Information for International Applicants – MLS

Southern Illinois University School of Law has both a full-time and a part-time Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program with admission always beginning in the Fall semester to allow students to take LAW 498 and/or LAW 499.

Students interested in applying as an international student must:

• complete an MLS application at the School of Law,
• complete an application at the Graduate School, and
• have taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. To be considered for admission, applicants must have a minimum score of 550 (paper based test), 213 (computer based test) or 80 (internet based test) on the TOEFL or 6.5 on the IELTS. Applicants will need to retake either the TOEFL or the IELTS if the minimum score is not earned. The TOEFL or IELTS requirement may be waived if the applicant has obtained an undergraduate degree in North America and has a minimum of 100 graded (A,B,C) hours of recent coursework completed at an accredited college/university in the United States. Pass/Fail, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, and Proficiency credit is not acceptable.

All international applicants should know that they are generally ineligible for educational expense loans available to United States citizens. Therefore, they must be prepared to provide the financial resources for all educational and personal expenses for the duration of the program.

Applicants who are admitted to the program will be required to participate in the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) Graduate Student English (GSE) program or an equivalent program prior to matriculation, unless this requirement is waived. The Director of Graduate Legal Studies will notify the applicant of this requirement at time of admission.

Admitted international students who need an I-20 form to enter the U.S. should contact Michelle Neill at the Center for International Education. Michelle can be reached at mneill@siu.edu or 618.453.5774.

All of the following documents must be received in order to provide a complete international application.

• Application and Application fee
• Personal Statement and Resume
• Official transcripts from all institutions attended
• Two letters of recommendation
• TOEFL or IELTS score
• Explanation and Documentation for Character & Fitness section of application, if applicable

Address to send application materials and supplemental documents:

Southern Illinois University School of Law
Office of Admissions – MLS Program
1150 Douglas Drive, Mail Code 6804
Carbondale, IL 62901
(Updated 9/3/13)