

# Vermont Law School/University of Cambridge JD/MPhil Dual Degree

## I. DUAL JD/MPhil DEGREE

Vermont Law School and the Department of Land Economy at Cambridge offer a dual degree program which enables VLS students to earn both a JD and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in one of the following fields: Environmental Policy; Planning, Growth, and Regeneration; and Real Estate Finance.

## II. APPROVAL TO APPLY

- A. Students begin the dual degree program at Vermont Law School. VLS candidates must be approved to apply for the Cambridge program by the Director of the Environmental Law Center (ELC). Students apply for this approval by submitting the VLS/Cambridge Dual Degree Application Form to the Associate Director of the ELC in the spring of their 1L year.
- B. Applicants are evaluated primarily on the basis of academic standing at VLS and the undergraduate academic record. Educational goals and a demonstrated interest in the subjects in which the dual degree program specializes are also important.
- C. Students will be notified if they have been approved before the conclusion of their 1L spring semester. A maximum of two Vermont Law School students will be approved to apply to Cambridge during any one academic year.
- D. VLS applicants must be in the top half of their class at the end of the semester preceding their application to the program and continue to be in the top half of their class through the completion of the semester prior to taking courses at Cambridge.

## III. ADMISSIONS

- A. Once they have been approved by the ELC Director, students begin the Cambridge application process. The Cambridge application is available at <https://www.landecon.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/application-information>.
- B. VLS and Cambridge will share supporting documentation, such as transcripts, letters of recommendation, and personal statements. Photocopies of those documents, certified by the VLS Registrar, are adequate for admissions purposes.

- C. The Cambridge application process opens around September 1 (of the student's 2L year), and the final application deadline is around March 15 (of the 2L year). You may want to apply for funding from Cambridge in the fall of your 2L year. The program starts in October (of what would have been the student's 3L year). We strongly recommend that students apply early. The Associate Director of the ELC will add a Letter of Endorsement to the application and then the student will submit the application material to the Board of Graduate Study at Cambridge.

#### **IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE**

Students are required to satisfy the graduation requirements of both institutions. The VLS JD degree requirements govern except as modified below:

1. The JD normally requires 87 credits. A candidate for the dual JD/MPhil degree may apply the equivalent of 14 VLS credits of course work from Cambridge to the JD degree, thereby reducing to 73 the minimum number of JD credits that must be completed at VLS. Cambridge will not apply any credits from VLS toward the MPhil degree.
2. Credits for courses taken at Cambridge in satisfaction of the JD credit requirements will appear on the VLS transcript as transfer credits. No grades for these courses will appear on the VLS transcript.

#### **V. ACADEMIC PLANNING**

- A. The VLS Academic Regulations require students to be in residence at VLS for six semesters. One semester at Cambridge will count toward satisfaction of this residence requirement. Students in the dual degree program will spend a minimum of five semesters at VLS and two semesters at Cambridge.
- B. Because candidates must start the MPhil program in the fall of their third year, participants have the option of using a full Summer Session as one semester, or returning to VLS for one more semester after completion of the MPhil degree. Students wishing to use a full Summer Session must obtain the permission of the Director of the ELC prior to registering for summer classes.
- C. Students should plan ahead regarding when they will finish at Cambridge and what impact that might have on when to take the bar exam.

## **VII. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM**

If a student leaves the program or fails to complete the program requirements for either the VLS JD degree or the Cambridge MPhil degree, the student will no longer be considered a dual degree student. As a result, the student will be required to meet the VLS residence requirements and any credits earned at Cambridge will not be transferred to VLS.

## **VIII. TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID**

- A. Students pay tuition to VLS throughout the program (seven semesters). VLS pays Cambridge directly for the student's Cambridge tuition. The student will need to forward their tuition invoice from Cambridge to the VLS Business Office for payment.
- B. Students are eligible for financial aid to cover tuition, fees, and living expenses through all seven semesters of the program. Institutional scholarships and grants are not available for the seventh semester of study.
- C. Students arrange for their own housing and transportation.