



Master of Laws in
International Banking, Securities & Finance



INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND FINANCE

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main



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LL.M. INTERNATIONAL FINANCE PROGRAM STARTED ITS INAUGURAL YEAR ON 2 OCTOBER 2014



We had 11 students participating in the program in the academic year 2014/15 and 12 students in the academic year 2015/16. They had the opportunity to interact with the international students of the LL.M. Finance program as a result of four combined courses with the LL.M. Finance students. Further, they also participated in all extra-curricular activities which are jointly organized for all students of the ILF.



The ILF offers

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The Institute for Law and Finance (ILF) is a center for academic excellence in teaching and research in the fields of law and finance. It was established in 2002 as a foundation of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main with the support of many leading commercial banks, international law firms, consulting and accounting firms as well as regulatory authorities such as the German Central Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank), the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and the European Central Bank. In addition, the ILF provides a policy platform in the legislative process by regularly holding conferences and seminars for the purpose of promoting discussions and exchanges between academia and practitioners.



WHY STUDY AT THE ILF?

With the recent developments taking place in the banking and financial markets as well as new requirements for financial regulation being implemented, there is real need for professionals to be trained in these specialized areas of legal practice.

Our Master of Laws in International Banking, Securities and Finance (LL.M. International Finance) program for graduates from Asia offers excellent interdisciplinary and practice-oriented training in the areas of international and European banking, securities and finance law. By studying at the ILF, you will be trained not only to deal with but also to excel in this increasingly important area where the worlds of international law and global finance meet. You will be taught by prominent professors from Goethe University Frankfurt am Main as well as experts from the legal and financial industries.

Frankfurt plays a central role in European and global finance. The ILF, which is located in Frankfurt, the major financial center in Europe, provides the ideal location to train young professionals to deal with both current and future legal and financial challenges.

We strive to provide students from Asia (especially mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) with a solid and comprehensive legal and financial education set in a dynamic learning environment, thereby giving them the legal training they need to excel in their careers.



Kaiqiang Fan, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China

ILF ALUMNUS 2015

Studying at the ILF helped me a lot as many courses were taught by experienced lawyers which means that the course contents were all very practical. On the other hand, the extra-curricular activities enriched the program by allowing us to visit European governmental institutions as well as major and well-known law firms and banks. These extra-curricular visits really broadened my horizon.

In addition, ILF students had lots of opportunities to attend various conferences. I also appreciated the spectacular diversity offered at the ILF by experiencing the internationality of the program as well as the ambience of Frankfurt city, which has a perfect mix of modern and classic features.

WHERE
WE
ARE:



GOETHE UNIVERSITY, FRANKFURT CITY



The Institute for Law and Finance is situated in the House of Finance located at Campus Westend of Goethe University. Goethe University Frankfurt am Main was founded in 1914 by prominent citizens of Frankfurt and is today one of Europe's leading institutions of higher education. Goethe University celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2014.



It is a lively, urban, and cosmopolitan university which provides an excellent atmosphere for research, study, thinking, and creating. With currently more than 45,500 students, including over 7,300 international students representing more than 125 nationalities, it prides itself on a rich tradition of intellectual and cultural excellence. Right in the heart of Frankfurt City, Germany, Campus Westend of Goethe University is surrounded by a large park area with a beautiful campus atmosphere.



HOUSE OF FINANCE

The House of Finance amalgamates the University's interdisciplinary research on finance, monetary economics, and corporate and financial law under one roof. With its attractive premises and exceptional infrastructure, the House of Finance allows its numerous researchers, doctoral students and graduate students to learn, exchange ideas and conduct research in a stimulating environment.



Our students have the use of the most modern equipment and facilities and state-of-the-art technology during their studies at the ILF. In addition, they benefit from the extensive contact and network opportunities available due to the presence of researchers and experts working in the fields of law and finance at the House of Finance.



Lilun Zhao, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing, China

ILF ALUMNUS 2015

This program is also very suitable for students with an Economics, Finance or Management background because it taught us to understand the financial world from a legal perspective. Studying here, you can learn about European financial supervisory framework and methods as well as subjects such as Law of Commercial Banking and Investment Banking and Mergers & Acquisitions in practice.

If you are interested in the area of law and finance, you would definitely benefit a lot from this program.



Students have access to the specialized library housed in the House of Finance, which is based on the extensive law collection of the former Institute of Foreign and International Business Law (AIW) and contains more than 40,000 volumes, including about 100 international periodicals.

Our students can use the Jurisdata, LexisNexis and Westlaw databases, and via the University Library (Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg), they have electronic access to hundreds of legal, economic and financial journals. Students have access to all databases and the internet via WLAN at the University. ILF students can also use the library every day around the clock.

Students of the ILF are full members of the university community and are eligible to use all facilities available to students of Goethe University.

The libraries of the University's Faculty of Law and Faculty of Business and Economics are also located at Campus Westend. The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, the national library and national bibliographic information center for the Federal Republic of Germany, is also located in Frankfurt. The library resources of the Deutsche Bundesbank are also accessible to students.



Official website of Goethe University: www.uni-frankfurt.de



Pisiree Thavonseth, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

ILF ALUMNA 2015

There is no doubt in my mind that the decision to enroll as a student at the ILF is not only the right decision but is one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life. Learning at the ILF is very constructive and interactive. The courses are taught by renowned professors and professionals who are well respected in their fields of expertise. The lessons that they taught and the stories that they shared are both eye-opening and invaluable.

Furthermore, the curriculum is uniquely set up so that law students like myself would get to learn the fundamentals of business. The specialized business knowledge and legal skills are definitely helpful for graduate students entering the workforce. I would definitely recommend studying at the ILF to all my friends back home. Simply put, learning at the ILF is fun!

WHY STUDY IN



FRANKFURT CITY

Frankfurt am Main is the most international city in Germany and the largest financial center on continental Europe. There is an abundance to discover in this historical city of Goethe with its cultural offers. Almost one-third of the people living in Frankfurt do not hold a German passport. This means that wherever visitors come from, they will always meet people in Frankfurt who speak their language and a restaurant that serves their favorite food. The open and hospitable atmosphere in Frankfurt stems from its centuries-old role as a trading center.

Since the Middle Ages, the city of Frankfurt has been a major trade and financial center at the crossroads of Europe's trade routes. Today, as the leading financial marketplace in continental Europe, Frankfurt is the seat of the European Central Bank and international banks such as Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank. Many major foreign banks are also represented in Frankfurt. Thus, Frankfurt is at the center of European monetary policy and the European Economic and Monetary Union.

Major public banking institutions, including the Deutsche Bundesbank and KfW Bankengruppe, one of the EU's leading public credit institutions, are based in Frankfurt, as is one of the world's largest stock exchanges, Deutsche Börse. Deutsche Börse also houses the world's largest and most modern, all-electronic derivatives exchange, Eurex.

Official website of Frankfurt city: www.frankfurt.de





The region benefits from an outstanding telecommunications and transportation infrastructure. Frankfurt Airport is the leading airport in continental Europe and offers excellent connections within Europe and overseas.

Frankfurt's dense transportation network ensures a seamless connection to all road and rail links. Frankfurt serves as a perfect international meeting point for many people. It offers many cultural attractions, among them two opera houses, concert halls, theaters, and a great variety of museums and art galleries.

Situated along one of Europe's great rivers, the Main, Frankfurt is a vibrant city with many recreational facilities which cater to the city's international population.





Who can APPLY

Graduates holding a first degree in law, business or economics from Asia and who have good academic records are eligible to apply to join our LL.M. International Finance program.

Since English is the sole language of instruction, applicants must have a good command of written and spoken English. Class size is kept small to ensure academic excellence and direct, personal contact between students and the faculty.

DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

The LL.M. International Finance program at the ILF is a one-year postgraduate degree program. It is divided into two semesters, namely the winter semester (*October to February*) and the summer semester (*April to July*). The program commences in October and teaching on campus ends in July of the following year.

CONFIRMATION OF DEGREE AND ACCREDITATION

The LL.M. International Finance Degree is conferred by the Faculty of Law of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. The ILF and the LL.M. International Finance degree are accredited by ZEvA, Germany's Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

ZEvA is a member of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, ENQA, and participates in their Joint Quality Initiative (JQI) which has developed evaluation criteria for Bachelor and Master degrees at the European level. The ZEvA accreditation is based on internationally accepted standards of accreditation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

After graduating from the ILF, if you wish to stay and look for work in Germany, you can apply to extend your existing residence permit for up to 18 months (and work unrestricted). Such job seeker visas are granted as long as foreign students have evidence of receiving a degree from a German university, have health insurance and can support themselves financially during the period of stay.



LL.M. International Finance Program accredited in July 2014 by ZEvA (Germany's Central Evaluation Accreditation Agency) for 5 years!

Website of ZEvA: www.zeva.org



Weijia Shi, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China

ILF ALUMNA 2015

The courses at the ILF are taught by practitioners from various top international law firms and banks. We could gain a lot from the practical experiences of the lecturers apart from what is found in books. This is extremely helpful for us when we want to practise in legal and financial fields in the future.

**COMPONENTS OF THE LL.M.
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE PROGRAM
(60 ECTS) ARE:**

A) Coursework: 9 courses (45 ECTS)

B) Master's Thesis (15 ECTS)

C) Additional Courses



CURRICULUM

A. Coursework

In order to earn the LL.M. International Finance degree, students must acquire a minimum of 45 credit points through graded coursework. Credit points for a course are successfully acquired by receiving a passing grade as a result of fulfilling the specific requirements of the course (e.g. prepared attendance, presentations and exams). Students are required to attend all 11 courses offered in the program and have to pass at least 9 of the courses.

In order to increase interaction and communication between students of both the LL.M. International Finance and LL.M. Finance programs, some courses will be attended by students of both programs.

List of the 11 Courses Offered:

LAW

Capital Markets and Securities Law

Drafting of Contracts

Law of Commercial Banking*

Law of Corporate Finance

Law of Investment Banking*

Law of Project and Acquisition Finance

Nuts and Bolts of M&A

Regulation of Financial Instruments

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Global Economic Environment*

Financial Markets and Institutions*

Fundamentals of Finance

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Basics of Financial Mathematics*

Basics of European Union Law*

B. Master's Thesis

Students must submit a thesis on a subject agreed in consultation with the student's thesis adviser. With the approval of the examinations committee, a thesis may also be completed by two students, provided that the part of each student allows for an individual grading of his or her work.

The students shall show in the thesis that they can carry out independent academic work and present the results appropriately. The final thesis will be reviewed by the student's thesis adviser and by one additional examiner according to the regulations of the program. Theses could potentially be on any subject related to coursework conducted in the LL.M. International Finance program.

C. Additional Courses

During the semester as well as the break between the winter and summer semesters, specially-organized German language and Advanced Business and Legal English courses will be offered to the students. In addition, intensive intercultural communications and management training courses will be offered during the semester break. These additional courses form part of the mandatory curriculum of the program.

*combined classes with international students of LL.M. Finance program

EXTRA-CURRICULARS



Besides attending some courses in common with international students, there will also be many academic as well as social opportunities for students to interact with the ILF international students participating in the other ILF programs.

ILF students, in addition to attending public conferences, seminars and guest lectures organised by the ILF, also have the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities held during the entire academic year. Subject to possible changes, these include:



- Graduation Event
- Guided tours: Commerzbank Tower, European Central Bank, Frankfurt Stock Exchange etc.
- ILF Alumni Roundtables
- ILF Conferences and Guest Lectures
- ILF Students' Christmas Party
- Special receptions held by sponsors
- Student excursions (e.g. Berlin, Brussels or Luxembourg)
- Visit to a basketball game of the Fraport Skyliners



ILF CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

The ILF promotes the constant exchange of ideas between academics, regulatory bodies, credit institutions and the legal community. Regular series of conferences and guest lectures on topical issues related to international business and the financial markets are delivered at the ILF by leading academics and practitioners from all over the world.

Many of these conferences and lectures are open to the public and are regularly attended by ILF students and academics as well as legal and finance professionals. These conferences and lectures are announced on the ILF website at www.ilf-frankfurt.de.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



HEALTH INSURANCE

All students are required to prove that they have adequate health insurance under German law before they can be matriculated as students of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. They are required to take out a German health insurance for the duration of their studies.

This applies regardless of any private health insurance policy the student may hold in his or her home country. Students under 30 years of age can be insured with a German public insurance company while students above 30 years old must be privately insured. The costs for students under 30 years of age are currently about 80 EUR per month.

VISA/APS REQUIREMENTS

Students should apply for visas once they have accepted a place in the program. Upon such acceptance, an official letter of admission from the Dean of Goethe University's Law Faculty will be sent out. This letter of admission is necessary for you to apply for a student visa at the German embassies situated in your respective countries. Students are responsible for arranging their own visas.

The ILF is happy to provide assistance should the embassy require further information regarding student status or the planned course of study.

Students from the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam must acquire APS (Akademische Prüfstelle) certificates before they can obtain student visas to study in Germany. As APS certificates may take up to at least 3 months to be issued by the relevant authority, applications should be made early.



LIVING COSTS

Overall personal living expenses vary depending on the cost of accommodation and other personal choices. An estimate of about 800 to 1,000 EUR per month for general living expenses is a realistic calculation for the Frankfurt area.

ILF students will receive a student card from Goethe University which entitles them to use the facilities of the university, which include the university's refectories and cafeterias, where students can eat at reduced prices. Students have direct access to the facilities on Campus Westend where the ILF is located.

The student card includes a free pass to public transportation in the Frankfurt area and certain regional trains.

ACCOMMODATION



There are several accommodation options available to students in the Frankfurt area. A limited number of dormitory rooms are offered by the university's student services. However, since the demand for these rooms is usually greater than the number of rooms available, they are often quickly booked out.

Other options include student housing facilities offered by various church organizations and other non-profit housing facilities. We strongly recommend that students contact such organizations as soon as they receive notice of acceptance to the program, as these rooms are also very sought after.

The ILF is able to provide a list of these organizations and further information to help you find private accommodation in Frankfurt.

Official website of Frankfurt city: www.frankfurt.de



Fanzhong Li, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

ILF ALUMNUS 2015

Although we were at the ILF for only a relative short period of time, the curriculum was a huge surprise! There were many courses which comprehensively introduced us to professional knowledge, experiences and methods. This has absolutely broadened my outlook for my future career.

Fees



All decisions regarding admissions to the LL.M. International Finance program are made by the Admissions Committee.

TUITION FEES

The tuition fee for the LL.M. International Finance program is set at 16,000 EUR (subject to change). This fee covers tuition, the use of the ILF facilities, the use of the facilities of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, the conferment of the degree upon the successful completion of the program requirements, transcripts, degree certificates as well as selected extra-curricular activities.

It does not cover the costs of living (i.e. board and lodging), health insurance, teaching materials or computer consumables. Students shall also bear the University's semester enrolment fees (currently about 360 EUR per semester) themselves.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students will receive scholarships of 1,600 EUR (which is the equivalent of a reduction of 10% of the tuition fees) if their applications are received by the ILF by 28 February.

PAYMENT TERMS

The tuition fee shall be paid in 3 instalments:

- 20% (3,200 EUR or 2,880 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) non-refundable and to be paid within 30 days of receipt of the ILF's acceptance;
- 40% (6,400 EUR or 5,760 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) by 1 October of the year of joining the program; and
- 40% (6,400 EUR or 5,760 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) by 1 April of the subsequent year.

The Terms of Enrolment will be provided to admitted students.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

15 May: Countries where APS certificates are required (i.e. China, Mongolia and Vietnam)

1 July: All other Asian Countries

Applications submitted will be considered on a "rolling basis". Applicants will be informed of the results of their applications within 6 weeks of receipt by the ILF of the completed application. Admissions to the LL.M. International Finance program will be granted to successful applicants on a "first come first served" basis. No application fee is required.

As students from the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam need to apply for APS certificates which may take up to at least 3 months' processing time, they are highly recommended to apply for admission to the ILF as early as possible.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE ILF

Graduates with a degree in either law, business or economics from Asia are eligible to apply to join the LL.M. International Finance program. We recommend that you send in your application as early as possible in order to secure a place in our program. We accept applications sent by regular mail or courier, but not electronically.

Application

YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

APPLICATION FORM

LETTER OF MOTIVATION

CURRICULUM VITAE

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION AND TRANSCRIPTS

E.g. high school diploma, Abitur, Baccalauréat or other similar diploma. University entrance qualification document and transcripts must be submitted in English or German or as certified translations into one of these languages. All copies must be certified by a notary public or other appropriate public institutions.

ACADEMIC DEGREES AND TRANSCRIPTS

Degree certificates and transcripts must be submitted in English or German or as certified translations into one of these languages. All copies must be certified by a notary public or other appropriate public institutions.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Proficiency in English must surpass a level of TOEFL 580, CBT TOEFL 237, IBT TOEFL 92 (ILF's Institutional Code with TOEFL is 5984) or IELTS 6.5. You should request the test center to directly send a copy of the official test results to the ILF. If the testing schedules do not allow the results to be available by the application deadline, you should state in your application when the results will be available.

REFERENCES

At least two sealed and confidential letters of recommendation, preferably from university professors and/or employers must be submitted. The letters may either be included together with the application materials (as long as they are in a sealed envelope preserving confidentiality) or sent to the ILF directly by the referees. References should be current. More than two references may be included.

CLASS RANK

A written confirmation from the relevant university indicating your class rank should be included in your application. This confirmation shall state your relative standing in the year of graduation and where possible, broken down into the relevant majors (e.g. in top 5% of law graduates in the class of 2015). The total number of students should also be stated. This information is required to assess the performance of the applicant in relation to his/her peers. If a given university does not provide such information, we need a written statement by the university to that effect.

APS CERTIFICATE

For students from the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam, an APS Certificate from the Akademische Prüfstelle must be submitted. (Note: It may take up to at least 3 months for the APS certificate to be issued by the relevant body.)

TWO PASSPORT-SIZED PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOCOPY OF PASSPORT

Note: It is the policy of the ILF not to return any application materials. Once the admissions process has been completed, the application materials of applicants will be destroyed in compliance with German data protection legislation.

Contact

Institute for Law and Finance

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Managing Director



SHEN-DEE KOBBELT, LL.M. (Chicago)

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GOOD REASONS TO STUDY AT THE ILF:



- An interdisciplinary curriculum with excellent law and business/finance courses
- Lecturers consisting of leading professors from Goethe University and experts from the professional world
- A location in Frankfurt, the financial center of continental Europe
- Increased interaction with ILF international students via combined courses with them
- A program that is open to graduates of law, business or economics faculties
- German and Business English language courses
- Exclusive and intensive intercultural communications courses
- Organized student excursions (e.g. Basketball Game, Berlin, ECB, German Stock Exchange)





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