FAQ - Certificate of Specialization in International Law

Q: Do I need to submit an application if I’ve fulfilled the certificate requirements, or will I automatically be considered?

A: **YOU NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.** The application is found on the website for the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law, at https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/the-miller-institute-for-global-challenges-and-law/certificate-of-specialization-in-international-law/.

Q: How do I submit the application? When is it due?

A: E-mail the completed application to <InternationalLawCertificate@law.berkeley.edu>. The due date is April 10 of each year. Only graduating students are eligible to apply.

Q: Can I waive out of the basic four-unit International Law class?

A: It’s possible for LL.M. students, but you will need approval for the course you took previously and now wish to substitute for the Berkeley Law International Law course. Email your transcript, and indicate the professor and type of class. It is not possible for J.D. students, with the limited exception of transfer students, who would follow the procedure for LL.M. students. Students who are allowed to waive the basic International Law course will need to take another four units of international or comparative law courses at Berkeley Law instead.

Q: Can I use written work produced in the International Human Rights Law Clinic to satisfy the writing requirement for the International Law certificate?

A: We approve work written for clinics as fulfilling the "major research paper" requirement on a case-by-case basis. Email the International Law Certificate coordinator with the topic of your work, the name of your supervisor and the approximate page count. If your topic is provisionally approved, we’ll ask for a confirming note from the supervising faculty member.

Q: What are the page requirements for the writing required for the Certificate?

A: Approximately 20–30 pages.

Q: Can a student count course units for a class in which they received an IP grade toward the course unit requirements?

A: Yes, as long as the professor emails to confirm that the student is on track to have the IP removed.
Q: Do the International Human Rights Law Clinic and Seminar both count as course units for the “other IL units” requirement?

A: Yes.

Q: Does participation in BJIL (*Berkeley Journal of International Law*) and/or JMEIL (*Journal of Middle Eastern & Islamic Law*) count toward Certificate credit?

A: Yes, we'll just need a note from the editor verifying your involvement.

Q: Does work in a Student-Initiated Legal Project count toward Certificate credit?

A: No.

Q: Do the unit requirements have to be completed earlier than the last semester 3L year?

A: No, you may list classes and papers that will be complete at the end of your final semester.

Q: If I fulfill the Certificate writing requirement by taking an independent study course (299), will those credits count as International Law credits?

A: Independent Study credits are approved on a case-by-case basis. You will need to email the International Law Certificate coordinator with your topic and the name of your supervisor.

Q: The paper I plan to submit won’t be finished until the end of the last semester 3L year. Can I submit a draft?

A: It's possible, but it will need to be approved by your supervising faculty member. You'll need to send a description of the paper and the name of the professor supervising the paper. If it is approved, you'll need to send the completed paper by the end of the semester.

Q: Who is the International Law Certificate coordinator?

A: Ms. Karen Chin, who can be reached at <InternationalLawCertificate@law.berkeley.edu>.