LL.M. INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

(Program for Graduates from Asia)

Master of Laws in
International Banking, Securities & Finance

INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND FINANCE
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
The ILF offers
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LL.M. INTERNATIONAL FINANCE PROGRAM STARTED ITS INAUGURAL YEAR ON 2 OCTOBER 2014

A total of 11 students joined the program in the inaugural academic year 2014/15. They have the opportunity to interact with the international students of the LL.M. Finance program 2014/15 as a result of four combined courses with the LL.M. Finance students. Further, they also participate in all extra-curricular activities which are jointly organized for all students of the ILF.
The ILF offers

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The Institute for Law and Finance (ILF) is a center for academic excellence in teaching and research in the fields of law and finance. It was established in 2002 as a foundation of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main with the support of many leading commercial banks, international law firms, consulting and accounting firms as well as regulatory authorities such as the German Central Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank), the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and the European Central Bank. In addition, the ILF provides a policy platform in the legislative process by regularly holding conferences and seminars for the purpose of promoting discussions and exchanges between academia and practitioners.

WHY STUDY AT THE ILF?

With the recent developments taking place in the banking and financial markets as well as new requirements for financial regulation being implemented, there is real need for professionals to be trained in these specialized areas of legal practice.

Our Master of Laws in International Banking, Securities and Finance (LL.M. International Finance) program for graduates from Asia offers excellent interdisciplinary and practice-oriented training in the areas of international and European banking, securities and finance law. By studying at the ILF, you will be trained not only to deal with but also to excel in this increasingly important area where the worlds of international law and global finance meet. You will be taught by prominent professors from Goethe University Frankfurt am Main as well as experts from the legal and financial industries.

Frankfurt plays a central role in European and global finance. The ILF, which is located in Frankfurt, the major financial center in Europe, provides the ideal location to train young professionals to deal with both current and future legal and financial challenges.

We strive to provide students from Asia (especially mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) with a solid and comprehensive legal and financial education set in a dynamic learning environment, thereby giving them the legal training they need to excel in their careers.

Miao Lin, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai

ILF ALUMNA 2010

Studying at the Institute for Law and Finance was a truly rewarding experience. It gave me a new perspective when dealing with the law and applying it in the context of corporate financing. In addition to learning substantive law, finance and economics, I value the insights and practical experience which I gained from experienced attorneys giving their lectures.

From this program, I got to learn various types of financing available to companies and how they are structured and documented. I was also guided to think from standpoints of different market players, either as a company official, a banker or an attorney. This helped me gain a comprehensive understanding for my current work.
The study at the ILF broadens my horizon of legal research and grants me an access to the latest developments in the field of financial law. On this academic platform, I had the opportunity to communicate with top experts and scholars who give lectures on the new focuses in the areas of banking, capital markets and financial supervision in the EU and U.S. They not only expound the frameworks and theories, but also introduce the operations and processes in practice, which strengthens my understanding of the structures of various financial instruments and the characteristics of financial markets. Thank you, ILF.
Students have access to the specialized library housed in the House of Finance, which is based on the extensive law collection of the former Institute of Foreign and International Business Law (AIW) and contains more than 40,000 volumes, including about 100 international periodicals.

Our students can use the Jurisdata, LexisNexis and Westlaw databases, and via the University Library (Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg), they have electronic access to hundreds of legal, economic and financial journals. Students have access to all databases and the internet via WLAN at the University. ILF students can also use the library every day around the clock.

Students of the ILF are full members of the university community and are eligible to use all facilities available to students of Goethe University.

The libraries of the University’s Faculty of Law and Faculty of Business and Economics are also located at Campus Westend. The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, the national library and national bibliographic information center for the Federal Republic of Germany, is also located in Frankfurt. The library resources of the Deutsche Bundesbank are also accessible to students.

Goethe University was ranked Number 10 in the world regarding the employability of its graduates by global companies in the New York Times on 25 October 2012!

Official website of Goethe University: www.uni-frankfurt.de

Ran Bi, Wuhan University, Wuhan

ILF ALUMNA 2011

This program is terrific! During the one-year LL.M. program, I have obtained a vast amount of knowledge in both Law and Finance and have practiced in a reputed international law firm, which altogether have laid a solid foundation for my career as a lawyer.

I really appreciate it that the ILF has provided me with this opportunity and I believe that this is the most valuable and unforgettable experience in my life!
Simiao Xiong, Peking University Law School, Beijing

ILF ALUMNA 2013

I am very satisfied with the LL.M. program. The legal courses offered here cover the main areas of practice and are well tailored for business lawyers. The finance part is very beneficial as it renders a different perspective and better understanding of legal issues. I am sure that the LL.M. program will help me bridge the gap between academic and professional life.

FRANKFURT CITY

Frankfurt am Main is the most international city in Germany and the largest financial center on continental Europe. There is an abundance to discover in this historical city of Goethe with its cultural offers. Almost one-third of the people living in Frankfurt do not hold a German passport. This means that wherever visitors come from, they will always meet people in Frankfurt who speak their language and a restaurant that serves their favorite food. The open and hospitable atmosphere in Frankfurt stems from its centuries-old role as a trading center.

Since the Middle Ages, the city of Frankfurt has been a major trade and financial center at the crossroads of Europe's trade routes. Today, as the leading financial marketplace in continental Europe, Frankfurt is the seat of the European Central Bank and international banks such as Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank. Many major foreign banks are also represented in Frankfurt. Thus, Frankfurt is at the center of European monetary policy and the European Economic and Monetary Union.

Major public banking institutions, including the Deutsche Bundesbank and KfW Bankengruppe, one of the EU’s leading public credit institutions, are based in Frankfurt, as is one of the world’s largest stock exchanges, Deutsche Börse. Deutsche Börse also houses the world’s largest and most modern, all-electronic derivatives exchange, Eurex.
The courses offered at the ILF combine Law, Economics and Finance. I benefitted a lot from the interdisciplinary and international teaching method and it made me consider issues from different perspectives. The experience at the ILF also gave me the opportunity to get to know people in an international environment. My classmates came from more than 30 different countries and most of them are experienced lawyers or bankers. By communicating with them, I could appreciate different cultures as well as learn from them professionally. I had an extremely enriching and interesting experience studying at the ILF.

The region benefits from an outstanding telecommunications and transportation infrastructure. Frankfurt Airport is the leading airport in continental Europe and offers excellent connections within Europe and overseas.

Frankfurt’s dense transportation network ensures a seamless connection to all road and rail links. Frankfurt serves as a perfect international meeting point for many people. It offers many cultural attractions, among them two opera houses, concert halls, theaters, and a great variety of museums and art galleries.

Situated along one of Europe’s great rivers, the Main, Frankfurt is a vibrant city with many recreational facilities which cater to the city’s international population.

Official website of Frankfurt city: [www.frankfurt.de](http://www.frankfurt.de)
Who can apply?

Grads, holding a first degree in law, business or economics from Asia (especially mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) and who have good academic records are eligible to apply to join our LL.M. International Finance program.

Since English is the sole language of instruction, applicants must have a good command of written and spoken English. No more than 40 students will be admitted in order to ensure academic excellence and direct, personal contact between students and the faculty.

Duration of the program

The LL.M. International Finance program at the ILF is a one-year postgraduate degree program. It is divided into two semesters, namely the winter semester (October to February) and the summer semester (April to July). The program commences in October and teaching on campus ends in July of the following year.

Conferment of degree and accreditation

The LL.M. International Finance Degree is conferred by the Faculty of Law of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. The ILF and the LL.M. International Finance degree are accredited by ZEvA, Germany’s Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

ZEvA is a member of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, ENQA, and participates in their Joint Quality Initiative (JQI) which has developed evaluation criteria for Bachelor and Master degrees at the European level. The ZEvA accreditation is based on internationally accepted standards of accreditation.

Lin Ye, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai

ILF ALUMNA 2014

At the ILF, you will have the opportunity to communicate with many experts from various industries and thus get to know different commercial customs, which is a necessary tool for those who want to be engaged in the legal sector later. Most of the lecturers are professionals in major law firms and financial institutions, which means that such a platform provides many chances for a good career start and further development.

The management board at the ILF is very concerned about the well-being of the Chinese students. Therefore, you do not have to be too worried even if you do not have any foreign experience. I feel very lucky to have been able to study here and hope that more Chinese students could join the ILF to enrich their lives.
COMPONENTS OF THE LL.M. INTERNATIONAL FINANCE PROGRAM (60 ECTS) ARE:

A) Coursework: 9 courses (45 ECTS)
B) Master’s Thesis (15 ECTS)
C) Additional Courses

A. Coursework

In order to earn the LL.M. International Finance degree, students must acquire a minimum of 45 credit points through graded coursework. Credit points for a course are successfully acquired by receiving a passing grade as a result of fulfilling the specific requirements of the course (e.g. prepared attendance, presentations and exams). Students are required to attend all 11 courses offered in the program and have to pass at least 9 of the courses.

In order to increase interaction and communication between students of both the LL.M. International Finance and LL.M. Finance programs, some courses will be attended by students of both programs.

List of the 11 Courses Offered:

LAW

Capital Markets and Securities Law
Drafting of Contracts
Law of Commercial Banking*
Law of Corporate Finance
Law of Investment Banking*
Law of Project and Acquisition Finance
Nuts and Bolts of M&A
Regulation of Financial Instruments

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Global Economic Environment*
Financial Markets and Institutions*
Fundamentals of Finance

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Basics of Financial Mathematics*
Basics of European Union Law*

B. Master’s Thesis

Students must submit a thesis on a subject agreed in consultation with the student’s thesis adviser. With the approval of the examinations committee, a thesis may also be completed by two students, provided that the part of each student allows for an individual grading of his or her work.

The students shall show in the thesis that they can carry out independent academic work and present the results appropriately. The final thesis will be reviewed by the student’s thesis adviser and by one additional examiner according to the regulations of the program. Theses could potentially be on any subject related to coursework conducted in the LL.M. International Finance program.

C. Additional Courses

During the semester as well as the break between the winter and summer semesters, specially-organized German language and Advanced Business and Legal English courses will be offered to the students. In addition, intensive intercultural communications courses will be offered during the semester break. These additional courses form part of the mandatory curriculum of the program.

*combined classes with international students of LL.M. Finance program
EXTRA-CURRICULARS

Besides attending some courses in common with international students, there will also be many academic as well as social opportunities for students to interact with the ILF international students participating in the other ILF programs.

ILF students, in addition to attending public conferences, seminars and guest lectures organised by the ILF, also have the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities held during the entire academic year. Subject to possible changes, these include:

- Graduation Event
- Guided tours: Commerzbank Tower, European Central Bank, Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Lufthansa etc.
- ILF Alumni Roundtables
- ILF Conferences and Guest Lectures
- ILF Students’ Christmas Party
- Special receptions held by sponsors
- Student excursions (e.g. Berlin, Brussels or Heidelberg)
- Visit to a basketball game of the Fraport Skyliners

ILF CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

The ILF promotes the constant exchange of ideas between academics, regulatory bodies, credit institutions and the legal community. Regular series of conferences and guest lectures on topical issues related to international business and the financial markets are delivered at the ILF by leading academics and practitioners from all over the world.

Many of these conferences and lectures are open to the public and are regularly attended by ILF students and academics as well as legal and finance professionals. These conferences and lectures are announced on the ILF website at www.ilf-frankfurt.de.
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

HEALTH INSURANCE

All students are required to prove that they have adequate health insurance under German law before they can be matriculated as students of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. They are required to take out a German health insurance for the duration of their studies.

This applies regardless of any private health insurance policy the student may hold in his or her home country. Students under 30 years of age can be insured with a German public insurance company while students above 30 years old must be privately insured. The costs for students under 30 years of age are currently about 60 EUR per month.

LIVING COSTS

Overall personal living expenses vary depending on the cost of accommodation and other personal choices. An estimate of about 800 to 1,000 EUR per month for general living expenses is a realistic calculation for the Frankfurt area.

ILF students will receive a student card from Goethe University which entitles them to use the facilities of the university, which include the university’s refectories and cafeterias, where students can eat at reduced prices. Students have direct access to the facilities on Campus Westend where the ILF is located.

The student card includes a free pass to public transportation in the Frankfurt area and certain regional trains.

VISA/APS REQUIREMENTS

Students should apply for visas once they have accepted a place in the program. Upon such acceptance, an official letter of admission from the Dean of Goethe University’s Law Faculty will be sent out. This letter of admission is necessary for you to apply for a student visa at the German embassies situated in your respective countries. Students are responsible for arranging their own visas.

The ILF is happy to provide assistance should the embassy require further information regarding student status or the planned course of study.

Students from the People’s Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam must acquire APS (Akademische Prüfstelle) certificates before they can obtain student visas to study in Germany. As APS certificates may take up to at least 3 months to be issued by the relevant authority, applications should be made early.

ACCOMMODATION

There are several accommodation options available to students in the Frankfurt area. A limited number of dormitory rooms are offered by the university’s student services. However, since the demand for these rooms is usually greater than the number of rooms available, they are often quickly booked out.

Other options include student housing facilities offered by various church organizations and other non-profit housing facilities. We strongly recommend that students contact such organizations as soon as they receive notice of acceptance to the program, as these rooms are also very sought after.

The ILF is able to provide a list of these organizations and further information to help you find private accommodation in Frankfurt.

Official website of Frankfurt city: www.frankfurt.de
TUITION FEES

The tuition fee for the LL.M. International Finance program is set at 16,000 EUR*. This fee covers tuition, the use of the ILF facilities, the use of the facilities of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, the conferment of the degree upon the successful completion of the program requirements, transcripts, degree certificates as well as selected extra-curricular activities.

It does not cover the costs of living (i.e. board and lodging), health insurance, teaching materials or computer consumables. Students shall also bear the University’s semester enrolment fees (currently about 350 EUR per semester) themselves.

* subject to change

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students will receive scholarships of 1,600 EUR (10% of tuition fees) if their applications are received by the ILF by 28 February.

PAYMENT TERMS

The tuition fee shall be paid in 3 instalments:

● 20% (3,200 EUR or 2,880 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) non-refundable and to be paid within 30 days of receipt of the ILF’s acceptance;
● 40% (6,400 EUR or 5,760 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) by 1 October of the year of joining the program; and
● 40% (6,400 EUR or 5,760 EUR if a scholarship is awarded) by 1 April of the subsequent year.

The Terms of Enrolment will be provided to admitted students.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for applications is 15 May. Applications submitted will be considered on a “rolling basis”. Applicants will be informed of the results of their applications within 6 weeks of receipt by the ILF of the completed application. Admissions to the LL.M. International Finance program will be granted to successful applicants on a “first come first served” basis. No application fee is required.

As students from the People’s Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam need to apply for APS certificates which may take up to at least 3 months’ processing time, they are highly recommended to apply for admission to the ILF as early as possible.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE ILF

Graduates with a degree in either law, business or economics from Asia (especially mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) are eligible to apply to join the LL.M. International Finance program. We recommend that you send in your application as early as possible in order to secure a place in our program. We accept applications sent by regular mail or courier, but not electronically.
Application

YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICATION FORM</th>
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<tr>
<td>LETTER OF MOTIVATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRICULUM VITAE</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION AND TRANSCRIPTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.g. high school diploma, Abitur, Baccalauréat or other similar diploma. University entrance qualification document and transcripts must be submitted in English or German or as certified translations into one of these languages. All copies must be certified by a notary public or other appropriate public institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC DEGREES AND TRANSCRIPTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree certificates and transcripts must be submitted in English or German or as certified translations into one of these languages. All copies must be certified by a notary public or other appropriate public institutions.</td>
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<td>ENGLISH PROFICIENCY</td>
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<td>Proficiency in English must surpass a level of TOEFL 580, CBT TOEFL 237, IBT TOEFL 92 (ILF’s Institutional Code with TOEFL is 5984) or IELTS 6.5. You should request the test center to directly send a copy of the official test results to the ILF. If the testing schedules do not allow the results to be available by the application deadline, you should state in your application when the results will be available.</td>
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<td>REFERENCES</td>
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<td>At least two sealed and confidential letters of recommendation, preferably from university professors and/or employers must be submitted. The letters may either be included together with the application materials (as long as they are in a sealed envelope preserving confidentiality) or sent to the ILF directly by the referees. References should be current. More than two references may be included.</td>
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<td>CLASS RANK</td>
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<td>A written confirmation from the relevant university indicating your class rank should be included in your application. This confirmation shall state your relative standing in the year of graduation and where possible, broken down into the relevant majors (e.g. in top 5% of law graduates in the class of 2010). The total number of students should also be stated. This information is required to assess the performance of the applicant in relation to his/her peers. If a given university does not provide such information, we need a written statement by the university to that effect.</td>
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<td>APS CERTIFICATE</td>
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<td>For students from the People’s Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam, an APS Certificate from the Akademische Prüfstelle must be submitted. (Note: It may take up to at least 3 months for the APS certificate to be issued by the relevant body.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWO PASSPORT-SIZED PHOTOGRAPHS</td>
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<td>PHOTOCOPY OF PASSPORT</td>
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Note: It is the policy of the ILF not to return any application materials. Once the admissions process has been completed, the application materials of applicants will be destroyed in compliance with German data protection legislation.
Contact

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Goethe-Universität Frankfurt • House of Finance
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Head of Programs and Marketing

If you have any inquiries regarding LL.M. International Finance program, please contact:

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8 GOOD REASONS TO STUDY AT THE ILF:

- An interdisciplinary curriculum with excellent law and business/finance courses
- Lecturers consisting of leading professors from Goethe University and experts from the professional world
- A location in Frankfurt, the financial center of continental Europe
- Increased interaction with ILF international students via combined courses with them
- A program that is open to graduates of law, business or economics faculties
- German and Business English language courses
- Exclusive and intensive intercultural communications courses
- Organized student excursions (e.g. Basketball Game, Berlin, ECB, German Stock Exchange)