



**Faculty of Law (Graduate)**  
**Programs, Courses and University Regulations**  
**2022-2023**



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

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- 4 . All students registered at McGill University are considered to have agreed to act in accordance with the University procedures, policies and regulations.
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**Note: Throughout this publication, "you" refers to students newly admitted, readmitted or returning to McGill.**

## ***Publication Information***

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## 1 Dean's Welcome

Welcome to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) at McGill. You are joining a community of world-class researchers and more than 10,000 graduate students in over 400 programs. GPS is here to support you from admissions through to graduation and beyond. McGill's approach to graduate education emphasizes skills development; we cultivate your academic and professional growth through a variety of workshops, events and experiential learning opportunities. I invite you to consult the [GPS website](#) for information on the range of resources available to graduate students at McGill.

I would like to wish you all the best in your studies at McGill. We are here to make sure that you have the best possible experience.

*Josephine Nalbantoglu, Ph.D.*

*Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

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## 2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

### 2.1 Administrative Officers

#### Administrative Officers

Josephine Nalbantoglu; B.Sc., Ph.D.(McG.)

**Associate Provost (Graduate Education) and Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Lorraine Chalifour; B.Sc., Ph.D. (Manit.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Nathan Hall; B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (Manit.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

Russell Steele; B.S., M.S. (Carn. Mell), Ph.D. (Wash.)

**Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)**

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### 2.2 Location

James Administration Building, Room 400

845 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal QC H3A 0G4

Website: [mcgill.ca/gps](http://mcgill.ca/gps)



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

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### 2.3 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.

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## 3 Important Dates

For all dates relating to the academic year, consult [mcgill.ca/importantdates](http://mcgill.ca/importantdates).

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## 4 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.

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## 5 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

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## 6 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 important information regarding admissions and application procedures for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

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## 7 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.

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## 8 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.

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### 8.1 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.).

## 8.2 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](http://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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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

- i. 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 8.3: 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 above postdoctoral activities should conform to the regulations for postdocs specified by the Canadian research council of their discipline or the collective agreement. This applies to all postdocs, including those whose funding does not come from the Canadian research councils.

### 4. Privileges

- i. Postdocs have the same pertinent rights as the ones granted to McGill students under [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr), and those granted by the policies listed at [mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations](http://mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations).
- ii. Postdocs have full graduate student borrowing privileges in McGill libraries through their identity card.
- iii. As a general rule, postdocs may take courses for credit as Special Students following the admissions procedures outlined at [mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply/prepare/visiting](http://mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply/prepare/visiting). *Tuition and other charges* will apply.
- iv. Postdocs may be listed in the McGill directory.
- v. Access to sports facilities may be purchased on a monthly basis through McGill Athletics and Recreation.
- vi. Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars are mandatory members of the Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) and an annual association fee is automatically charged.
- vii. Postdocs are permitted membership in the Faculty Club; an annual fee will be charged for this membership.
- viii. Postdocs are encouraged to participate in Professional Development Workshops provided by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Teaching and Learning services. These sessions are usually free of charge.
- ix. Postdocs have access to the services provided by the Ombudsperson.
- x. Postdocs may enrol as part-time students in the second language written and spoken English/French courses offered by the School of Continuing Studies/French Language Centre. Postdocs will be charged tuition for these courses. International Postdocs may be required to obtain a CAQ and a Study Permit.
- xi. Access to student services is granted to non-unionized postdocs, who are charged the Student Services fee in the Fall and Winter terms, through their student fee accounts.

### 5. Responsibilities

- i. Postdocs are subject to the responsibilities outlined at [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://mcgill.ca/students/srr) and must abide by the policies listed at [mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations](http://mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies-and-regulations).
- ii. Each academic unit hosting postdocs should clearly identify postdocs' needs and the means by which they will be met by the unit.
- iii. Each academic unit should assess the availability of research supervision facilities, office space, and research funding before recruiting postdocs.
- iv. Some examples of the responsibilities of the academic unit are:
  - to verify the postdoc's eligibility period for registration;
  - to provide postdocs with departmental policy and procedures that pertain to them;
  - to facilitate the registration and appointment of postdocs;
  - to assign departmental personnel the responsibility for postdoctoral affairs in the unit;
  - to oversee and sign off on the Letter of Agreement for Postdoctoral Education;
  - to ensure that each postdoc has a supervisor, lab and/or office space, access to research operating costs and necessary equipment;
  - to include postdocs in departmental career and placement opportunities;
  - to refer postdocs to the appropriate University policies and personnel for the resolution of conflict that may arise between a postdoc and a supervisor.
- v. Some examples of the responsibilities of the supervisor are:
  - to uphold and transmit to their postdocs the highest professional standards of research and/or scholarship;
  - to provide research guidance;
  - to meet regularly with their postdocs;
  - to provide feedback on research submitted by the postdocs;
  - to clarify expectations regarding intellectual property rights in accordance with the University's policy;
  - to provide mentorship for career development;
  - 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](http://mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs), [mcgill.ca/students/srr](http://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;
  - 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.*

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### 8.3 Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs

Graduate students and Postdocs should normally be entitled to vacation leave equivalent to university holidays and an additional total of fifteen (15) working days in the year. Funded students and Postdocs with fellowships and research grant stipends taking additional vacation leave may have their funding reduced accordingly.

*Council of FGSR April 23, 1999*

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### 8.4 Leave of Absence for Health and Parental/Familial Reasons

A leave of absence may be granted for maternity or parental reasons or for health reasons (see [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status](#)).

Such a leave must be requested on a term-by-term basis and may be granted for a period of up to 52 weeks. For a maternity or parental leave, the eligibility period of a maximum of 52 consecutive weeks is determined based on when the child is born; if the leave is interrupted for one or two terms, the eligibility period cannot be extended. Students and Postdocs must make a request for such a leave in writing to their department and submit a medical certificate. The department shall forward the request to Enrolment Services. See the procedure in [University Regulations & Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status](#).

Students who have been granted such a leave will have to register for the term(s) in question and their registration will show as “leave of absence” on their record. No tuition fees will be charged for the duration of the authorized leave. Research supervisors are not obligated to remunerate students and Postdocs on leave. A summary table of various leave policies (paid or unpaid) for students and Postdocs paid from the Federal and Quebec Councils through fellowships or research grants is available at [mcgill.ca/gps/funding/getting-paid](http://mcgill.ca/gps/funding/getting-paid) under "Leave Policies and Form."

## 8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees

### Eligibility

If your situation does not conform to the Government of Quebec's definition of a Postdoctoral Fellow, you may be eligible to attend McGill as a Postdoctoral Research Trainee. While at McGill, you can perform research only (you may not register for courses or engage in clinical practice). Medical specialists who will have clinical exposure and require a training card must register through Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences—not Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The category of Postdoctoral Research Trainee is for:

**Category 1:** An individual who has completed requirements for the Doctoral degree or medical specialty, but whose degree/certification has not yet been awarded. An individual in this category will subsequently be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Category 2:** An individual who is not eligible for Postdoctoral Registration according to the Government of Quebec's definition, but is a recipient of an external postdoctoral award from a recognized Canadian funding agency.

**Category 3:** An individual who holds a professional degree (or equivalent) in a regulated health profession (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession) and is enrolled in a program of postgraduate medical education at another institution. This individual wishes to conduct the research stage or elective component of their program of study at McGill University under the supervision of a McGill professor. This individual will be engaged in full-time research with well-defined objectives, responsibilities, and methods of reporting. Applications must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the applicant's home institution (signed by the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent) confirming registration in their program and stating the expected duration of the 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 provided access to McGill libraries, email, and required training in research ethics and safety. Any other University services must be purchased (e.g., access to athletic facilities)
- The individual must arrange for basic health insurance coverage prior to arrival at McGill and may be required to provide proof of coverage

## 9 Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies

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

- Guidelines and Regulations for Academic Units on Graduate Student Advising and Supervision
- Policy on Graduate Student Research Progress Tracking
- Ph.D. Comprehensives Policy
- Graduate Studies Reread Policy
- Failure Policy
- Guideline on Hours of Work

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## 10 Graduate Student Services and Information

Graduate students are encouraged to refer to : [Student Services and Information](#) for information on the following topics:

- Service Point
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Student Services – Downtown & Macdonald Campuses
- Residential Facilities
- Athletics and Recreation
- Ombudsperson for Students
- Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities
- Bookstore
- Computer Store
- Day Care

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## 11 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

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## 12 Browse Academic Units & Programs

The programs and courses in the following sections have been approved for the 2022–2023 session as listed.

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### 12.1 Law

#### 12.1.1 Location

Faculty of Law  
Graduate Programs in Law  
New Chancellor Day Hall  
3644 Peel Street, Room 406  
Montreal QC H3A 1W9  
Canada  
Telephone: 514-398-6635  
Email: [grad.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:grad.law@mcgill.ca)

Website: [mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies](http://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies)

Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) – Andrea Bjorklund

## 12.1.2 About Law

Graduate students in Law at McGill have one thing in common: a sharp curiosity to explore ideas and projects in an environment that is uniquely comparative and pluralist.

The extensive and impressive history of graduate teaching and supervision at McGill, combined with the innovations in legal pedagogy for which the Faculty of Law is celebrated, create an unrivaled experience for graduate students. Grounded in Montreal, a city that embodies a lively mix of languages, cultures, and communities, the Faculty of Law invites students pursuing their D.C.L. and LL.M. degrees to discover and write within a community of legal scholars that is internationally renowned and engaging.

McGill's Faculty of Law is a meeting place for the languages of North America, for the world's legal traditions, and for students who wish to participate in the graduate life of a truly outstanding, prestigious, and intellectually vibrant Faculty of Law.

The Faculty of Law offers a range of programs at the graduate level. These include the degrees of **Master of Laws (LL.M.)** with thesis and non-thesis options, **Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.)**, and **Graduate Certificates**.

Students may choose to pursue either the LL.M. in general Law, Air and Space Law, Bioethics, Comparative Law, or Environment; or the D.C.L. in general Law, Comparative Law, or Air and Space Law. Graduate Certificates may only be completed in Comparative Law or in Air and Space Law.

### Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degrees

#### *section 12.1.5: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis) (45 credits)*

The LL.M. thesis program is geared toward students who wish to continue their legal education primarily through research, as the program concentrates on the production of a 30,000-word thesis, as well as some graduate-level coursework.

#### *section 12.1.10: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Air and Space Law (45 credits)*

The LL.M. thesis program in Air and Space Law is geared toward students who wish to focus on original scholarly research related to the Air and Space Law domain. This program involves a combination of coursework and research credits (a thesis of 30,000 words). The thesis must show familiarity with previous work in the field and demonstrate the student's capacity for independent analysis, writing skills, and organization.

#### *section 12.1.6: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Bioethics (45 credits)*

The master's specialization in Bioethics is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes both the conceptual and practical aspects of Bioethics. Students pursuing the LL.M. in Bioethics are bound by the requirements of the Faculty of Law's LL.M. program. This program is offered as a thesis option only.

#### *section 12.1.12: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Comparative Law (45 credits)*

In the field of Comparative Law, students are encouraged to think about the nature and value of comparative scholarship both through coursework (particularly the Legal Traditions course, which is required for all students in Comparative Law) and through their master's thesis. As such, students are encouraged and given opportunities to explore how juridical analyses are enriched through openness to learning from diversity in research methods, theoretical frameworks, legal traditions and doctrines, languages, and disciplinary perspectives. The LL.M. thesis program in Comparative Law requires several graduate-level courses and the production of a 30,000-word thesis.



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

#### *section 12.1.7: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (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, politics, and ethics in informed decision-making in the environment sector. The thesis option requires the production of a 30,000-word thesis.



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

#### *section 12.1.8: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)*

The LL.M. non-thesis program is geared toward students who wish to continue their legal education largely through graduate-level coursework. The program requires two terms of coursework as well as a 15,000-word research project.

***section 12.1.11: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Air and Space Law (45 credits)***

The LL.M. non-thesis program in Air and Space Law is geared toward students who wish to gain a wide exposure to a range of taught courses within, and related to, the Air and Space Law domain. The non-thesis option requires a 15,000-word research project, with the remaining credits earned in courses.

***section 12.1.13: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Comparative Law (45 credits)***

In the field of Comparative Law, students are encouraged to think about the nature and value of comparative scholarship both through coursework (particularly the Legal Traditions course, which is required for all students in Comparative Law) and through their master's research project. As such, students are encouraged and given opportunities to explore how juridical analyses are enriched through openness to learning from diversity in research methods, theoretical frameworks, legal traditions and doctrines, languages, and disciplinary perspectives. The LL.M. non-thesis program requires two terms of graduate-level coursework and another term to produce a 15,000-word research project.



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

***section 12.1.9: 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 12.1.14: 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 develop their approach to pedagogy, research, and writing while at McGill.

***section 12.1.15: 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 12.1.16: 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 12.1.17: 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 12.1.18: 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.

### 12.1.3 Law Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

#### 12.1.3.1 Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit their application through [uApply](#). Any questions regarding the status of an application must be sent via the **uApply communication tool**. For detailed information on the application process, please visit the [Faculty website](#).

##### 12.1.3.1.1 Language Requirement

Graduate-level courses are generally offered in English, and an adequate level of proficiency in English must be demonstrated for admission. In order to understand all course materials, the ability to speak and read French is an asset. At McGill's Faculty of Law, all students may choose to write essays, examinations, and theses in English or French. In areas such as the study of private law in the civilian tradition or comparative private law, a reading knowledge of French is essential.

For graduate applicants whose mother tongue is not English, and who have not completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from a recognized Canadian or American (English or French) institution or from a recognized foreign institution where English is the language of instruction, documented proof of English proficiency is required **prior to admission**. For a list of acceptable test scores and minimum requirements, visit [mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/eligibility](http://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/eligibility).

##### 12.1.3.1.2 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 applicant's reference letters and the quality of the research proposal.

##### 12.1.3.1.3 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 or Non-Thesis program at the Faculty of Law. For further information, see [Environment](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > : [Environment](#) or visit [mcgill.ca/mse/envroption](http://mcgill.ca/mse/envroption).
- 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 [Medicine](#) > Graduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > : [Bioethics](#) or visit [mcgill.ca/biomedicalethicsunit/teaching/masters](http://mcgill.ca/biomedicalethicsunit/teaching/masters).

##### 12.1.3.1.4 D.C.L. Programs

Applicants demonstrating outstanding academic ability will be considered for admission to the doctoral program.

In addition to the requirements for admission to the LL.M. programs, D.C.L. applicants must also hold a master's degree (or equivalent) in Law, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 out of 4.0 (or equivalent). Admission to the doctoral program is always dependent on the availability of a suitable supervisor.

##### 12.1.3.1.5 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, visit [mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/eligibility](http://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/eligibility). Graduate certificate programs are available in the following two fields:

- 1. Graduate Certificate in [Air and Space Law](#)**
- 2. Graduate Certificate in [Comparative Law](#)**

#### 12.1.3.2 Application Procedures

McGill's online application form for graduate program candidates is available at [mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply](http://mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply).

See [University Regulations & Resources](#) > Graduate > Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures > : [Application Procedures](#) for detailed application procedures.

##### 12.1.3.2.1 Additional Requirements

The items below are additional requirements set by the Faculty of Law. For further information, visit [mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/deadlines-and-documents](http://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/admissions-guide/deadlines-and-documents).

- Proof of English proficiency (for applicants whose mother tongue is not English)
- Research Proposal (D.C.L. and LL.M. applicants)
- Personal Statement (graduate certificate applicants only)
- Two Reference Letters from **academic referees**
- Curriculum Vitae
- Master's thesis (D.C.L. applicants only)

### 12.1.3.3 Application Dates and Deadlines

Application opening dates are set by Enrolment Services in consultation with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), while application deadlines are set by the Faculty of Law and may be revised at any time. Applicants must verify all deadlines and documentation requirements well in advance on the appropriate McGill departmental website; please consult the list at [mcgill.ca/gps/contact/graduate-program](https://mcgill.ca/gps/contact/graduate-program).

Application Opening Dates		Application Deadlines		
		All Applicants	Non-Canadian citizens (incl. Special, Visiting & Exchange)	Canadian citizens/Perm. residents of Canada (incl. Special, Visiting & Exchange)
<b>Fall Term:</b>	Sept. 15	Dec. 20	Dec. 20	Dec. 20
<b>Winter Term:</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Summer Term:</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The **application deadline** to all graduate programs in law (LL.M., D.C.L., Graduate Certificates) is **December 20**. **The Faculty of Law will not consider applications received on or after December 21.**

The Faculty of Law offers **Fall term admission only**; the Faculty will not consider applications for Winter or Summer entry. Applications submitted for the Winter and Summer terms will be cancelled without reimbursement of the application fee.



**Note:** The application fee is non-refundable.

### 12.1.4 Course Selection (Graduate and Postdoctoral Law Programs)

It should be noted that not all courses are offered in each year. Students wishing to pursue research topics outside of these particular fields are welcome to do so, subject to the availability of appropriate thesis supervisors.

The graduate-level Law courses are grouped into five inter-related concentrations.

#### 12.1.4.1 Legal Traditions and Legal Theory

This concentration combines two areas of strength: the coexistence of diverse legal traditions, particularly (but not exclusively) the civil and common law, and the awareness of the importance of theoretical approaches to law as a means of understanding both the internal dynamic of legal phenomena and their relationship to other social phenomena.

#### Courses offered within this concentration may include:

- Aboriginal Peoples and the Law (CMPL 500)
- Advanced Criminal Law (PUB2 501)
- Advanced Jurisprudence (CMPL 505)
- Canadian Legal History (CMPL 547)
- Civil Law Perspectives (CMPL 601)
- Common Law Perspectives (CMPL 602)
- Comparative Modern Legal History (CMPL 519)
- Feminist Legal Theory (CMPL 504)
- Human Rights & Cultural Diversity (CMPL 603)
- Jurisprudence (CMPL 501)
- Legal Education Seminar (LAWG 625)
- Legal Theory (CMPL 506)
- Legal Traditions (CMPL 600)
- Linguistic and Literary Approaches to Law (CMPL 507)
- Restitution (PRV4 500)
- Roman Law (CMPL 510)

**Courses offered within this concentration may include:**

Sentencing in Canadian Law (PUB2 504)  
 Social Diversity and Law (CMPL 511)  
 Talmudic Law (CMPL 513)  
 Theoretical Approaches to Law (CMPL 641)

**12.1.4.2 International Business Law**

This field has practical significance in international business relations and also provides opportunities to apply experience derived from multiple legal systems to the development of multi-jurisdictional, “international” commercial rules.

**Courses offered within this concentration may include:**

Airline Business and Law (ASPL 614)  
 Comparative Air Law (ASPL 632)  
 Comparative Legal Institutions (CMPL 517)  
 Copyright and Trademark Theory (BUS2 500)  
 Corporate Finance (BUS2 505)  
 European Union Law 1 (CMPL 536)  
 European Union Law 2 (CMPL 537)  
 Government Control of Business (CMPL 574)  
 Government Regulation of Space Activities (ASPL 639)  
 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 Law (ASPL 636)  
 Public International Air Law (ASPL 633)  
 Resolution of International Disputes (CMPL 533)  
 Securities Regulation (BUS2 504)

**12.1.4.3 Human Rights and Cultural Diversity**

Building on the Faculty's strength in public law, this concentration promotes the comparative study of human rights law. It provides students with opportunities to reflect critically on the emergence and institutionalization of human rights norms in both domestic and international settings and to explore complexities arising from cultural diversity.

**Courses offered within this concentration may include:**

Aboriginal Peoples and the Law (CMPL 500)  
 Advanced Criminal Law (PUB2 501)  
 Children and the Law (PRV2 500)  
 Civil Liberties (CMPL 573)

**Courses offered within this concentration may include:**

Discrimination and the Law (CMPL 575)  
Feminist Legal Theory (CMPL 504)  
Human Rights & Cultural Diversity (CMPL 603)  
International Criminal Law (PUB2 502)  
International Humanitarian Law (CMPL 565)  
International Law of Human Rights (CMPL 571)  
Law and Psychiatry (PUB2 500)  
Social Diversity and Law (CMPL 511)

**12.1.4.4 Regulation, Technology and Society**

This concentration focuses on the comparative and interdisciplinary study of legal regulation in areas of rapid technological change. It encourages critical reflection on notions of the public interest and its protection in areas as diverse as the biomedical sciences, the environment, the growth of computer networks, and the commercial exploitation of space.

**Courses offered within this concentration may include:**

Communications Law (CMPL 577)  
Comparative Medical Law (CMPL 551)  
Computers and the Law (CMPL 578)  
Environment and the Law (CMPL 580)  
Government Control of Business (CMPL 574)  
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)

**12.1.4.5 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)

**12.1.5 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).

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
CMPL 617	(3)	Master's Thesis 6

**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 (6 credits)**

The remaining 6 credits (or fewer if more credits are earned for the Master's Thesis) are chosen from among Faculty offerings at the 500 and 600 level.

**Additional Thesis 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 thesis courses by completing one or both of:

CMPL 618	(2)	Master's Thesis 7
CMPL 619	(1)	Master's Thesis 8

**12.1.6 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Bioethics (45 credits)**

The 45-credit LL.M. program, thesis option, in Bioethics is a research-intensive, interdisciplinary, 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.

Students following the Bioethics option come from the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Religious Studies, or the Department of Philosophy. Entering students pursuing an LL.M., Bioethics are bound by the requirements of the Faculty of Law's LL.M. program (thesis option). For further information regarding this program, please refer to the Bioethics section. See <https://www.mcgill.ca/biomedicaethicsunit/>.

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 (24 credits)

The Master's Thesis programs consist of a coursework component and a thesis of approximately 100 pages. As part of the thesis requirement, a 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).

BIOE 690	(3)	M.Sc. Thesis Literature Survey
BIOE 691	(3)	M.Sc. Thesis Research Proposal
BIOE 692	(6)	M.Sc. Thesis Research Progress Report
BIOE 693	(12)	M.Sc. Thesis

### Required Courses (12 credits)

BIOE 680	(3)	Bioethical Theory
BIOE 681	(3)	Bioethics Practicum
CMPL 641	(3)	Theoretical Approaches to Law
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

### Complementary Courses (9 credits)

3 credits from the following

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.

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

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.

**12.1.8 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

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

The 45-credit, LL.M. program, non-thesis option, in Environment is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment. The program considers how various dimensions (scientific, social, legal, ethical) interact to define environment and sustainability issues. It complements previous legal education through specialized graduate-level coursework and in-depth research. The program focuses on selected areas of legal scholarship and includes a written, supervised, substantial, and publishable paper in a area of interest related to the environment.

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, meaning that students usually complete their program within one calendar 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 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 (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 (21 credits)**

12-15 credits chosen from:

CMPL 500	(3)	Indigenous Peoples and the State
CMPL 546	(3)	International Environmental Law and Politics
CMPL 580	(3)	Environment and the Law

and/or other Faculty of Law offerings at the 500 level or higher.

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.

**12.1.10 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Air and Space Law (45 credits)**

The 45-credit LL.M. program, thesis option, in Air and Space 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.

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 (24 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).

ASPL 690	(3)	Master's Thesis 1
ASPL 691	(3)	Master's Thesis 2
ASPL 692	(6)	Master's Thesis 3
ASPL 693	(12)	Master's Thesis 4

### Required Courses (12 credits)

ASPL 633	(3)	Public International Air Law
ASPL 636	(3)	Private International Air Law
ASPL 637	(3)	Space Law: General Principles
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
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).

## 12.1.11 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.

### Research Project (15 credits)

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.

ASPL 655	(15)	Research Project 1
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### Required Courses (12 credits)

ASPL 633	(3)	Public International Air Law
ASPL 636	(3)	Private International Air Law
ASPL 637	(3)	Space Law: General Principles
LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

**Complementary Courses (18 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

15 credits (or fewer if more credits are earned for the research project) at the 500 level or higher chosen from among Faculty offerings (including ASPL offerings).

**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:

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

**12.1.12 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Thesis): Comparative Law (45 credits)**

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

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 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. 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).

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
CMPL 617	(3)	Master's Thesis 6

**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

**Complementary Courses (3 credits)**

The remaining 3 credits (or fewer if more credits are earned for the Master's Thesis) are chosen from among Faculty offerings at the 500 and 600 levels.

#### Additional Thesis 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 thesis courses by completing one or both of:

CMPL 618	(2)	Master's Thesis 7
CMPL 619	(1)	Master's Thesis 8

#### 12.1.13 Master of Laws (LL.M.) Law (Non-Thesis): Comparative Law (45 credits)

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

The 45-credit LL.M. program, non-thesis option, in Comparative Law 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. The third term is devoted to the Research Project, usually taken in the summer of the first year, meaning that students usually complete their program within one calendar 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 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

#### Complementary Courses (18 credits)

The remaining 18 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

#### 12.1.14 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law

The Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) program 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 3 years of residence in the Faculty. 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.

LAWG 701	(0)	Comprehensive Exam - 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)**

Some students are encouraged to take the following:

LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

**12.1.15 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)**

Some students are encouraged to take the following:

LAWG 601	(1.5)	Communication 1
LAWG 602	(1.5)	Communication 2

**12.1.16 Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) Law: Comparative Law**

The Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) program 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 3 years of residence in the Faculty. 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.

LAWG 701	(0)	Comprehensive Exam - 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)

Some students are encouraged to take the following:

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

## 12.1.17 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.

For more information, see our website: <https://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/certificate-programs>.

### Required Courses (9 credits)

ASPL 633	(3)	Public International Air Law
ASPL 636	(3)	Private International Air Law
ASPL 637	(3)	Space Law: General Principles

### Complementary Courses (6 credits)

6 additional credits of 500-level or higher law courses.

## 12.1.18 Graduate Certificate (Gr. Cert.) Comparative Law (15 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Comparative Law is offered through the Institute of Comparative Law and provides advanced legal training over one term of full-time studies or two terms of part-time studies to candidates who wish to pursue graduate legal education for career-related purposes.

The certificate is awarded after one term of residence in the Faculty and upon completion of 15 credits. In every case, the program is structured to meet individual needs and must be approved by the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

For more information, see our website: <https://mcgill.ca/law/grad-studies/certificate-programs>.

### Complementary Courses

Courses at the 500 level or higher are chosen on an individual basis.

