



Faculty of Law (Graduate)

Programs, Courses and University Regulations

2023-2024

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

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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

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)

2.2 Location

James Administration Building, Room 400

845 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal QC H3A 0G4

Website: mcgill.ca/gps



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

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.

3 Important Dates

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

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.

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

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), 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 aw

- i. Postdocs are subject to the responsibilities outlined at mcgill.ca/students/srr and must abide by the policies listed at 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;
 -

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 fello

- Service Point
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services – Downtown and Macdonald Campuses
- Residential Facilities
- Athletics and Recreation
- Ombudsperson for Students
- Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

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)

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12.1.3 Law Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

12.1.3.1 Admission Requirements

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

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.

Information on application deadlines is available at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/application-steps/application-deadlines.

The **application deadline** to all graduate programs in Law (LL.M., D.C.L., Graduate Certificates) is **December 1. The Faculty of Law will not consider applications received on or after December 2.**

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)

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)
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 La

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. [al re](#)

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)

This program is currently not offered.

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

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

Thesis Courses (27 credits)

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

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

Required Courses (9 credits)

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

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

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)

This program is currently not offered.

The 45-credit, LL.M. program, non-thesis option, in Environment is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment. 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.52 504.F7t.

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

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:

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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 Ins.802 Tm(festu1 0of 1 157.503 52322.972m(Air and Space La)Tj1 0 0 1 213.839 52371 308m(w o

