Application Instructions

Admission Requirements and Application Instructions for Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020.

This application can be used if you are applying to the University of San Francisco School of Law Master of Legal Studies in Taxation (MLST) program. Before completing the application form, please read the following information carefully to ensure prompt and accurate processing of your application. The Admissions Committee will not consider an incomplete file. If you have any questions regarding the information below, please contact Graduate Tax Programs via email at taxlaw@usfca.edu or call 415.422.2801.

- The priority deadline to submit your Spring 2020 application to USF School of Law is November 1, 2019. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis after that date.
- The priority deadline to submit your Summer 2020 application to USF School of Law is April 1, 2020. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis after that date.
- The priority deadline to submit your Fall 2020 application to USF School of Law is June 1, 2020. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis after that date.

Please note that early application filing is encouraged in order to receive an application decision in a timely manner.

The Admissions Committee reviews files in the order they are completed, on a rolling basis. Therefore, it is to the applicant’s advantage to submit the complete application with supporting materials as early as possible. Applicants will be reviewed once all required documents have been received.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic and personal criteria. Academic information to be submitted with the application includes college/university transcripts. Personal information includes extracurricular activities, employment experience, and other biographical information. Recommendations from professors or employers and a personal statement from the applicant are also required. All documents that are not in English, including transcripts and letters of recommendation, must be accompanied by an English translation.

Requirements for Admission

A. Application Form

You may download the application from our web site at: https://www.usfca.edu/law/admissions/master/apply

All mailed application materials should be sent to the following address:

University of San Francisco School of Law
Graduate Tax Program
101 Howard Street, Suite 430
San Francisco, CA 94105

You may complete the application form online and submit it electronically through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at: www.lsac.org. If applying electronically, please do not submit a hard copy of your application to the Graduate Tax Program.

- Please be sure to sign and date your application. If applying electronically, please use the electronic certification function. Unsigned applications will not be transmitted to USF.
- All required sections of the application must be completed. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

B. Application Fee

The application fee is $75.

C. Personal Statement

The Admissions Committee requires that each applicant submit a personal statement to supplement the application form. The statement should focus on your reasons for applying to the USF MLST program, and your preparation for the MLST program. The Committee is interested in your personal experiences, background, and accomplishments.

Other factors that are helpful to the Committee include co-curricular activities, areas of interest, past or present employment, and college or university honors. If applying electronically via LSAC, your personal statement may be submitted as an electronic attachment. Personal statements tend to average 2 to 4 pages in length; however, there is no page limitation to the personal statement.

A resume is not required but is recommended. It should not be used in lieu of questions asked on the application.

D. Education

All applicants are required to complete or have completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university by the time classes begin with at least a 3.00 grade point average (GPA). Individuals with an undergraduate GPA below 3.00 are welcome to apply and will be considered for admission based on employment history, professional accomplishments, recommendations, etc.

International students are eligible to apply only if they have completed a degree (equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree) from their home country or will have completed the degree by the time classes begin.

Original transcripts from all colleges or universities you have attended are required. The transcripts should show your grades,
approximate class rank (if applicable), and any degree received. If the degree received is not printed on the transcript, you must provide a copy of the diploma or certificate.

International Students: If transcripts and/or diplomas are not in English, they must be accompanied by an English translation. The transcripts must be sent directly to the USF School of Law Graduate Tax Program in sealed envelopes by your university.

Applicants can also submit their transcripts through the LSAC LLM Credential Assembly Service (LLM CAS). This service is included in the LLM CAS subscription fee. For transcripts received from institutions outside of the U.S., an International Credential Evaluation will be completed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), which will be incorporated into your LLM CAS report.

To use the LLM CAS, log in to your online account at: www.LSAC.org and follow the instructions for registering for the service. Be sure to print out a Transcript Request Form for each institution and send it to them promptly. More time is usually required to receive foreign transcripts. Questions about the LLM Credential Assembly Service can be directed to LSAC at (215) 968-1001 or LSACinfo@LSAC.org.

E. Two Letters of Recommendation

The Admissions Committee requires two (2) letters of recommendation in support of your application. An optional third letter may be submitted, but no more than three (3) letters of recommendation will be considered for one application. Although the Committee will accept recommendation letters from any two individuals designated by the applicant, the Committee suggests:

- If possible, have the two recommendations completed by undergraduate or graduate faculty members (or administrators) with whom you have studied. If you have been away from school for a considerable time, you may wish to substitute other individuals, including supervisors and business colleagues, with whom you have had more recent contact.
- Choose individuals who have had substantial and recent opportunity to observe your professional and/or academic promise. Recommendations from people who have not had such opportunity are of little assistance to the Committee and your application.

You may also submit your letters of recommendation through the LSAC Letter of Recommendation Service, which serves all member schools. This service is included in your LLM Credential Assembly Service registration (LLM CAS). Your recommendations will be copied and sent to us along with your LLM CAS report.

Additional Requirements for International Applicants:

F. English Language Requirement - International Students Only

Strong English language ability is a prerequisite to admission. For foreign students whose native language is not English, this requirement may be satisfied by having completed basic legal studies in an English-speaking country in a university where instruction was in English or by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and receiving a score of 600 PBT, 100 IBT or higher. Applicants should register to take the test as early as possible so the scores will be received by the appropriate deadline. Only TOEFL scores from tests administered by Educational Testing Services (ETS) will be accepted.
The TOEFL score report must be sent directly to USF by ETS. Use school code number 4792 to ensure the score will be forwarded to the MLST program of the USF School of Law. For information on taking the TOEFL exam, visit www.toefl.org.

As an option, applicants that use the LSAC LLM Credential Assembly Service can have the TOEFL report sent directly to LSAC using the code 0058. The score will be forwarded to USF along with an evaluation report of transcripts prepared by LSAC.

We also accept an official International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score report. Fluency in English, equivalent to an overall band score of 7.0, (with no single band score under 6.0) is required. Testing locations and times may be obtained from www.ielts.org. Only official TOEFL and IELTS scores from tests taken within two years of your application submission will be valid.

G. Certification of Finances - International Students Only

Foreign applicants (those who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents) must submit the Certification of Finances Form (also available on our web site at www.usfca.edu/law) and supporting documents, showing funds covering the nine months of study at the university. Certification may be submitted either with your application or after you are admitted. If an international applicant submits the certification and a copy of the passport identity page early and is subsequently admitted, he or she will receive the documentation required to apply for a visa more quickly. Please visit the above web site for information on the cost of attendance, tuition, and fees.

Additional Information for All Applicants

Application/Character and Fitness Updates

All applicants are required to complete the disclosure questions in the Character and Fitness section of the Application. USF requires applicants to disclose any issues related to academic probation, suspension, disqualification (particularly from a previous college or university). In addition, all applicants must disclose any felony or misdemeanor charge, arrest, conviction, or pending adjudication including a DUI (or any alcohol or drug-related offense). This includes any charge, arrest or conviction that may have been dropped or expunged. Information should include the date of each incident, full explanation of the incident, including the name of the charge, and the final disposition of each charge.

In addition, all applicants are required to notify the School of Law if any changes to the information included in their Application for Admission occur after the application has been submitted. In particular, all applicants must immediately notify the Director of Admissions if any new academic probation, suspension, or disqualification issues arise, or if any new charge, arrest or conviction of any felony or misdemeanor takes place after submitting the application.

Conviction is any of the following: (1) a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, (2) a verdict or finding of guilt regardless of whether sentence is imposed by the court. The Bar Examiners will receive reports of any such convictions from law enforcement agencies.

Newly admitted applicants are required to immediately submit a detailed written description of new disclosures to the Law School Office of Admissions if an incident occurs AFTER an offer of admission is made and to the Office of the Assistant Dean for Academic Services if an incident occurs AFTER classes begin. Information disclosed after an applicant has been offered admission will automatically result in a re-evaluation of the applicant's file.
Failure to disclose any changes to your application or any of the Character & Fitness information noted above, may result in revocation of your admission decision, dismissal from school, revocation of any degree awarded by USF School of Law, denial of admission to the Bar, and referral to the LSAC Subcommittee on Misconduct and Irregularities in the Admission Process.

Financial Aid

The USF School of Law awards a limited number of tuition scholarships each year to highly qualified applicants. All applicants are reviewed for merit based scholarship aid at the same time they are reviewed for admission. No additional documents than those listed above are required.

U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents needing additional financial aid may submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible upon admission after January 1 for federal aid. Such students may qualify for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan of up to $20,500 annually. Additional federal aid is available through the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, a credit based loan offered through the federal government. U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents needing additional financial aid information should visit the law school web site on financial aid at: www.usfca.edu/law/financialaid. In addition, a Citibank program offers loans to international students, who are neither citizens nor permanent residents, if they have a credit-worthy U.S. citizen as a co-signor. See www.citassist.com.

Application Materials

All materials and correspondence relating to admission or your USF School of Law MLST application should be directed to the Graduate Tax Programs. Once submitted, all materials become the property of the School of Law and will not be returned or copied. Please keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents for your records.

Status Checks

Applicants can check their status online at LSAC.org. All applicants will be notified by e-mail once their application is received by USF, when the application file becomes complete, and as soon as an admission decision has been reached.

Contact Information

University of San Francisco School of Law
Graduate Tax Programs
101 Howard Street, Suite 430
San Francisco, CA 94105
415.422.2801
**Entering Status**
Are you a graduate of USF School of Law or are you a currently registered law student?

If yes, please complete the Tax LL.M. Program Document Release Form and submit with your application.

___ Yes
___ No

**Areas of Interest**
Identify any areas of law in which you now have an interest. Check all that apply.

___ Other (Fillable)
___ Corporate Taxation
___ Executive Compensation Taxation
___ Federal Taxation Procedure
___ Foreign Bank Account Taxation
___ Nonprofit Taxation
___ Real Estate Taxation
___ State and Local Taxation
___ Taxation Ethics
___ Taxation of Trusts, Estates, and Gifts

If you checked Other in the Areas of Interest, please indicate:

________________________________________________________________________

**Biographical**
Prefix_________________________________________ Date of birth_________________________________________
First name______________________________________ Place of birth: City_____________________________________
Middle name____________________________________ Place of birth: Country______________________________
Last name_______________________________________ Place of birth: State/Province________________________
Suffix__________________________________________ Gender_____________________________________________
Previous (other) name____________________________ Social security number___________________________
Preferred first name______________________________ LSAC account number_____________________________
Demographics

Citizenship

___ Non-Resident Alien
___ US Citizen
___ US Permanent Resident

Country of citizenship________________________

Visa type____________________________________

Visa/SEVIS number____________________________

Permanent resident number_____________________

Permanent city_______________________________

Permanent state/province_______________________

Permanent country____________________________

Native language_______________________________

Ethnicity

Are you Hispanic or Latino?
___ Yes
___ No

If you selected 'Yes' to the above question, select an ethnicity.

___ Central American  ___ Cuban  ___ Hispanic
___ Mexican  ___ Other Spanish Origin  ___ Puerto Rican
___ South American
Demographics continued

What is your race? Select one or more races to indicate what you consider yourself to be.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian
   ___ Aboriginal/Torres Strait Isl. Australian

American Indian or Alaskan Native
   ___ American Indian/Alaskan Native

Asian
   ___ Chinese
   ___ Japanese
   ___ Pakistani
   ___ Filipino
   ___ Korean
   ___ Southeast Asian
   ___ Indian
   ___ Other Asian Origin

Black or African American
   ___ Black/African American

Canadian Aboriginal/Indigenous
   ___ Canadian Aboriginal/Indigenous

Caucasian/White
   ___ Eastern European
   ___ Middle Eastern
   ___ Western European
   ___ North African

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   ___ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Consent
   ___ Decline to respond

Tribal Affiliation

Tribal affiliation or village name______________________

Enrollment number (enrolled members only)_________
Contact Information

Current Address
Country________________________________________
Street address--line 1________________________________
Street address--line 2________________________________
Street address--line 3________________________________
City______________________________________________
State/province____________________________________
Zip/postal code_____________________________________

Current mailing address good until date________________
Day phone_________________________________________
Evening phone_____________________________________

Permanent Address
Country________________________________________
Street address--line 1________________________________
Street address--line 2________________________________
Street address--line 3________________________________
City______________________________________________
State/province____________________________________
Zip/postal code_____________________________________

Permanent mailing address good until date___________
Day phone_________________________________________
Evening phone_____________________________________

Other Contact Information
Primary e-mail address____________________________
Secondary e-mail address__________________________
Permanent e-mail address__________________________
Mobile phone_____________________________________

University of San Francisco School of Law can send text messages to my mobile phone.
_____Yes
_____No
Standardized Testing

TOEFL

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<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Test Score</th>
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IELTS

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Education

List ALL educational institutions attended.

Institution type  High School  Undergraduate  Graduate  Law  Other Post Graduate

Institution name

Major

Country  Start date

State/Province  End date

City  Degree

GPA  Date degree granted

Rank
### Education continued

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institution type</th>
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Have you ever attended any law school?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Education continued
Did you leave the law school under less than good standing?
   ____ Yes
   ____ No
If you did not leave the law school in good standing, explain the circumstances.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
List the academic honors, awards, or other recognitions you have received and explain the reason(s) upon which awards were made.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

English Language
What is your native language?
________________________________________________________________________

In your current or previous work experience, how often had you been required to use English? Please check one.
   ____0%-25%
   ____26%-50%
   ____51%-75%
   ____76%-100%
# Employment

List all employment including internships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment type</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Unpaid Internship</th>
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<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>State/Province</th>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>End date</th>
<th>Reason for leaving</th>
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</table>
Employment continued

Employment type____ Full-time____ Part-time____ Internship____ Unpaid Internship

Employer______________________________________________________________

Position_________________________________________ Country__________________________

Hours per week________________________________ State/Province__________________________

Start date________________________________________ City_____________________________________

End date____________________________________________

Reason for leaving________________________________________________________

Total number of months with full-time work experience:

List your extracurricular, community, or other activities in the order of their importance to you. Give a brief description of your involvement, including any special responsibilities or leadership positions held.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Professional Experience

If you are currently practicing law, indicate the number of years of employment.

_____2-4 Years

_____5-10 Years

_____Less Than 2 Years

_____Over 10 Years

Military

Have you served or are you now serving on full-time, active US military duty?

_____Yes

_____No
Military continued

Date of entrance (month/year) ________________

Date of discharge (month/year) ________________

Rank_____________________________________

Expected military reserve or National Guard status during law school
__________________________________________

Branch_____________________________________

Discharge type ______________________________

Have you ever been separated from any branch of the US armed forces under less than honorable conditions?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Bar Admission

List the states and/or countries, dates of admittance, and the current status (active/inactive) to practice law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date of Admittance</th>
<th>State or Province</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
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<td>Active Inactive</td>
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</table>

If you are not a member of the bar in any state/country, when do you plan to sit for a bar examination and in which state/country?

Planned bar exam date_________________________

Country_____________________________________

State or Province____________________________
Bar Admission continued
If you are not qualified to practice law, have you completed all of the academic (university level) legal education requirements necessary to take the bar examination?

_____ Yes
_____ No

If you have answered 'No' to the above question, when do you expect to complete the legal education requirements?

________________________________________

Family
Next of Kin/Emergency Contact
Salutation ________________________________  Country ________________________________
First (given) name ___________________________ Street address--line 1 ____________________
Middle name/initial ___________________________ Street address--line 2 ____________________
Last (family) name ___________________________ Street address--line 3 ____________________
Relationship to applicant ____________________  City ________________________________
Telephone (include area code) ________________  State/province _________________________
                                                                                       Zip/postal code ______________________

If you have any close relatives who have been students at this university, please provide the following information.

Relative 1                                      Relative 2
_____ Law school______ University                _____ Law school______ University
First (given) name ______________________________ First (given) name __________________
Middle name/initial ____________________________ Middle name/initial __________________
Last (family) name ______________________________ Last (family) name __________________
Relationship to applicant ______________________ Relationship to applicant __________________
School attended _______________________________ School attended ______________________
Start date (month/year) _________________________ Start date (month/year) __________________
End date (month/year) __________________________ End date (month/year) __________________
Degree awarded ________________________________ Degree awarded _________________________
Family continued

Parent/Guardian - 1

___Choose not to answer
___Deceased
First (given) name __________________________
Middle name/initial __________________________
Last (family) name __________________________

Parent/Guardian - 2

___Choose not to answer
___Deceased
First (given) name __________________________
Middle name/initial __________________________
Last (family) name __________________________

Law School Interest

What prompted you to apply to this law school?

Internet

___ABA
___Law School
___LSAC
___Other

Faculty/Alumni/Professional

___Admissions recruiter
___Alumni
___Faculty/acquaintance
___Law school faculty member
___Legal professional
___Prelaw advisor
___Relative
___University/college faculty member

Publications

___Law school publication
___LSAC Official Guide to ABA Law Schools
___Other advertisement
___Princeton Review
___US News & World Report

Recruiting Events

___Campus event
___Current student
___International forum
___Law school direct mail/e-mail
___Law school fair
___LSAC Forum
Law School Interest continued

If you attended any events mentioned in the Recruiting Events section, please list them below:

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Have you previously applied to this law school?

____ Yes
____ No

If you applied previously, what year was the application for?

________________________________________________________

Were you offered admission?

____ Yes
____ No

Are you applying, or have you applied, to other law schools? If so, please list them.

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Sources of Information

Sources of Information about the USF MLST Program. Please check all that apply.

____ ASIL.org
____ Education USA
____ Masterstudies.com Website
____ National Jurist Website
____ Other
____ USF Website
Character and Fitness

I have reviewed the Application/Character & Fitness Updates disclosure information in the Application Instructions.

_____ I have reviewed this statement

Have you ever been on academic probation, disqualified, suspended, expelled, or subject to a disciplinary proceeding by any post-secondary institution or professional organization or agency in regards to conduct or academic performance?

(IF YES, PROVIDE NAME OF INSTITUTION, THE EXACT DATES OF EACH SITUATION AND EXPLAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN AN ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENT.)

_____ Yes
_____ No

Have you ever been charged, arrested for or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or are any such charges pending against you? This includes any charge, arrest or conviction that may have been dropped or expunged. (IF YES, PROVIDE IN AN ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENT THE NAME OF EACH OFFENSE, THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT(S), EXACT DATES OF EACH OFFENSE, NATURE OF THE OFFENSE AND DISPOSITION OF EACH OFFENSE.)

_____ Yes
_____ No

Certification

By applying electronically, I hereby certify that all information I submit in support of my application, is complete and true and that I am the author of any statements or additional information I submit. I understand that any changes or updates to my application, must be submitted immediately to the USF School of Law Admissions Office. I understand that any false or incomplete information is grounds for denial of my application and referral to the LSAC Subcommittee on Misconduct and Irregularities in the Admission Process, or if discovered after admission, grounds for revocation of my admission, dismissal from the law school or revocation of my degree.

Signature:

__________________________________________

Date:

__________________________________________