Application Instructions for
the LL.M./J.S.D. Programs

Application materials, including the application fee, application forms, statement of interest, and letters of recommendation, should be assembled together and mailed to Cornell Law School, LL.M./J.S.D. Admissions, 226 Myron Taylor Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-4901, U.S.A., or via the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). Documents must be submitted in their original language. Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified translation.

Deadlines
LL.M. applications, including all supporting materials, must be received by February 1.

J.S.D. applications, including all supporting materials, must be submitted before May 1.

Statement of interest
A detailed (approximately 750 words) personal statement of interest is an essential part of the application. The statement should include a discussion of your purpose in obtaining the degree, and an explanation of your research and study interests and their relation to your previous education and professional goals. Please include your full name on the top of each page of the statement of interest.

If you are applying to the J.S.D. program, please also include a detailed and footnoted research proposal of no more than 3,000 words.

Transcripts/other academic records
Complete official transcripts of all previous college, university, and graduate/professional school study, including work done at Cornell, must be submitted. To accomplish this, we strongly recommend that you register with LSAC’s LL.M. Credential Assembly Service (www.LLM.LSAC.org). This service will save you time and money, especially if you intend to apply to more than one U.S. or Canadian graduate law program. We also strongly recommend that you utilize the Document Assembly Service and the International Transcript Authentication and Evaluation Service that LSAC provides. For more information, visit LSAC.org/llm.

Recommendations
Two letters of recommendation must be submitted from faculty members acquainted with your work in the major area of study. If that work occurred more than three years ago, or if such letters are not obtainable because of circumstances beyond your control, recommendations from those familiar with your professional performance are acceptable.

Forms for recommendations are provided with these application materials. You can photocopy the forms if necessary. You should ask each recommender to enclose the recommendation form in an envelope, seal the envelope, sign it across the seal, and return it to you to be submitted, unopened, with the other application materials. If the recommender prefers, the letter can be sent directly to the Law School via email, postal mail, fax or via LSAC.

Under U.S. federal legislation, enrolled students have access to letters of recommendation. If you want to waive your right of access, you can do so by signing the appropriate statement on the recommendation form. (If a form is not available, you can waive the right of access by submitting the following written statement to the recommender:

“I hereby waive my right of access, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, to this letter of recommendation in regard to my application for admission to Cornell Law School. I understand that this letter will be used by the Law School only in its procedures relative to admission and fellowship awards.” This statement must be signed and dated by the applicant and attached to the letter of recommendation. Your decision on whether to waive your right of access will not influence our admission decision, but it might be important to your recommenders. You should discuss the matter with them.)

English proficiency
Proficiency in English is required for admission and your level of proficiency, as demonstrated by all aspects of the application, is a significant factor in our decision-making process. If your native language is not English, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) unless you have received your first degree in law from a college or university in a country where both the language of instruction and the native language is English. We do not accept IELTS.

A minimum overall TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (Internet-based) is required to be considered for admission.

Accepted applicants whose TOEFL scores are between 550 and 600 (paper-based), between 213 and 250 (computer-based), or between 79 and 100 (Internet-based) must take the English placement test given at Cornell during registration week. If the placement score indicates that you need additional formal training in English, a course will be required during the first semester.

The TOEFL is offered frequently throughout the world. Information on times and places and an application form can be obtained from the Educational Testing Service (ETS), Princeton, NJ 08541, U.S.A. (telephone: 609 921-9000 or web: www.ets.org). Our institution code is 2098, department code 03.

To have your TOEFL score report sent to the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service, you must have ETS send your TOEFL score to LSAC using the institution code number 8395.
Application Instructions

Application fee
Payment of the nonrefundable application fee of US$80 must be submitted with the application. Payment should be made in U.S. dollars in the form of a check or money order or by completing the credit-card authorization on the application form, which must include the security code from the back of the credit card.

Financial requirement
Non-U.S. applicants offered admission must submit evidence of full financial support (this can include any fellowship award) for themselves and their dependents for the duration of the program of study. The Law School will inform accepted applicants of financial support certification procedures at the appropriate time in the admission process.

Application Checklist: LL.M. and J.S.D.

LL.M. Deadline: February 1, 2015 • J.S.D. Deadline: May 1, 2015
We strongly recommend that you use the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service.

A complete application contains the following items: (Please see the instructions for important additional details.)

☐ Completed and signed application form; please do not send duplicate applications

☐ $80 application fee (check or money order payable to Cornell University, or credit card authorization)

☐ LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service report containing all required academic credentials, or official copies of all transcripts and degree certifications in signed, sealed envelopes from the university (Recommendation letters and TOEFL score may also be submitted through the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service)

☐ An official certification of each degree you have earned

☐ Two recommendation forms and accompanying letters in signed, sealed envelopes from recommenders; recommendation letters may also be sent via email, postal mail, or fax to Cornell Law School or submitted through LSAC

☐ A personal statement of interest

☐ If you are applying to the JSD program, please also include a detailed and footnoted research proposal of no more than 3,000 words. If you are uploading your proposal through LSAC, you may not upload documents in PDF format. Attachments are limited to 1MB. You also have the option to send your footnoted research proposal directly to the admissions office.

☐ If English is not your native language, please include an official TOEFL score report from the Educational Testing Service (this may be submitted to the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service); we strongly recommend, but do not require, that you take the Test of Written English (TWE) as well as the TOEFL.

☐ We do not accept IELTS.

Important Note
Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by a certified translation in a signed, sealed envelope. Only complete applications will be reviewed by our committee.

The deadline for completed LL.M. applications is February 1. Applications completed after that date will be reviewed on a space-available basis only. J.S.D. applications must be received by May 1. Also, please note that the processing of paper applications may require additional time; this includes documents not submitted through the LSAC LL.M. Credential Assembly Service.