

Joint Degree Program

JD/MA International Studies (with the Lauder Institute)

Overview

- a. The JD/MA in International Studies is a joint-degree program sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.
- b. Students will have the opportunity to earn the JD degree and the M.A. in International Studies in three years (more on the sequencing of these years follows, below).
- c. Students in this program will be prepared to assume positions of leadership in International law, business, and policy making in various sectors.

Application Process

- a. Applicants will have two options when applying for the joint-degree program:
 1. They may make contemporaneous applications to both Programs prior to being accepted at either Program, or
 2. They may apply to the Master of Arts Program in the first year of the JD Program.
- b. Applicants to the Lauder Program must choose among six Programs of Concentration: Africa, East Asia, Europe, Global, Latin America, and South Asia and MENA. The Lauder admissions application consists of a supplemental page of information, an essay question, an interview, and a 20 minute language oral proficiency interview (OPI) conducted over the telephone. Students must also arrange for a copy of the Law School application, with transcripts and LSAT scores, to be delivered to the Lauder program.
- c. Students will apply independently via a coordinated application process (for those applying to both schools contemporaneously) or, for Law students applying to the MA program during the Law program's first year, according to the Lauder Institute's established procedures.
 - i. The Law School and the Lauder Institute will make independent evaluations of each candidate.
 - ii. While the Law School and the Lauder Institute will make independent admissions decisions, the admissions departments will discuss joint-applicants before final decisions are made.

Degree Completion Requirements

- a. In order for a student to receive both degrees, he or she must complete the degree requirements of each respective Program.
 - i. For Law
 1. Law students must complete a minimum of **86** credits, **54** hours of which must be advanced credit completed in the second and third years of Law study. Students in the joint program must apply 12 credits (4 courses) ^[1] from the Lauder program toward that requirement, reducing their credit requirement to **42** credits. These four courses are the total number of non-Law courses that a Law student can take under Law School tuition in other departments of the University. Law students participating in the Lauder program are not eligible to participate, other than through the Lauder program, in Study Abroad Programs.
 2. Students must also satisfy the *pro bono* requirement of the Public Service Program and fulfill their Law senior writing and professional responsibility requirements (more on these requirements can be found in the Law Student Guide to Policy and Procedures).
 - ii. For the Master's Program
 1. Students must complete 14 credits for the MA in International Studies degree, which includes a summer course and a summer immersion program.
 - a. These courses will include five INTS Program of Concentration credits, an INTS area history course, INTS 732 (Global Economic History), INTS 721 (International Political Economy of Business Environments), a Lauder Global Leadership Course (includes two short immersions), and a School of Arts & Sciences (SAS) elective. These courses include the four MA courses that will be counted toward the completion of the JD degree.
 - b. MA candidates will also participate in a summer immersion program in the summer following the 1L Law year. The summer immersion program's activities include team work in language on a topic of international significance. The project is a graded component of INTS 721.
 - c. Additionally, MA students must complete four internationally-focused JD courses, from a defined list of available courses (determined and reviewed by the Law School's Associate Dean and the Lauder Program Managing Director on an annual basis), that will be counted toward the completion of the MA degree.

- d. An MA research paper is also required. Students fulfill the MA research requirement through a team-based project in conjunction with other Lauder students. This can potentially be linked to/ coordinated with the Law senior writing requirement (see below).
 - iii. Combining non-course requirements from both programs
 - 1. Students may combine the Law School's senior writing requirement with the School of Arts & Sciences MA research requirement, with prior written approval and ongoing supervision by a Law faculty member and an Arts & Sciences faculty member. It is anticipated that this approval will be granted by the Law School if the proposed project is at least in part an examination of legal issues and of the requisite quality and nature to satisfy Law School expectations and requirements on the one hand, and if the project at least in part considers these issues in an international context and from the perspective of one of the Arts & Sciences disciplines and of the requisite quality and nature to satisfy School of Arts & Sciences expectations and requirements.

Program Sequencing

- a. The joint-degree is earned in the following sequence:
 - i. Year 1 spent at the Law School, completing the standard and required 1L curriculum, Post-Year 1 summer spent at Lauder (May-July), completing the summer study and immersion program, Years 2 and 3 spent in residence [\[2\]](#) at Law, but taking the required Lauder INTS Program of Concentration courses (one per semester) and an international studies core course (one per semester).
 - ii. Law students join Lauder in early May for the start of INTS 721, the Area History course, the Lauder Leadership course, immersion preparation meetings and team building workshops. The in-country immersion takes place in June and July. August is open.

Tuition and Financial Aid

- a. Students will have three payments, one as tuition and fees to the Law School, one as tuition and general fee to the School of Arts and Science for the summer course (Area History course, taken in May), and one as a fee to the Lauder Institute, as follows:
 - i. Students will pay Law School tuition and fees in all semesters. The Law School is then responsible for payment of tuition for up to 4 courses taken at Lauder or in other departments of the University approved for study by Lauder toward the completion of the joint degree.

1. The Law School will not be responsible for courses taken at Lauder or in any other University department over and above the 4 courses that are countable toward the JD degree.
 - ii. Students will pay the School of Arts & Sciences tuition and general fee for the summer course.
 - iii. Students will pay the Lauder fee for the Summer Immersion and for the 4 credits of language courses during Years 2 and 3, required of all MA candidates.
- b. Financial aid decisions are made independently by each school.
- i. JD/MA students will be eligible to compete for Lauder financial aid by first contacting the Lauder Admissions Directors.

Scheduling Courses

- a. Students register for courses during each respective Program's registration period and according to that Program's registration rules and procedures.
- b. Students must be aware of the differences in these procedures:
 - i. For the fall semester, the two Programs pre-register at different times and use different systems: the Lauder course schedule is published and students are pre-registered in the spring, while the Law course schedule is published and students pre-register in the summer.
 - ii. Accordingly, students taking courses in both departments in a fall semester will have to be pre-registered for Lauder courses without full knowledge of the Law courses being offered.
 - iii. Oftentimes, students are able to resolve any issues which arise due to the registration differences during the drop/add period.
- c. The timing and location of course scheduling must also be considered so that students are best able to attend all classes.

Communication Issues

- a. Students with questions about the JD/MA program can address them to the following persons:
 - i. *Prospective students with questions about the JD program:* Renee Post, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, rpost@law.upenn.edu
 - ii. *Currently enrolled JD/MA students with questions about course selection, scheduling, tuition concerns, etc.:* Amanda Aronoff, Associate Director of Cross-Disciplinary Programs at Penn Law, aronoff@law.upenn.edu or Lauren Owens, Assistant Director, International Programs at Penn Law, lowens@law.upenn.edu.
 - iii. *Currently enrolled JD/MA students with questions about financial aid:* Anthony Henry, Director of Financial Aid, henry2@law.upenn.edu

- iv. *Questions about admission to the MA program:* Kara Keenan, Director of Admissions Marketing and Communications, The Lauder Institute, karak@wharton.upenn.edu.
- v. *Questions about the MA Program:* Kenric Tsethlikai, Managing Director, The Lauder Institute, kenric@wharton.upenn.edu
- b. Each year, this document will be reviewed and re-approved by representatives of both departments. Currently, that review will be handled by:
 - i. *For the Law School:* Jo-Ann Verrier, Vice Dean for Administrative Services
 - ii. *For the MA:* Fred Dickinson, Co-Director, The Lauder Institute

Issues Particular to the Program

- a. Students in the joint-degree Program may have particular career interests and goals. They are encouraged to meet individually with a counselor in the Career Planning & Placement Office at the Law School and/or the dedicated Lauder career advisor.
- b. The Lauder Institute and the Law School will consider the formation of an advisory board of prominent international law firms who might offer internships to JD/MA students in the country of their study both for the month of August after the immersion and the second year.

[1] A note on classes and credits: the Law School operates, in order to comply with accreditation standards, on a credit hour basis while courses in the MA program are typically worth 1.0 credit units. In converting between the two programs, a Law course will count as 1.0 credit units (or cu) in the MA program, and a course in Lauder/SAS will be worth three credit hours at the Law School.

[2] Law School accreditation requirements require that JD recipients are "in residence" at the Law School for six semesters.

Last reviewed: September 2015