

Consider an Asia-based LLM



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Finding an LLM programme that suits your interests is, without a doubt, challenging work. These days, LLMs are offered in over 40 countries by over 300 universities. The reasons for choosing a particular LLM programme vary, based on the specific interests of the applicants. However, factors such as reputation, teaching quality and student body composition are likely to be shared by all applicants. Everyone realises the growing importance of Asia for the global economy and for the legal profession accordingly. Nevertheless, for Western lawyers it is still uncommon to pursue an LLM in Asia. If you are considering studying for your LLM in Asia, I hope that this short article can help you in making a decision.

I have always been interested in Asia's culture and gaining an insight into its remarkable economic growth. However, studying an LLM in a world-renowned university was, for me, an extremely important factor in choosing a programme. Fortunately, in May 2007, New York University School of Law (NYU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) launched a dual degree programme known as NYU@NUS. Now, I am part of the inaugural class of the NYU@NUS programme, which comprises 42 students from 23 countries.

Starting the discussion with the location of my studies. I should say that Singapore is a friendly, safe and modern city where everyone speaks English. Despite being one of the most important business and finance hubs of Asia, Singapore is known for having huge amounts of parks and green areas. Crime is something you watch in the movies; nevertheless,

the Government keeps reminding us that 'low crime doesn't mean no crime'. In short, everything works extremely well here. Everyone who attended the last IBA Annual Conference will certainly have witnessed what I am describing. In fact, few cities in Asia, if any, can offer such high living standards. For such reasons, among others, the University of Chicago and INSEAD: The Business School for the World have chosen Singapore as their place to open a campus in Asia. The NYU@NUS programme is divided into three parts. The first semester is taught by world-renowned NYU School of Law professors. Those professors teach intensive courses (three to four hours per day), which last for three weeks. In the second and third semesters, classes are taught by both NYU and NUS professors. All classes are very small in number (20-30 students per class on average), which means a truly interactive environment with lawyers of various dynamic backgrounds. After 12 months, students earn an LLM in Law and the Global Economy from NYU as well as an LLM from NUS.

The programme is designed to provide vast knowledge of US and Asian legal systems so as to create as many work opportunities as possible for its graduates. Additionally, due to Singapore's strategic position, the NYU@NUS programme is a great opportunity for building and strengthening networks all over Asia.

From my personal experience, studying in the NYU@NUS programme has been an incredibly enriching experience, giving me deep knowledge of US and Asian legal systems and the conditions for building an invaluable international network.