



**University of Miami School of Law**  
**International Semester Exchange Programs**  
**Fact Sheet**  
**(2023-2024)**

**About the University of Miami School of Law**

The University of Miami (“UM”) was founded in 1925 as a private higher education institution. UM is considered one of the largest private research universities in the United States. UM’s School of Law (“Miami Law”) is located on the Coral Gables Campus in South Miami. Its strategic location in the Miami area allows students to take advantage of studying in one of the country’s leading economic centers. For instance, Miami is the second largest international banking center in the U.S. and home to 18 of the 25 largest law firms in the U.S. UM’s School of Law has a diverse student body, 65% of students speak one or more foreign languages and students represent over 50 countries around the world. Miami Law offers its students a wide variety of courses in [18 areas of study](#):

Business Law	Constitutional Law	Criminal Law	Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law	Environmental Law	Estate Planning
Family Law	Health Care Law	Human Rights Law	Immigration Law	Intellectual Property Law	International Law
Litigation, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution	Maritime Law	Real Estate Law	Social Justice and Public Interest	Tax	Technology Law

**Why Miami Law:** Miami Law offers a small community feel and vast academic and professional options and opportunities.

**Our Community:** Miami – one of the nation’s most vibrant cities and a major economic hub, banking center, and U.S. legal market – is strategically located and optimally positioned as the ‘portal to the Americas’ with ties to other parts of the world for you to take the next step in your legal career. Miami attracts top local, national, and international scholars to teach 300+ distinct courses including short courses in unique legal topics. With a 7:1 faculty/student ratio, Miami Law professors know your name and are engaged and approachable.

**Study Side-by-Side with J.D. Students:** Miami Law allows foreign-trained LL.M. students to take courses from Miami Law's extensive course catalog of 300+ lectures, seminars, workshops, clinics, and externships annually alongside American J.D. students, providing a more rounding legal education and an opportunity to connect and network with their fellow American law students.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Exchange students can participate in student organizations, write for journals/law reviews, and volunteer through the HOPE Public Interest Resource Center. Miami Law is challenging, but it is a collaborative community where students support and look out for each other. You can choose from 55+ student organizations and law reviews to join like-minded peers focused on business, environment, human rights, international arbitration, international law, maritime law and tax to legal areas of thought such as the Democratic Law Students Association and the Federalist Society. Affinity groups are also options including Miami Law Women, Brazilian Law Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Associations, Miami Law Women and OUTLaw. LL.M. students can also get hands-on experience competing in the International Moot Court Program.

### **Ranking Highlights & Honors**

- With 70+ years of LL.M. programs, it is one of the oldest programs in the U.S.
- 77% of the 300+ upper-level courses have fewer than 25 students
- Ranked Top 25 in International Law and Clinical Programs by U.S. News & World Report
- Ranked among the Top 25 schools for foreign lawyers by International Jurist
- Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> most diverse faculty by Princeton Review Best Law Schools
- Ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in U.S. Law by QS World University Rankings
- Named "Leader in Technology Law" by PreLaw Magazine
- Named Big Law's latest go-to destination by Bloomberg Law

### **Semester Dates**

**Fall** – early August through mid-December

**Spring** – early January through mid-May

In person Orientation takes place prior to the start of classes each semester. *Exchange students should wait to make travel arrangements until the dates for Orientation are confirmed and their student visa has been issued (if necessary).*

### Application Process

Students will first need to be nominated for an exchange semester at Miami Law by their home institution, which must be one of Miami Law's partner exchange universities:

Country	Partner University
<b>Argentina</b>	University of San Andres (Buenos Aires)
<b>Belgium</b>	Ghent University
<b>Brazil</b>	Fundação Getulio Vargas School of Law (Rio de Janeiro)
	University of São Paulo Law School
<b>China</b>	Fudan University Law School (Shanghai)
	Peking University School of Transnational Law (Shenzhen)
<b>Colombia</b>	University of Los Andes School of Law (Bogota)
	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Cali)
<b>France</b>	University Paris Cité (Paris)
	CY Cergy Paris University (Cergy-Pontoise)
	University of Versailles

Country	Partner University
<b>Germany</b>	Free University Berlin
	Bucerius Law School (Hamburg)
	EBS Law School (Wiesbaden)
<b>Hong Kong</b>	The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law
<b>Ireland</b>	University College Dublin
<b>Israel</b>	Haifa University
<b>Italy</b>	University of Florence
<b>Spain</b>	ESADE Law School (Barcelona)
	Instituto Empresa (IE) (Madrid or Segovia)
	Comillas Pontifical University (Madrid)
<b>Switzerland</b>	University of Zurich

If the nomination is accepted by Miami Law, which usually occurs shortly after the nomination deadline date, the student will then be sent a Miami Law application form to complete. The application instructions will explain additional documentation and materials needed, especially those needed for processing of the I-20 form necessary for issuance of the F-1 student visa.

### Nomination Deadlines

Fall Semester: March 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring Semester: October 1<sup>st</sup>

### Application Deadlines

Fall semester: April 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring Semester: November 1<sup>st</sup>

### Application Requirements

For exchange students whose native language is not English, the TOEFL or Academic IELTS English proficiency test is required.

**TOEFL**

Minimum Score: 92 (computer-based)

**IELTS**

Minimum Score: 7.0

*Waivers of the English-language proficiency test requirement may be granted in situations where the applicant can present other evidence of English language capability, such as a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution in the U.S. or other English-speaking countries or from an accredited institution where courses are taught entirely in English.*

Once formally admitted to Miami Law's International Exchange Programs, students will receive additional information on the required documents to obtain an F-1 student visa, if necessary. More information on the I-20 issuance and F-1 student visa is available from UM's International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSS) [here](#).

**Course Offerings & Registration**

Information on courses being offered is available on the Miami Law Registrar's website under [CourseLink](#). Prior to arriving at Miami Law for orientation, students will complete a **1-on-1 virtual meeting with their Miami Law academic advisor**. After completing their course advising, students will be able to register for their courses directly through UM's student platform CaneLink. Students who must meet special home institution course requirements during their exchange semester may discuss them at the time of their 1-on-1 course advising session.

While Miami Law does not have any required courses for exchange students, it is recommended that exchange students take a course on **Introduction to U.S. Law**, which is offered in the Fall semester. Additionally, all international exchange students on an F-1 visa, must enroll in at least **11 credits** to be considered a full-time student; the maximum number of credits per semester for all international exchange students is 16 credits. International exchange students on an F-1 visa **should not enroll in online coursework** to fulfill the minimum course load. UM's ISSS office is available to answer any questions or concerns regarding course load and F-1 visa status.

Please also note that there are some courses that have pre- or co-requisites and/or that are restricted to students enrolled in certain specialty graduate law (LL.M.) programs. If interested in taking such a course, exchange students should discuss it during the individual course advising meeting. Permission may be granted by the course instructor and/or specialty program director, provided space is available. Additionally, some courses (clinics, moot court, etc.) require a two-semester commitment and are therefore not suitable for international exchange students.

Course offerings may change each semester or academic year, and Miami Law cannot guarantee the availability of any specific course. However, given the large number of courses offered at Miami Law each semester, there will always be excellent options for international exchange students.

**Language of Instruction**

Courses at Miami Law are taught in **English**. Miami Law also offers a course on "Spanish for Lawyers" for students with prior knowledge of the Spanish language (placement test required). Moreover, periodically, Miami Law may offer law courses in Spanish (e.g. Doing Business in Latin America; Latin American Contracts; Dispute Resolution in Latin America).

### Grading Scale

The following grading system currently applies:

Letter Grade	GPA
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70
D	1.00
F	0.00

Letter grades A through D are considered a passing grade. Letter grade F is considered failing.

### Miami Law's Exchange-to-LL.M. Transfer Option

International exchange students also have the opportunity to return to Miami Law after completing their primary law degree at their home institution, to complete an LL.M. degree in as little as one semester through [Miami Law's Exchange-to-LL.M. Transfer Program](#).

Students may be eligible to use credits earned during the exchange semester toward completion of an LL.M. degree. As part of the LL.M. admissions process, a determination will be made as to how many credits earned while studying at Miami Law as an exchange semester will transfer to the LL.M. program. As a general rule, a maximum of 12 credits may be transferred toward an LL.M. degree.

Former international exchange students who are accepted into the LL.M. program through this Exchange-to-LL.M. Transfer Program are also eligible to apply to the [J.D. program](#) during their first semester in the LL.M. program.

Interest in the Miami Law 1-semester LL.M. option should be discussed during the international exchange student initial advising session, as it may be taken into account when selecting courses.

### Tuition & Fees (including Health Insurance Requirements)

Exchange students will pay tuition to their home institutions, if applicable. They will not pay Miami Law tuition or mandatory fees, except for the *Health Insurance fee* and *Counseling Center fee*.

Exchange students **must** obtain health insurance for international students through UM. The health insurance cost for the Fall 2023 semester is \$1,500 (Coverage dates: 8/15/2023-1/04/24) and for the Spring 2024 semester is \$2,400 (Coverage dates: 1/05/2024-8/24/24).<sup>1</sup> More information is available at [Student Health Insurance](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Insurance rates are updated annually.

UM also provides a [Student Health Services and Counseling Center](#) on campus for students; the Counseling Center fee is approximately \$220/semester. Exchange students are **required to pay** this fee, and it is separate from the health insurance coverage. Some services at the Student Health Services Center are free upon payment of the fee; other services are not free and may be submitted for payment to the health insurance company.

Exchange students may incur **optional fees** for on campus services like:

- Wellness Center Fee (access to a full gym, indoor swimming pool, etc.): \$160/semester
- Athletic Fee (access to UM sports team's home games): \$80/semester

### **Immunizations**

Exchange Students are required to show [proof immunizations](#) against:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis
- Hepatitis B and Meningococcal Meningitis
- Flu shots are required during flu season (October through March) for all Nursing, Medical, and Physical Therapy students

All international students also must be screened for risk of tuberculosis by completing page two of the immunization form.

Most students will be able to obtain the required immunization information from their prior medical providers or from their prior high school, college or university. Students who believe that they were previously immunized, but are unable to provide proof of immunization, may either obtain blood tests confirming immunity or obtain the necessary immunizations. Immunizations and blood tests documenting immunity are available on campus at the Student Health Service.

More information about immunization requirements, documentation, etc. can be found in the Student Health Service [website](#).

### **Housing Options, Transportation & Cost of Living**

J.D. programs at American universities are professional graduate-level programs. All graduate students attending UM, including the Law School, **live off-campus**. The Law School is located in Coral Gables, a residential area. Exchange students will be invited to participate in the *Miami Law Housing and Living in Miami Online Session*, prior to the semester start date. In this online session, exchange students can learn more about living in Miami and its different neighborhoods, valuable tips, do's & don'ts, etc. More information and housing resources can be found by visiting Miami Law's [Housing & Living in Miami](#) page.

Exchange students can find housing options within walking distance of the Coral Gables campus as well as neighboring areas close to the Miami-Dade Metrorail (public transport), which has a stop near campus. More information on the Miami-Dade Metrorail is available [here](#), UM students

may qualify for a discount<sup>2</sup> on the Metrorail Monthly Pass. UM also offers bus transportation within the campus, more information is available [here](#).

The **estimated cost of living**, including housing, food, books, personal expenses and transportation, is \$18,395 per semester for the 2023/24 academic year.<sup>3</sup>

### **Travel & Visa Restrictions**

Students should consider any government restrictions on travel that may impact their travel plans. As a reminder, UM is not liable for any related expenses students incur during their planning; as such, we recommend that, when possible, students avoid financial commitments (i.e. booking travel) until closer to the start of the semester and after they have obtained any necessary travel visa.

Exchange students under and F-1 student visa can find more information on their visa requirements and restrictions by visiting UM's International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) [website](#).

### **Accessibility**

Miami Law is committed to providing all students with equal access to learning opportunities. To request accommodations please contact our [Accessibility Services](#). Here, international exchange students will find detailed information on how to request accommodations, services available and other important resources and contacts.

### **Contact Information**

Please direct any questions to:

**International Exchange Programs Office**

University of Miami School of Law  
1311 Miller Drive, Suite A-316  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
USA

**Email:** [intlexchange@law.miami.edu](mailto:intlexchange@law.miami.edu)

**Phone:** +1 (305) 284-5402

**Website:** <https://www.law.miami.edu/academics/experiential-learning/international-study-exchange-opportunities/>

### **Helpful Links**

**Miami Law:** <https://www.law.miami.edu/>

**ISSS:** <https://issm.miami.edu/>

**Student Handbook:** <https://student.law.miami.edu/policies/student-conduct/handbook/>

**Honor Code:** <https://student.law.miami.edu/exams-grades/student-honor-code/>

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<sup>2</sup> More information will be provided during Orientation.

<sup>3</sup> Cost of living estimates are updates annually.