Global learning is increasingly important for a well-rounded and forward-looking legal education, and Loyola’s School of Law has stayed ahead of the curve in offering meaningful international perspectives and experiences. As the world changes—facing new economic challenges, transnational conflicts, and shifting political regimes—Loyola’s international program changes with it, adapting international offerings to meet evolving student needs. The School of Law continues to make international education and experiences available to students through our top-notch study-abroad programs, field studies, international competitions, and globally focused faculty, all targeted to ready students for practice in tomorrow’s international legal arena.

Study-abroad programs expand, evolve

A significant portion of Loyola law students, approximately 20 percent, have been exposed to international law through Loyola’s programs abroad. The 31 years of summer offerings have been Loyola’s anchor in international law. As the economy and job market dictate, slightly fewer students today are able to take advantage of the Loyola summer abroad Law programs, often opting instead to take on summer jobs. Students who are able to participate in four-, six-, or 10-week summer programs find the experience well worth the cost. The School of Law works hard not only to ensure that study-abroad participants have a top-quality classroom grounding in international and comparative law, but also to open as many doors as possible to high-profile legal leaders and judicial venues. As a result, students have firsthand experience and face time with legal heavyweights they’d never be able to meet in Chicago or traveling on their own.

Today, the law school’s Roman connections are long-standing and unique. Every year, for instance, Loyola students get a close-up view of the office of the avvocato generale (attorney general) of Italy. In a 15th-century-fresco-decorated palazzo, six senior staff attorneys speak about their work and take questions. Then, with the assembled Loyolans in tow, the lawyers lead a private reception overlooking the Pantheon and all of ancient Rome.

Loyola’s School of Law has stayed ahead of the curve in offering meaningful international perspectives and experiences.

Loyola updates international studies in response to global shifts
ELIZABETH YOYOKI AND OTHER STUDENTS IN PROFESSOR DINA GERAGHTY’S GLOBAL LAW SEMINAR IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, SPENT ORGANIZED SERVICES AS PART OF THE COURSE’S SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT.

visit the Court of Justice of the EU, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

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As Asia’s role in the global economy expands, Loyola’s American law students aren’t the only ones who gain from exposure to international legal and economic structures designed to prevent and remedy human rights violations in Africa. 

Professor of Law James T. Gauthier was inducted as the School of Law’s Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law at a March ceremony at the Philip H. Corboy Law Center. At the ceremony, Gauthier delivered the 2013 Wing-Tat Lee Lecture in International Law titled “Judicial Activism in Africa’s International Trade Courts: Principles and Methods.” He then met with some of the most distinguished lawyers who form the judiciary of Europe. No law student can have access to these institutions and people on his or her own; this is a real advantage achieved through our three decades of successful programs abroad.

As a significant role in the global economy expands, the China program founded by Gaspardo in 2008 has become one of the most popular of the summer law offerings. Hosted at The Beijing Center, 2008 has become one of the most popular of the China program founded by Gaspardo in 2008.

The LLM Program for International Lawyers and the LLM in Rule of Law attract attorneys from all continents and methods. Both the new LLM Program for International Lawyers and the LLM in Rule of Law for Development attract attorneys from all over the globe.

The LLM Program for International Lawyers brings international attorneys to Chicago for highly personalized and flexible study. Directed by Tina Blanke, the program offers two options. Immersion in U.S. Law for Foreign Lawyers is designed for foreign lawyers who plan to sit for the New York bar exam or to practice in the United States. International Law with a Focus Option gives students the ability to design their own curricula. In addition to required classes on U.S. and international law, students may elect to focus on arbitration, mediation, and negotiation, or on areas of law including business and tax, family law, competition, international trade, and political law. Zion.

Gauthier inducted as Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law

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James T. Gauthier discussed judicial activism in Africa’s international trade courts in his inaugural Wing-Tat Lee Lecture.
Educated internationally to create change at home

A South African activist working to secure the rights of indigenous peoples in Namibia, a Cambodian lawyer seeking to curb human trafficking, a Kenyan judge helping with justice sector reforms after the war, an Ugandan lawyer striving to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation... with all their differences, these legal professionals have something in common. They're determined to help make the rule of law the rule in the countries where they live and work, so they've enrolled in Loyola’s LLM in Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW®) program.

PROLAW is an especially timely response as many countries are recovering from war, experiencing civil uprising, and reforming their legal systems for transparency and protection of human rights. The program focuses on practical, practice-oriented education for lawyers committed to building rule of law in their own countries. Housed at Loyola’s John Felice Rome Center in Italy, the one-year curriculum builds high-level legal advisory skills in its graduates, who can then help their countries drive and sustain legal reforms from within, without the need to resort to foreign experts.

“Our curriculum began taking shape through an analysis of what rule of law advisors actually do,” says William Loris, PROLAW director. “The curriculum was designed to include the knowledge and skills students will need to be able to meet the learning outcomes. This approach has resulted in a program whose every aspect is designed to prepare students for rule of law practice.”

Practice-oriented courses range from Theory and Practice of Needs Assessment in Rule of Law Advising, to Legal Writing and Research for Rule of Law, to Project Management, to Design of Rule of Law Programs and Proposal Preparation.

While the learning outcomes of all courses are aimed at enabling graduates to perform tasks which rule of law work entails, each subject is approached through case studies examining a range of substantive areas of change. Topics such as judicial reform, achievement of gender equality, civil and penal law reform, commercial law reform, legal empowerment of the poor, aid for trade, climate change preparedness, human rights, and financing of justice reform contextualize the curriculum, address students’ individual areas of interest, and provide a hands-on learning experience.
Learning abroad exposes students to different legal systems and cultures. Here are the international cities Loyola law students have recently visited as part of a program or team competition (cities listed in 2012-13 in parenthesis):

Cape Town: Porto Alegre, Rome, Strasbourg, Vienna, Warsaw
Dusseldorf: Hokkaido
Hanoi: Johannesburg
Hong Kong: Johannesburg
Las Vegas: Johannesburg
London: London
Los Angeles: London
Miami: London
Munich: London
New Delhi: London
Paris: London
San Francisco: London
Shanghai: London
Singapore: London

47 students will attend a study abroad program this academic year.

The World’s Our Classroom
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