Several law schools offer advanced degrees online
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While many colleges and universities provide individuals with opportunities to earn graduate degrees online, it is not easy for law students to find programs available entirely over the Internet.

However, Washington University School of Law in St. Louis now joins a small number of schools that provides online legal programs. In a recent press release, the university announced that as of January 2013, students will be able to earn a Master of Laws (LLM) in U.S. Law for Foreign Lawyers by taking Web-based courses.

As this program is designed for attorneys living in foreign countries, it only made sense to offer it over the Internet. No matter what country students practice in, they have the ability to earn an LLM in U.S. law, as long as they have access to the Web. This, in turn, saves them the hassle and high costs that would come with relocating to the U.S.

"We aim to produce extraordinary graduates who benefit from the highest caliber online education available, and to ensure that the quality equals or exceeds the quality of the best LLM programs in the world," said Kent Syverud, dean of the law school.

The University already offers an on-campus version of this LLM program, but promises the quality of education students receive through its online program will be identical. In addition to taking Web-based classes, students will have the option of participating in an optional summer immersion program in the U.S.

While online legal programs are not as common as other Internet-based graduate degrees, several law schools do offer them.

Students can apply to New York University Law’s Executive LLM in Tax, which is available over the Internet. Those who enroll in this program can take courses, and even their final exams, online. However, students are more than welcome to take classes in a physical classroom if they so desire.

The School of Law at Loyola University Chicago also offers students the chance to work toward earning a legal degree either online or in person. According to the school’s Web site, individuals can pursue an LLM in Health Law, which is designed to be completed within two calendar years.

Whether individuals choose to apply to online or on-campus legal programs, there are those who believe that Web-based education is the future.
"I think if we can deliver legal instruction online to people at a level of quality that mimics what we’re able to do in the classroom, it’s going to be a change agent over the coming years, even if people don’t want it to be," said Syverud, as quoted by Inside Higher Ed.