

# LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law

كلية القانون  
College of Law

جامعة حمد بن خليفة  
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



# LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law

The LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law is a one-year program designed for recent or established university graduates in law. It is ideal for lawyers working or aspiring to work in international business, private practice, academia, government, or the judiciary.

The world's major commercial hubs, including Doha, rely on those equipped with legal and business tools to sustain and grow international trade and investment. Critical to this reliance is a culture based on the law. Understanding relevant legal principles, and how they apply to a myriad of existing and new situations, is key to the success of anyone working in this dynamic area.

The program examines a wide range of issues relating to international business and does so in an innovative, comparative manner enabling students to develop analytical and problem-solving skills while gaining substantive knowledge.

## Program Focus

The program provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of critical substantive areas relevant to the role of the lawyer in a global context. This focus is fitting given HBKU's location in Qatar – one of the world's most prosperous economies with vibrant and fast-growing business, energy, financial, construction, aviation, maritime, media, sports, healthcare, and tourism sectors.

Students gain expertise relevant to the structure of international business transactions, entrepreneurship, e-commerce, financing risk management, international trade law, international investment law, international banking and finance, intellectual property law, international environmental law, and the resolution of disputes in these and other areas.

## Graduates of this program will be equipped to:

- ▶ Apply advanced knowledge and methodological skills to undertake research in the field of international economic and business law.
- ▶ Develop research and innovative solutions to complex international business and economic laws.
- ▶ Analyze the social and policy impact of international economic and business law.
- ▶ Communicate themes and ideas in the fields of international economic and business law effectively.
- ▶ Demonstrate the ability to integrate professional legal ethics in the practices of international economic and business law.



## Curriculum

Coursework is divided into mandatory core courses and electives. The program consists of 32 credits, including 26 credits for core courses and six credits for a thesis that must be completed within 12 months, and no more than 18 months, after course commencement.

The curriculum comprises foundational courses such as Contract Law, Research Methods in Law, Global Legal Ethics, and Entrepreneurship Law, which address principles needed to practice law in multiple convergent legal systems. The curriculum also includes courses and seminars in transnational law, with modules on infrastructure development, international arbitration, global economic law and governance, energy law, commercial law, advanced dispute resolution, other related topics. These innovative courses are comparative and built on common law, civil law, and Shari'a traditions.

The thesis is the cornerstone of the LL.M. program. Students, in consultation with a faculty advisor, write a paper on a policy sector of their choice with the aim of analyzing the current legal framework, putting forward reasons for reform by using the skills developed in the methodological courses, and making a policy proposal for legislative or regulatory reform.

Other integral features of the LL.M. program are professional skills training sessions, internships, and placements that focus on such skills as contract drafting, trial advocacy, alternative dispute resolution, and effective negotiation and presentation techniques.

## Admission and Application Requirements

Admission to the LL.M. in International Economic and Business Law program requires a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree or Juris Doctor (JD) degree from a recognized university with a minimum 3.0 GPA (out of 4), with a preference given to candidates with at least a 3.3 GPA (out of 4).

Unless exempt, applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Please visit our website [admissions.hbku.edu.qa](https://admissions.hbku.edu.qa) for more details on the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption, where this is an option.

### Application requirements

A completed online application form:  
[admissions.hbku.edu.qa](https://admissions.hbku.edu.qa)

### Academic transcripts:

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

### Standardized test results

Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

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Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

### Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation from previous or current professors, employers, or other individuals familiar with the applicant's qualifications.

### Personal statement of interest

The personal statement should introduce the applicant to the Admissions Committee. Topics that may be discussed include personal or professional goals and personal, academic, or career history.

The Committee looks beyond test scores and grade point averages in making selection decisions. The personal statement gives the Committee a means to consider a variety of factors in assessing applicants.

### Research proposal

Applicants are required to submit a research proposal (1,000 words) that illustrates their readiness to explore a particular research question, along with their application.

### Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

### Identification document:

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.

### Student funding

The College of Law does not provide tuition waivers for the LL.M. programs; students must fully self-fund their studies.

### Admission inquiries

[admissions.cl@hbku.edu.qa](mailto:admissions.cl@hbku.edu.qa)