

Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law's Accelerated Juris Doctor Program for Foreign Lawyers

Program Description:

NSU Law is an international community in the heart of the United States' vibrant southern global gateway. As part of our commitment to global education and domestic diversity, NSU Law offers an Accelerated Juris Doctor Program For Foreign Lawyers ("Accelerated JD Program"). The Accelerated JD Program enables candidates to earn a full U.S. JD in as little as 24 months following their first law degree.¹

Candidates admitted to the Accelerated JD Program enter as transfer students, receiving up to 30 U.S. credits for successful foreign law degree studies at their home institution. These credits are used to satisfy elective credit requirements at NSU Law.² Accelerated JD students then need only earn 60 U.S. credits (the equivalent of four semesters of full-time study) to obtain a JD.

The program has many benefits for the foreign lawyer:

- No LSAT examination is required.
- Saves substantial time and expense. By recognizing the value of student's foreign law study, students in the Accelerated JD Program need only two years of full-time study rather than the three years required for American or foreign non-law graduates.³
- An Accelerated JD graduate may sit for the bar examination in all U.S. states (an LL.M. degree only allows access to the bar examinations in a very few states).⁴
- Study in a beautiful, vibrant, and convenient community. Fort Lauderdale features easy access to three international airports, international ports, and one of the fastest growing and dynamic international economies in the world.

NSU Law's Extensive International Program

NSU Law has a longstanding emphasis on international law. Our internationally recognized faculty, close partnerships with law schools in Europe and across the globe, and dynamic mix of international NSU partner college programs make South Florida the perfect launching point for a global legal education.

NSU Law features a dedicated International Programs Office, assuring students the individual attention and support they need to succeed. Over a decade offering dual-degrees and supporting

¹ Currently enrolled students from Consortium Partner Universities also are encouraged to apply. Additionally, if you are a student or graduate of a Consortium Partner University, you are eligible for a tuition adjustment. For further information, please refer to the section of this document entitled "Consortium Partner Support."

² Any credits transferred must conform with Section 505 of the American Bar Association's Standards for Approval of Law Schools.

³ Candidates also may apply for part-time consideration.

⁴ Each U.S. State has its own eligibility and licensing requirements. A candidate seeking to become licensed in a particular State should visit that State's website to determine eligibility.

international student in our JD program helps assure that we have the faculty and staff needed to make our student's experience truly transformative. Read more about NSU Law from the perspective of our International alumni. <http://nova.campusguides.com/globalconsortium>.

NSU Law sits amidst palm trees, lakes, and fields in the middle of a thriving urban business and legal practice hub. South Florida is one of the world's leading economic zones. It is home to multinational corporations, international law firms, and major government agencies. NSU partners with the best Southern Florida and the world has to offer, making the study of law at NSU among the most vibrant in the world.

NSU Law's Unique International Approach

NSU Law prepares you to succeed. Unique to the NSU Law Accelerated JD program is the online, preparatory experience. Our goal is that every student begin the program prepared to succeed and ready for the intense and demanding world of U.S. legal education. To help prepare our students, NSU Law offers free, asynchronous online courses designed to introduce the students to U.S. legal history, common law practice, English professional communications, and legal philosophy and logic.⁵ This specialized curriculum serves as a bridge from the student's first degree in law education to the specific educational model required for U.S. legal education. Students take these courses prior to coming to NSU Law for the start of their legal education in August.

NSU Law helps to build legal education across the globe. In addition to the education of lawyers who received their first law degree outside the U.S., NSU Law is working to bring an understanding of U.S. legal education to our partner schools across the globe. The *NSU Law Summer Institute for Foreign Law Faculty* brings the world's law faculty to us. This specialized training program helps interested faculty outside of the U.S. develop the educational approach for clinical legal education, student-based learning, and outcome-aligned education that has made U.S. legal education the global model. As students in the Accelerated JD program, you may have a chance to meet your former teachers and be introduced to the faculty who will be the global leaders of legal education in the next generation. At NSU Law, you are part of an international legal community that is making a difference.

NSU Law faculty are part of the global legal community. Read more about our faculty here: <http://nova.campusguides.com/globalconsortium>

Eligibility for Foreign Lawyer Applicants

Admission into the Accelerated JD program is highly competitive. Eligible applicants will have earned a first degree in law or completed at least one year of graduate legal study at an accredited university in a jurisdiction outside of the United States. For foreign attorneys, first law degree designations vary by country. For a list of law degrees that meet this requirement, please refer to

⁵ Students who have earned an LL.M. from a U.S. ABA-approved law school may substitute their LL.M. for this requirement. Elective course substitution and other academic determinations may be made based on the candidate's course of study, academic proficiency, and work experience.

the Minimum Degree Requirements by Country chart that is located on the Law School Admission Council's website. <http://www.LSAC.org>. Strong candidates for the program will have a record of superior academic ability and a demonstrated track record of professional experience or leadership. The LSAT is not required.

Eligibility for Consortium Partner University Applicants

As part of NSU Law's commitment to global legal education, NSU Law partners with law schools throughout the world to develop best practices in legal education, to encourage research, and to promote a diverse, global legal community. The list of current Consortium Partner Universities may be found here. <http://nova.campusguides.com/globalconsortium>. Generally, accepted students will have completed their first law degree prior to matriculation at NSU Law. However, there are limited opportunities for Consortium Partner University students to participate in the Dual-Enrollment Program. Please contact Associate Dean for International Programs, Catherine Arcabascio at <mailto:arcabasc@nova.edu> for particular information on the schedule and course of study for your Consortium Partner University.

English Language Ability

Students in the Accelerated JD program should be prepared to read, and discuss in class, difficult technical material. Daily class preparation is demanding and students with English language limitations may have difficulty. Only students who feel confident in their English language ability should apply.

For this reason, the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is required of foreign candidates seeking admission from nations in which English is not the primary language of instruction. A minimum TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based test, 100 on the Internet-based test, or 250 on the computer-based test is expected. NSU Law also accepts scores from the IELTS examination, for which a minimum score of 7.0 is expected.

Candidates should submit all application materials through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) website, www.LSAC.org, by the priority application deadline of April 15th, but we will accept applications until June 1st. Students are expected to arrive at NSU Law the first week of August. Thus, candidates should consider the time necessary to acquire a student visa when determining when to apply. A completed application will include:

Admission

- NSU Law Accelerated JD application form and non-refundable \$85 application fee.
- TOEFL or IELTS score submitted via LSAC's document assembly service.
- Personal statement describing your objective in pursuing a JD degree from NSU Law. Please include any experiences, qualifications, or other information you believe to be relevant.
- Transcripts, if not in English, must be translated through the Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service (CAS). NSU Law School requires the use of the LSAC CAS for transcript and credential evaluation.

- A resume or curriculum vitae describing your academic and professional experience.
- Two letters of recommendation submitted via LSAC's document assembly service. These letters of recommendation should preferably come from individuals who can speak to your ability to succeed in an academic context, and in legal settings.

Admission to the two-year Accelerated JD program is competitive. All candidates are considered for admission on a holistic basis and are required to participate in an evaluative interview with NSU Law admission staff before a final decision is made.

Transfer Credit Policies

The candidate will be required to submit a translation and/or analysis of his or her transcript, and must pay for that service. NSU Law will provide the candidate with a report detailing which of the candidate's credits will transfer. Generally the report of transfer credits will be provided before the deadline for the candidate to accept the NSU Law's offer of admission, however delays by the candidate or the transcript translation service may delay this report.

A transfer student must complete NSU Law's required curriculum as it exists at the time that the student matriculates at NSU Law. A transfer student must also complete all NSU Law graduation requirements to earn a JD degree.

Tuition and Fees

Annual tuition and fees for the two-year Accelerated JD Program is equal to the current academic year tuition charged by NSU Law, but will be adjusted based upon NSU Law's [Country Wealth Index Chart](#) located on the Consortium's webpage. Merit scholarships also may be available.

International students expecting to study on a student visa must show proof of funds for the full cost of attendance for one year of the program. Candidates seeking alternate sources of funding are encouraged to explore resources found on the Tuition & Financial Aid section of the website.

Consortium Partner Support. In recognition of the importance of the International Consortium for Global Legal Education to the promotion of a rich and diverse global legal community, NSU Law provides an additional annual scholarship of \$3,000 to students who received their first law degree at a Consortium Partner University and to those currently enrolled in a Consortium Partner University. To see if you are eligible, see the [List of Consortium Partner Universities](#) on the Consortium's webpage. If your University is not listed, please contact us to discuss how we can work with your University to bring them into the Consortium.

Curriculum

Students in the Accelerated JD Program are integrated completely into the College of Law. The first year begins in August. During that year, students must take Torts, Contracts, Constitutional Law, Legal Research and Writing I & II, Property, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Law. As with all NSU Law students, they take a combination of elective and required courses in their second year to complete the graduation requirements and to prepare them to sit for the bar examination in any U.S. State they select. Accelerated JD program students are not eligible for some study-abroad

courses, though limited travel course options may be available. Please visit the Consortium's webpage for more information.

Career Services

Students entering the Accelerated JD Program can begin to work with the Office of Career & Professional Development (CPD) immediately after completing the online, introductory program. This means students can begin to plan even before arriving in the U.S. In order to ensure that students are ready to participate in our on-campus interview program, career staff will be available to meet with Accelerated JD students over the summer to offer advice on C.V.'s & cover letters, help develop interview skills, and work on an overall career strategy. Throughout the duration of the program and their career, Accelerated JD students benefit from the full range of activities and support offered through the CPD at NSU Law.

FAQ -- Frequently Asked Questions:

Is a two-year JD degree different from a three-year degree?

The degrees conferred are identical. Students with a qualifying international law degree are awarded one year's advance standing based on the earned foreign law degree, allowing them to complete their degree requirements more quickly.

In what states will I be able to take a bar exam?

A JD degree from an ABA-accredited law school is the basic requirement to take the bar exam in every state in the country and a NSU Law JD will meet this degree requirement.

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Candidates are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the [National Conference of Bar Examiners](http://www.ncbex.org/publications/bar-admissions-guide/) website. <http://www.ncbex.org/publications/bar-admissions-guide/>

How easy is it to obtain housing on or near campus?

There are a myriad of affordable housing options available in close proximity to campus as well as some on-campus housing available for which international students have priority.

Will I need to take the LSAT?

Candidates eligible for the Accelerated JD do not need to take the LSAT.

What English-Language Proficiency Tests will you accept?

Candidates whose native language is not English and who have not completed an undergraduate or graduate degree at an English-speaking institution must submit a TOEFL score. A minimum TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based test, 100 on the Internet-based test, or 250 on the

computer-based test is expected. NSU Law also accepts scores from the [IELTS](https://www.ielts.org) examination, for which a minimum score of 7.0 is expected. For more information, visit www.ielts.org.

When will I be able to apply?

We will make the application available after November 1st for a fall semester entry (with a June 1st deadline).

Which Transcript/Credential Evaluation Agencies will NSU Law accept?

Candidates are required to use a credential evaluation (showing course-by-course evaluation and degree equivalency) for foreign attorneys applying as transfer students. Please secure evaluation through one of the following approved agencies:

- American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers – www.aacrao.org; 202-263-0290
- Educational Credential Evaluators – www.ece.org; 414-289-3400
- International Education Research Foundation – www.ierf.org; 310-258-9451
- Josef Silny & Associates, Inc. – www.jsilny.com; 305-273-1616
- World Education Services – www.wes.org; 212-219-7303

What are the other steps to apply?

Please follow the step-by-step of instructions listed above. If you wish to meet with a counselor to review the steps to apply or to discuss the program in general, please contact [William Perez, Assistant Dean of Admissions at perewiz@nsu.law.nova](mailto:perezw@nsu.law.nova).