

How to become a qualified lawyer in the US?

(these routes are examples applicable for NY State / California)

USUAL ROUTE FOR STUDENTS IN THE US:

Obtain an Undergraduate degree

Pass the LSAT (Law School Admission Test)

Go to Law School and obtain a Juris Doctor (JD) degree

Comply with the requirements to sit the Bar Exam

Pass the Bar Exam of the state of interest

STUDENTS AT IEU

Bachelor of Laws:

Option A: JD (Juris Doctor) degree

- **Through the IE-Northwestern Partnership**

Bachelor of Laws at IEU (3 years)

Complete the JD at Northwestern University (2 years) – no need to pass the LSAT

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

- **At another US University (not through the partnership)**

Bachelor of Laws at IEU (4 years)

Pass the LSAT

Complete the Juris Doctor (JD) degree in the US (3 years)

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

Option B: MAB in Spain + LLM in the US

- **Through the IE-Northwestern Partnership**

Bachelor of Laws at IEU (3 years)

Complete an LLM at Northwestern University (1 year) – no need to pass the LSAT

Complete the Máster de Acceso a la Abogacía (MAB) in Spain (1 year and a half)

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

- **At another US University (not through the partnership)***

Bachelor of Laws at IEU (4 years)

Complete the Máster de Acceso a la Abogacía (MAB) in Spain (1 year and a half)

Complete an LLM at a US University (1 year) (comply with the requirements for admission)

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

Dual Bachelor Degrees:

Option A: JD (Juris Doctor) degree

Dual Bachelor with Law at IEU (5 years)

Pass the LSAT

Complete the Juris Doctor (JD) degree in the US (3 years)

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

Option B: MAB in Spain + LLM in the US*

Dual Bachelor with Law at IEU (5 years)

Complete the Máster de Acceso a la Abogacía (MAB) in Spain (1 year and a half)

Complete an LLM at a US University (1 year) (comply with the requirements for admission)

Access to the Bar Exam of the state of interest

*Application to LLM programs:

- the Máster de Acceso a la Abogacía (MAB) is a requirement in order to apply for an LLM through the LSAC platform and to take the bar exam, as it is considered part of the mandatory legal education.
- students who don't pursue the MAB may be accepted in some universities if they apply directly through them instead of through the LSAC platform, but they may not be eligible to take the bar exam.

IEU Alumni who become qualified lawyers → "Foreign Qualified Lawyers for the US":

Bachelor of Laws or Dual Degree with Law at IEU

Become a qualified lawyer in a specific country (see requirements of specific country of interest and requirements of the relevant Bar association)

Access to the Bar Exam (this applies to the California Bar exam. For other states, please check specific requirements, as having completed an LL.M might be required).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **Always check the specific requirements for becoming a qualified lawyer of the specific state of your interest – Bar Association. Example:**

The New York State Board of Law Examiners: <https://www.nybarexam.org/Default.html>

The State Bar of California: <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/>

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is illustrative. It is the responsibility of the reader to frequently check the official sources of information mentioned in this document.

Desired Profile / Ideal Candidate

Perfect Candidate

- **Academic Experience** – Excellent GPA with outstanding academic records (Honours and minimum Excellence)
- **Languages** – Fluent in English (mandatory)
- **Extra Activities** – Participation in activities such as: Moots / Legal Clinic / LawWithoutWalls / Shadowing Program / Young Corporate Program / IE Clubs / Class Representative / Mentoring
- **International Background** – Show and demonstrate an international experience and diverse cultural background (Volunteering Programs / Internships Abroad / Exchange Programs)
- **Soft Skills** – Resilience / Communication Skills / Analytical Ability & Critical Thinking / Commercial Awareness / Presentation Skills
- You **SHOULD APPLY** to all the vacancies available in a customized and tailor-made approach. It is a matter of **quantity WITH quality**.
- You **SHOULD NOT** focus your speech on only talking about yourself, but on THE COMPANY and the value the opportunity will add to the COMPANY and your development.

LAW FIRMS IN THE US

Main law firms based on revenue:

- Baker McKenzie
- DLA Piper
- Hogan Lovells
- Jones Day
- Kirkland & Ellis
- Latham & Watkins
- Sidley Austin
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- White & Case

Feel free to check official rankings and other sources of information to identify specific firms in the US with the legal practice areas of your interest:

- [Thelawyer.com](https://www.thelawyer.com)
- [Legal-week](https://www.legalweek.com)
- [Legal500](https://www.legal500.com)
- [Chambers&Partners](https://www.chambersandpartners.com)
- [USnews](https://www.usnews.com)

Relevant search engines

- [Thelawyer.com](https://www.thelawyer.com)
- [Linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com)
- [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com)
- [Monster](https://www.monster.com)
- [Firsthand](https://www.firsthand.com)

Additionally, please check this document: [Law - International Market - All students](#)

Useful resources for your application processes

We have many resources to help you prepare for your recruitment processes!

Please access blackboard.ie.edu > Courses > Career Development subject for further information and check all the information contained in the [Professional Guide – Becoming a Law Professional](#).