



Faculty of Law (Graduate)
Programs, Courses and University Regulations
2024-2025

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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

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Publication Information

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1 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, page 7

1.1 Administrative Officers, page 7

-
- 11.1.13 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Comparative Law (45 credits) , page 24
 - 11.1.14 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law , page 25
 - 11.1.15 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Air and Space Law , page 26
 - 11.1.16 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law: Comparative Law , page 26
 - 11.1.17 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Air and Space Law (15 credits) , page 27
 - 11.1.18 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Comparative Law (15 credits) , page 27

1 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

1.1 Administrative Officers

Administrative Officers

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Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

1.2 Location

James Administration Building, Room 400
845 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal QC H3A 0G4
Website: mcgill.ca/gps



Note: For inquiries regarding specific graduate programs, please contact the appropriate department.

1.3 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' Mission

The mission of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is to promote university-wide academic excellence for graduate and postdoctoral education at McGill. GPS provides leadership and strategic direction across the university in close collaboration with the academic and administrative units, and the graduate and postdoctoral community.

2 Important Dates

For all dates relating to the academic year, consult mcgill.ca/importantdates.

3 Graduate Studies at a Glance

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources](#) > *Graduate* > : [Graduate Studies at a Glance](#) for a list of all graduate departments and degrees currently being offered.

4 Program Requirements

Refer to [University Regulations & Resources](#) > *Graduate* > *Regulations* > : [Program Requirements](#) for graduate program requirements for the following:

- Master's Degrees
- Doctoral Degrees

- Coursework for Graduate Programs, Diplomas, and Certificates

5 Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures](#) for information on:

- Application for admission;
- Admission requirements;
- Application procedures;
- Competency in English; and
- Other information regarding admissions and application procedures for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

6 Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships

Please refer to [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships](#) for information and contact information regarding fellowships, awards, and assistantships in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

7 Postdoctoral Research

Students must inform themselves of University rules and regulations and keep abreast of any changes that may occur. The *Postdoctoral Research* section of this publication contains important details postdoctoral scholars will require during their studies at McGill and should be periodically consulted, along with other sections and related publications.

7.1 Postdocs

Postdocs are recent graduates with a Ph.D. or equivalent (i.e., Medical Specialist Diploma) engaged by a member of the University's academic staff, including Adjunct Professors, to assist them in research.

Postdocs must be appointed by their department and registered with Enrolment Services in order to have access to University facilities (library, computer, etc.).

7.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education

Every unit hosting postdocs should apply institutional policies and procedures for the provision of postdoctoral education and have established means for informing postdocs of policies, procedures, and privileges (available at mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs), as well as mechanisms for addressing complaints. For their part, postdocs are responsible for informing themselves of such policies, procedures, and privileges.

1. Definition and Status

- Postdoctoral status will be recognized by the University in accordance with Quebec provincial regulations as may be modified from time to time. The eligibility period for postdoctoral status is up to five years from the date when the Ph.D. or equivalent degree was awarded. A *leave of absence* for parental or health reasons may extend the eligibility period. Leaves for other reasons, including vacation, do not impact the eligibility period.
- Some McGill postdocs have dual status as both students and employees (unionized or non-unionized). Consult the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website](#) for definitions of Postdoctoral Fellows, Postdoctoral Scholars, and Postdoctoral Researchers.
- Postdocs must conduct research under the supervision of a McGill professor (including Adjunct Professors), qualified in the discipline in which training is being provided and with the ability to fulfil supervisory responsibilities and act as a mentor for career development. Postdocs are expected to engage primarily in research with minimal teaching or other responsibilities.

2. Registration

- Postdocs must *register* annually with the University through Enrolment Services. Registration will be limited to postdocs who fulfil the definition above, and who meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated on the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website](#).

- ii. Upon registration, postdocs will be eligible for a University identity card issued by Enrolment Services.
- iii. Leaves of absence must comply with the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Policies for Vacation, Parental/Familial, and Health Leave (see [section 7.3: Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs](#) and [University Regulations & Resources](#) > Graduate > Regulations > Categories of Students > : [Leave of Absence Status](#)).

3. Appointment, Funding, Letter of Agreement

- i. Postdoctoral appointments may not exceed the registration eligibility period as defined above.
- ii. In order to be registered, the postdoc must be assured of financial support other than from personal means during their stay at McGill University. This amount must be equivalent to the minimal stipend requirement set by the University in accordance with guidelines issued by federal and provincial research granting agencies or the collective agreement, as applicable. Funding during parental leave is subject to the conditions of the funding agency or the collective agreement, as applicable.
- iii. Postdocs require a [Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education](#) signed by the postdoc, the supervisor, and the department/unit head or delegate.
- iv. Postdocs with full responsibility for teaching a course should be compensated over and above their postdoctoral funding as course lecturers. This applies to all postdocs, except those for whom teaching is part of the award.
- v. The amount of research, teaching, or other tasks that postdocs engage in over and abo

- to clarify expectations regarding intellectual property rights in accordance with the University's policy;
- to provide mentorship for career development; and
- to prepare, sign, and adhere to a Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education.

vi. Some examples of the responsibilities of postdocs are:

- to inform themselves of and adhere to the University's policies and/or regulations for postdocs as outlined at mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs and mcgill.ca/students/srr, and the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies *University Regulations and Resources*;
- to submit a complete file for registration to Enrolment Services;
- to sign and adhere to their Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
- to communicate regularly with their supervisor; and
- to inform their supervisor of their absences.

vii. Some examples of the responsibilities of the University are:

- to register postdocs;
- to provide an appeal mechanism in cases of conflict;
- to provide documented policies and procedures to postdocs;
- to provide postdocs with the necessary information on McGill University student services (Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars) and HR policies and guidelines (Postdoctoral Researchers).

Approved by Senate, April 2000; revised May 2014; February 2020.

7.3 Vacation Policy for Postdocs

Please refer to the : [Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs](#).

research stage. Individuals who are expecting to spend more than one year are encouraged to obtain formal training (Master's or Ph.D.) through application to a relevant graduate program.

Category 4: An individual with a regulated health professional degree (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession), but not a Ph.D. or equivalent or medical specialty training, but who fulfils criteria for funding on a tri-council operating grant or by a CIHR fellowship (up to maximum of five years post-degree).



Note: Individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents must inquire about eligibility for a work permit.

General Conditions

- The maximum duration is three years.
- The individual must be engaged in full-time research.
- The individual must provide copies of official transcripts/diplomas.
- The individual must have the approval of a McGill professor to supervise the research and of the Unit.
- The individual must have adequate proficiency in English, but is not required to provide official proof of English competency to Enrolment Services.
- The individual must comply with regulations and procedures governing research ethics and safety and obtain the necessary training.
- The individual will be pro

10 Information on Research Policies and Guidelines, Patents, Postdocs, Associates, Trainees

Refer to [University Regulations & Resources](#) > [Graduate](#) > [: Research Policy and Guidelines](#) for information on the following:

- Regulations on Research Policy
- Regulations Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct
- Requirements for Research Involving Human Participants
- Policy on the Study and Care of Animals
- Policy on Intellectual Property
- Regulations Governing Conflicts of Interest
- Safety in Field Work
- Office of Sponsored Research
- Postdocs
- Research Associates

11 Browse Academic Units & Programs

The programs and courses in the following sections have been approved for the 2024–2025 session as listed.

section 11.1.5: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis) (45 credits)

The LL.M. thesis program is geared to

section 11.1.9: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Environment (45 credits)

The graduate option in Environment is a cross-disciplinary option offered in conjunction with the Bieler School of Environment within the LL.M. (thesis or non-thesis) providing students with an appreciation for the role of science in informed decision-making in the environment sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. The non-thesis option requires two terms of graduate-level coursework on environment law, as well as a 15,000-word research project.



Note: Availability of this program is subject to relevant courses being offered in a given year.

Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Degrees

section 11.1.14: Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law

The Doctor of Civil Law program is centred around the doctoral thesis, which develops a substantive and original contribution to legal research and knowledge under the supervision of a faculty member. Many doctoral candidates intend on pursuing an academic career and developing their approach to pedagogy, research, and writing while at McGill.

section 11.1.15: Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Air and Space Law

The Doctor of Civil Law in Air and Space Law is a research degree ideal for scholars intent on deepening and broadening their critical understanding of the law, as well as their original engagement with it. The program offers a curriculum exploring legal issues that arise from international civil aviation and new technologies in space. It also provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the legal processes regulating worldwide aerospace activities.

section 11.1.16: Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law: Comparative Law

Doctoral students in Comparative Law are encouraged to think about the nature and value of comparative scholarship both through coursework (particularly the Legal Traditions course, which is recommended for DCL students in Comparative Law) and through their doctoral thesis. As such, students are encouraged and given opportunities to explore how juridical analyses are enriched through openness to learning with diverse research methods, theoretical frameworks, legal traditions and doctrines, languages, and disciplinary perspectives.

Graduate Certificates

section 11.1.17: Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Air and Space Law (15 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Air and Space Law is a course-based program designed for students with a strong professional orientation. This certificate is particularly appropriate for jurists and other professionals who wish to pursue graduate-level legal studies in aviation, air and space law, government regulations, conventions, and treaties dealing with these areas.

section 11.1.18: Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Comparative Law (15 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Comparative Law provides advanced training to candidates who do not wish to undertake the master's degree. The Graduate Certificate is particularly appropriate for judges, law professors, and legal practitioners from countries undergoing substantial legal reform (such as post-Communist or developing countries) who wish to pursue advanced studies in areas such as civil, commercial, or human rights law.

11.1.3 Law Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

11.1.3.1 Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit their application through McGill's online application system at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/submit-your-application. For detailed information on the application process, please visit the [Faculty website](#).

11.1.3.1.2 LL.M. Programs

Candidates for admission to the master's programs must hold a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Law (such as LL.B. or J.D.), with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 out of 4.0 (or equivalent). This standing does not guarantee admission; the Graduate Admissions Committee weighs the entire dossier, including the quality of the research proposal.

11.1.3.1.3 LL.M. Interdisciplinary Options



Note: The availability of these options is subject to relevant courses being offered in a given year.

- 1. Environment Option:** This option is available to students who apply for admission to the LL.M. Thesis program. For further information, see [Environment](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs. For more information, visit [mcgill.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-environment](#).
- 2. Bioethics Option:** This option is available to students who apply for admission to the LL.M. Thesis program at the Faculty of Law. For further information, see [Bioethics](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > : [Bioethics](#) or visit [biomedicalethicsunit/facultyoflaw/llm/graduate-studies/graduate-bioethics](#).

11.1.3.1.4 LL.M. Programs

Applicants demonstrating outstanding academic achievement may be considered for admission to the LL.M. program.

In addition to the requirements for admission to the LL.M. program, applicants must also hold a master's degree (or equivalent) with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 out of 4.0 (or equivalent). Admission to the LL.M. program is always subject to availability of a suitable advisor.

11.1.3.1.5 Graduate Certificate Programs

The requirements for admission to the graduate certificate programs are essentially the same as for the LL.M. programs, except that greater weight may be placed on professional experience. For further information, see [Law/Grad-Studies/Graduate-Certificate-Programs-Guide/eligibility](#). Graduate certificate programs are available in the following areas:

- 1. Graduate Certificate in [Administrative Law](#)**

11.1.4 Course Selection (Graduate and Postdoctoral Law Programs)

It should be noted that not all courses are offered in each year. Students wish courses are of

Courses offered within this concentration may include:

Intellectual & Industrial Property (BUS2 502)

International Business Law (CMPL 604)

International Carriage of Goods by Sea (CMPL 515)

International Development Law (CMPL 516)

International Environmental Law and Politics (CMPL 546)

International Maritime Conventions (CMPL 553)

International Taxation (CMPL 539)

Law and Practice of International Trade (CMPL 543)

Law of Space Applications (ASPL 638)

Patent Theory and Policy (BUS2 501)

Private International Air LaT

Courses offered within this concentration may include:

Intellectual & Industrial Property (BUS2 502)
International Environmental Law and Politics (CMPL 546)
Land Use Planning (PRV4 545)
Law and Health Care (CMPL 642)
Law and Psychiatry (PUB2 500)
Medical Liability (CMPL 522)
Policies, Politics and Legislative Process (CMPL 518)
Regulation Technology/Society (CMPL 605)
Trade Regulation (CMPL 521)

11.1.4.5 Air and Space Law

This field explores legal issues that arise from international civil aviation and new technologies in space. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal processes regulating worldwide aerospace activities.

Courses offered within this concentration may include:

Government Regulation of Air Transport (ASPL 613)
Airline Business and Law (ASPL 614)
Comparative Air Law (ASPL 632)
Public International Air Law (ASPL 633)
Private International Air Law (ASPL 636)
Space Law: General Principles (ASPL 637)
Law of Space Applications (ASPL 638)
Government Regulation of Space Activities (ASPL 639)

11.1.5 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis) (45 credits)

The 45-credit LL.M. program, thesis option, is a research-intensive graduate program focused on developing research interests into a thesis project under the supervision of a faculty member. Graduate level courses on theoretical and methodological approaches to legal writing complement the research work and thesis completion process, and courses in specific areas of knowledge related to the candidate's research interests complete the program's credit requirements.

LL.M. candidates may be associated with the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, the Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law, the Centre for Intellectual Property Policy, or one of the specialized Research Chairs at the Faculty of Law. For more information, see our Website: <https://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/masters-programs>.

Candidates must remain in residence for three terms for which full-time fees will be charged. The third term, usually devoted to thesis research, may be taken the Summer of the first year. If the thesis is not completed in this time, students must register for additional sessions as needed. All degree requirements must be completed within a maximum of three years of the date of first registration.

Thesis Courses (30 credits)

As part of the course Master's Thesis 1, a thesis candidate must provide a protocol to his or her supervisor setting out details as to the thesis topic, the deadlines for the completion of the various thesis courses and the schedule of meetings with the thesis supervisor. Modifications to the protocol must be made in writing and submitted to the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

Master's Thesis 1

Required Courses (9 credits)

CMPL 610	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 1
CMPL 611	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 2
CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law
LA	(1.5)	Communication 1

BIOE 682	(3)	Medical Basis of Bioethics
CMPL 642	(3)	Law and Health Care
PHIL 643	(3)	Seminar: Medical Ethics
RELG 571	(3)	Ethics, Medicine and Religion

6 credits at the 500 level or above of Faculty of Law courses or Bioethics courses.

11.1.7 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Environment (45 credits)

This program is currently not offered.

The 45-credit LL.M. program, thesis option, in Environment is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment. This is a research-intensive, interdisciplinary, graduate program focused on developing research interests into a thesis project under the supervision of a faculty member. The program considers how various dimensions (scientific, social, legal, ethical) interact to define environment and sustainability issues.

Candidates must remain in residence for three terms for which full-time fees will be charged. The third term, usually devoted to thesis research, may be taken the Summer of the first year. If the thesis is not completed in this time, students must register for additional sessions as needed. All degree requirements must be completed within a maximum of three years of the date of first registration.

Thesis Courses (27 credits)

As part of the course Master's Thesis 1, a thesis candidate must provide a protocol to his or her supervisor setting out details as to the thesis topic, the deadlines for the completion of the various thesis courses and the schedule of meetings with the thesis supervisor. Modifications to the protocol must be made in writing and submitted to the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

CMPL 612	(3)	Master's Thesis 1
CMPL 613	(3)	Master's Thesis 2
CMPL 614	(3)	Master's Thesis 3
CMPL 615	(6)	Master's Thesis 4
CMPL 616	(12)	Master's Thesis 5

Required Courses (9 credits)

CMPL 610	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 1
CMPL 611	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 2
ENVR 615	(3)	Interdisciplinary Approach Environment and Sustainability
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

Complementary Courses (9 credits)

3-6 credits chosen from:

ENVR 610	(3)	Foundations of Environmental Policy
ENVR 614	(3)	Mobilizing Research for Sustainability

0-3 credits chosen from:

ENVR 585	(3)	Readings in Environment 2
ENVR 630	(3)	Civilization and Environment
ENVR 680	(3)	Topics in Environment 4

Or 3 credits at the 500 level or higher recommended by the Advisory Committee and approved by the Environment Option Committee.

0-3 credits at the 500 level or higher approved by the Advisory Committee.

11.1.8 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)

The 45-credit LL.M. non-thesis option complements previous legal education through specialized graduate-level coursework and in-depth research. It enhances expertise in selected areas of legal scholarship and offers an opportunity to write a supervised, substantial, and publishable paper in an area of interest.

Candidates must remain in residence for three terms for which full-time fees will be charged. The third term is devoted to the Research Project, usually taken in the Summer of the first year. If the research project is not completed in this time, students must register for additional sessions as needed. All degree requirements must be completed within a maximum of three years of the date of first registration.

Research Project (15 credits)

The supervised research project is a 15,000-word paper, assessed by the supervisor on a pass-fail basis, and is typically completed in the Summer.

CMPL 655	(15)	Research Project 1
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Required Courses (9 credits)

CMPL 610	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 1
CMPL 611	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 2
CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

Complementary Courses (21 credits)

The remaining 21 credits (or fewer if more credits are earned for the research project) are chosen from among Faculty offerings at the 500 and 600 levels.

Additional Research Project Courses

With the approval of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), students may take up to an additional 3 credits of research project courses by completing one or both of:

CMPL 656	(2)	Research Project 2
CMPL 657	(1)	Research Project 3

11.1.9 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Environment (45 credits)

This program is currently not offered.

The 45-credit, LL.M. program, non-thesis option, in Environment is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment.

Interdisciplinary

LAWG 602 (1.5) Communication 2

Complementary Courses (9 credits)

3 credits from the following:

CMPL 610	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 1
CMPL 611	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 2
CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law

6 credits at the 500 level or higher, chosen from among Faculty offerings (including ASPL offerings).

11.1.11 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Air and Space Law (45 credits)

The 45-credit LL.M. program, non-thesis option, in Air and Space Law complements previous legal education through specialized graduate-level coursework and in-depth research. It enhances expertise in selected areas of legal scholarship and includes a supervised substantial paper in an area of interest.

Candidates must remain in residence for three terms for which full-time fees will be charged. The third term is devoted to the Research Project, usually taken in the summer of the first year. If the research project is not completed in this time, students must register for additional sessions as needed. All degree requirements must be completed within a maximum of three years of the date of first registration.

Researcy Cour

The 45-credit LL.M. program, thesis option, in Comparative Law is a research-intensive graduate program focused on developing research interests into a thesis project under the supervision of a faculty member. Graduate-level courses on theoretical and methodological approaches to legal writing complement the research work and thesis completion process, and courses in specific areas of knowledge related to the candidate's research interests complete the program's credit requirements.

LL.M. candidates may be associated with the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, the Quebec Research Centre of Private and Comparative Law,

The non-thesis option requires a substantial supervised research project during the third term of registration, a 15,000-word paper, assessed by the supervisor on a pass-fail basis, and typically completed in the Summer.

CMPL 655	(15)	Research Project 1
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Required Courses (12 credits)

CMPL 600	(3)	Legal Traditions
CMPL 610	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 1
CMPL 611	(1.5)	Legal Research Methodology 2
CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

Complementar

11.1.15 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Air and Space Law

The Institute of Air & Space Law offers a D.C.L. program in Air and Space Law, which allows the development of substantive and original contributions to legal research and knowledge under the supervision of a faculty member.

The degree will be awarded, at the earliest, after the completion of three years of residence. The core of the D.C.L. program is a substantial thesis of up to 400 pages that makes a significant contribution to legal scholarship, evidencing in concept and execution the original work of the candidate. The thesis must be submitted within 4 years of completion of the residency requirement. Every candidate must successfully pass a comprehensive examination, after one year which may occur in the first year of the program, but no later than the end of the second year of the program.

Comprehensive - Required

Every candidate must successfully pass a comprehensive examination, usually after one year in the program.

ASPL 701	(0)	Comprehensive - Air/Space Law
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Required Courses (5 Credits)

CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law
LAWG 702	(2)	Legal Research Methodology for DCL
LAWG 703	(0)	Literature Review, Analysis and Proposal
LAWG 704	(0)	DCL Research Seminar 1
LAWG 705	(0)	DCL Research Seminar 2

Complementary Course (0-3 Credits)

LAWG 601	(1)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1)	Communication 2

11.1.17 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Air and Space Law (15 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Air and Space Law offered through the Institute of Air and Space Law is a coursework program, appropriate for students with a strong professional orientation.

The certificate is awarded after one term of residence in the Faculty and upon completion of 15 academic credits of graduate law courses. Students must take 9 credits of required Air and Space Law courses and the additional 6 credits may consist of any 500-level or higher law course or other courses offered through the Institute of Air and Space Law. Exceptionally, and with the permission of the Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, the 15 credits may be taken over two terms.

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