is located at <http://www.ciep.fr/en/tcf/presenta.php>. The test is offered in Massachusetts at the following location:

Department of French and Francophone Studies
University of Massachusetts Amherst
314 Herter Hall
161 Presidents Drive
01003-9312 Amherst
Phone : 413-545-2314
Email : freital@frital.umass.edu ; Website: www.umass.edu/french

Students should contact the testing center directly to determine date and time of testing, registration requirements, and required fees.

In the absence of TCF, the student may demonstrate proficiency by other means jointly agreed by the program directors.

How to Apply:

Applicants to the dual degree program should submit the application to the Office of Graduate Legal Studies in Stuart 301 no later than February 28th of their 2L year.

Required documents include:

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- Application form (at the end of this packet)
- Resume
- BC Law transcript
- Statement of Purpose in English and in French
The statement of purpose should be no more than 2 pages single-spaced detailing interest in the program and how study abroad will complement your educational and professional or personal goals.
- Explanation of French proficiency
- Letter of recommendation from a BCLS faculty member (delivered to the Office of Graduate Legal Education in hard copy or emailed to susan.simonekang@bc.edu)
- Students holding a position on a journal must gain permission from the editor-in-chief and director of publications. Staff members on a journal must also notify their board of their intent to study abroad.

Deadline:

February 28 of 2L year

Students should begin preparing materials **at least 1 month** prior to deadlines. Students will be notified by email whether they have been approved for study abroad approximately two weeks after the application deadline.

After receiving approval from Boston College Law School for the program, the resume, transcript and letter of recommendation of nominated students(s) will be forwarded for consideration to the Sorbonne Law School. Though SLS retains discretion to accept or deny any applicant, the school will consider our nominations strongly. An interview, by telephone or in person, with a member of the BCLS or Sorbonne faculty in French may also be required.

Finances

Tuition

All students who study abroad are required to register at and pay full tuition and fees to BCLS. Students studying on BCLS exchange programs may be responsible for some fees charged by the host institution. Students attending an individual study abroad program are generally responsible for fees required by the host institution and, if the tuition exceeds Boston College tuition, are required to pay the tuition difference as well.

The Sorbonne student card will be paid by Paris I and covers:

1. enrollment for healthcare provided by the French social security system (Students over age 28 are not eligible to receive French health insurance but may purchase a yearly private French insurance in Paris),

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2. cultural activities, and
3. access to all University facilities and specialized research centers as well as the University law libraries.

Financial Aid

Students may apply for financial aid to cover tuition charges as well as living expenses for an approved study abroad program. For further information about financial aid, students should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Living expenses, including travel, housing, insurance, books, and food are the responsibility of the student and can vary considerably by destination. For a link to foreign exchange rates, check here: <http://www.xe.com/>

Typical Academic Calendar:

Fall semester classes: Mid-September through Christmas (one-week break in late October)

Fall semester exams: Second and third weeks of January

Spring semester classes: Mid-January through mid-April

Spring semester exams: First and second weeks of May

Review sessions and exam re-takes (fall and spring classes): mid-June through mid-July

Courses

BCLS students will be expected to complete 60 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) course credits, in keeping with the LL.M. program requirements of the Sorbonne Law School. This should consist of eight (8) courses and will earn 24 Boston College Law School credits. Students who successfully complete nine (9) courses during the year at the Sorbonne may earn 27 Boston College Law School credits. Alternatively, students needing more than 24 credits for the third year may complete a two-credit independent research project under the supervision of a Boston College Law School faculty member during the year abroad.

Once at Sorbonne Law, the classes may be chosen from among a large range of classes from the Licence 3, Master 1, Master 2, and LL.M. programs. Students must complete a total of 60 credits (each class counts as either 4 or 8 credits at Sorbonne Law). A learning plan must indicate the chosen classes and must be signed by both program directors. The first week of September comprises 10 hours of intensive French classes but also 10 hours of legal methods and introduction to the French legal system (4 credits). All classes and examinations will end before

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May. An internship in a law firm in Paris is not mandatory but is a possibility between mid-January and the end of April, but would not be for academic credit.

Language Instruction

Participants should be proficient in written and spoken French. However, the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne offers an intensive legal French course throughout the year. No Boston College Law School credit will be awarded for this course and students are responsible for the cost of this course.

Registration

Students will be advised directly by Sorbonne Law on available courses. A large range of classes is available. The LL.M. Director at Sorbonne Law is currently Professor Pierre Brunet, and the Assistant Director is Luiza Sampaio Cunha . Both can be reached at ll.m-droit@univ-paris1.fr .

Evaluation and Grading System

In Paris, students will be required to take both oral and written exams. Depending upon the course, students may also be required to write papers or provide oral presentations.

Grades are distributed on a 20-point scale, with 20 being the highest. The minimum grade for transfer to Boston College Law School is a 10. French honors, or "*mention*"s are given as follows:

- *Assez bien* (Good) for a final grade of between 12 – 13.9
- *Bien* (Very Good) for a grade between 14 – 15.9
- *Très bien* (Excellent) for a grade of 16 or higher

BC Law transcripts do not list French grades and reflect only credits for work conducted at the University of Paris I.

Transferring Credits:

As a condition to receiving credit, students:

- Must submit a hard copy of course titles, credit hours and descriptions (in English) to the Registrar's Office for approval **in advance** and must confirm their final registration as soon as it is done and while there is still opportunity to make changes. Failure to receive advance approval may jeopardize credit transfer. The acceptance of any credit or grade for courses taken at Sorbonne Law School is subject to approval, and any changes must be communicated immediately to the Associate Director of Graduate Legal Studies.
- Must earn a grade of "10" or better. No credit will be awarded for courses taken on pass/fail basis.
- Only the credits will transfer and the grades will not count toward honors and awards (such as graduation prizes or degree rankings such as cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude.)

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- Must register for a full-time course load (per Sorbonne requirements) in order to fulfill residency requirements.
- Must not duplicate coursework taken at BC Law.
- May not transfer more than 4 credits of law-related graduate coursework from outside a Faculty of Law toward their J.D. degree. All requests to transfer credit from outside a Faculty of Law must be accompanied by the faculty member's biography.

You are responsible for checking with the Academic Services to ensure that you will complete all other J.D. program requirements at BC Law prior to departure for this program.

Transcript

Students must request two copies of their official transcript to be sent to the Office of Academic Services, BC Law School, 885 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02135, prior to departure from the program. It is good practice to request a personal copy as well for your records.

Housing

Sorbonne Law does not have on-site housing facilities. However, students may be assisted in their housing search. A former student recommends the following accommodation: <http://www.ciup.fr/en/> and the website <http://www.caf.fr/> which may offer a subsidy toward housing for international students who provide an original birth certificate from the state of your birth.

Visas

Students studying abroad in France must obtain a student visa prior to departure, which is required in order to obtain a student residence permit once you have arrived in France. See <http://usa.campusfrance.org> for comprehensive instructions. As visas can take some time to secure, you should register your intent to study in France immediately upon confirming your intent to study in Paris at the link above. Further information about visas is available at: <http://www.consulfrance-boston.org/>

Insurance

BC has contracted with HTH Worldwide (www.hthworldwide.com) for students studying abroad. You must obtain this insurance in order to participate in the program. **You are required to furnish the BC Director of Graduate Legal Education with proof of US insurance coverage before leaving the country for the program.**

Disabilities

Please be aware that disability accommodations (both physical and learning) may not be available in foreign countries. Mobility International USA (<http://www.miusa.org/>) can assist

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students with information. If a student interested in studying abroad has a disability for which he or she may need accommodation during the semester overseas, please bring that to the attention of the Associate Director of Graduate Legal Education as early as possible.

Passport

A valid passport is required for travel. Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the end date of the program. U.S. Citizens can find comprehensive information on obtaining a passport here: http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Visa and Other Country Information

The State Department maintains information sheets on foreign countries which include information on visa requirements, links to US Embassies, and safety, security and health information. Please be sure to refer to the appropriate information sheet well in advance of your departure and to continue to checking back for updates:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.ht

Transportation in Paris

For students under 25, the student metro card called "Carte Imagine'R" is the most cost-effective way to travel on public transportation.

Contacts

JD/LLM Program Director: Professor Pierre Brunet

Assistant Director: Luiza Sampaio Cunha

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