

## *Dual degree program*

# **MA/Sustainable International Development & JD/Northeastern University School of Law**

Together with the Northeastern University School of Law, the Heller School offers a dual degree JD/MA in Sustainable International Development. The accelerated four-year program, including combined law/international development co-ops, gives students experience in applying the law in an international development context.

The programs in Sustainable International Development (SID) form a community of concerned students and faculty drawn from around the world. Our mission is to help build a new generation of development planners and policy makers in the U.S. and abroad for whom a global society free of poverty, preventable disease, and environmental degradation is available.

The Northeastern University School of Law is a national leader in education, research and service initiatives addressing the most pressing challenges facing society. Through its clinics, institutes and research centers, faculty and students advocate together for those too-often underrepresented in the justice system.

### **Examples of Law/International Development Co-ops**

- Alternatives for Community and Environment, Boston
- Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Geneva, Switzerland
- Ceres, Inc., Boston
- Conservation Law Foundation, Boston
- Global Justice Center, New York
- Global Rights, Washington, DC
- Human Rights First, New York
- International Consortium for Law and Development, Boston
- International Rescue Committee, New York
- Liberty, London, England
- National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York
- National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Washington, DC
- Oxfam America, Boston

### **Curriculum**

The Master of Arts degree in SID is awarded based on one year in residence at Brandeis, followed by one year of either advanced study or a professional-level internship in the field. Students are required to complete a Master's Paper and to attend a week-long capstone program at the completion of the two years.

The Juris Doctor degree is conferred on students who successfully complete the three-year program consisting of 103 quarter hours of academic credit, four quarters of cooperative work under the supervision of an attorney, and fulfillment of the public interest graduation requirement. The academic credits are earned during three years. In the first year, students are in full-time residence for two semesters (three quarters). In the second and third year, students spend four quarters in residence and four quarters in work placements called "co-ops".

Completion of the JD/MA dual-degree program takes four years, rather than the average five years if the degrees were obtained separately. A carefully sequenced curriculum allows some courses at each school to count for credit in both programs.



## Curriculum

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four
<b>Summer</b>		Law Co-op	SID courses	Law School courses
<b>Fall</b>	First Year Law courses	Law School courses	SID courses	Law/SID Co-op
<b>Winter</b>	First Year Law courses	Law Co-op	SID courses	Law School courses
<b>Spring</b>	First Year Law courses	Law School courses	SID courses	Law/SID Co-op

*This sequence assumes the student begins the program in the Law School. The sequence will vary if the student begins the program in the Heller School.*

## Application Requirements

Candidates for the dual degree JD/MA program must independently apply and gain admission to each program. Candidates may apply for both components of the dual degree program prior to matriculation at the law school, or may wait until their first year or second year of law studies is underway before seeking admission to the Heller School. Alternatively, students in the MA program at the Heller School may apply to the law school during their first year of studies in the MA program provided they take the LSAT by February and apply by March 1st. Acceptance to one program does not guarantee acceptance to the dual degree program.

Students should apply online to the law school through LSAC (<http://lsac.org/>). The Heller School application can be completed at [www.heller.brandeis.edu/sid](http://www.heller.brandeis.edu/sid). Northeastern will forward the law admission file to Brandeis, including letters of recommendation, test scores, and transcripts. GRE scores are not required for admission to the Heller School program. Students should submit a statement of purpose and CV directly to Heller.

## Career Counseling

Graduates of the dual degree program will have the advantage of working with counselors from the offices of career services from both institutions.

The Heller School prepares students for leadership roles in a complex, multi-cultural society. The school's academic rigor and intellectual integrity provide a solid core that will stretch to push traditional boundaries, giving students the skills and perspectives to make a difference and to have a major impact on the lives of people here and abroad. The Heller School Career Services Office helps to place MA/SID graduates at a wide range of domestic and international NGOs, governmental and public and private agencies.

The NUSL Office of Career Services, in collaboration with the Office of Cooperative Legal Education, helps students and graduates with all phases of short-term and long-term career planning. The placement rate is consistently strong, and, on average, 40 percent of students accept post-graduate employment with one of their former co-op employers. Northeastern graduates work in the United States and abroad in careers that reflect the depth and breadth available to individuals who look for challenge, stimulation, meaning and satisfaction in their lives.

