

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION DEGREES & CERTIFICATE

USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW CENTER FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## ADVANCE YOUR CAREER IN THE GROWING FIELD OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

As an ADR student at USC Gould, you will build your ADR skillset through a combination of clinical experiences and instruction from practicing ADR professionals and faculty. You will develop a strong understanding of the ADR processes and underlying policies, as well as the legal and ethical implications inherent in the dispute resolution process.

Through these programs, you will gain critical negotiation, mediation, and arbitration skills. These skills will allow you to enhance your current professional responsibilities, obtain better outcomes for your clients, or earn a credential to become a mediator or arbitrator. Read below to find out which program is right for you!

### OUR PROGRAMS

#### Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution (LLM in ADR)

To be eligible for our 24-unit LLM in ADR degree program, you must have earned a first degree in law (LLB, JD, or equivalent). As an LLM in ADR student, you must complete at least 12 units within the ADR curriculum. If you graduated from a law school outside of the U.S., you must also complete Introduction to U.S. Legal System. You may complete the remaining units through a variety of ADR and Law courses offered at USC Gould; enrollment in non-ADR Law courses is permitted as space is available.

#### Master of Dispute Resolution (MDR)

To be eligible for our 24-unit MDR degree program, you must have earned a bachelor's degree, which may be outside of the law. As an MDR student, you must complete at least 12 units within the ADR curriculum. You may complete the remaining units through a variety of ADR and Law courses offered at USC Gould; enrollment in non-ADR Law courses is permitted as space is available.

#### Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate (ADR Certificate)

Our ADR certificate is a 12-unit stand-alone non-degree program that is open to both legal and non-legal professionals. As an ADR certificate student, you must complete the 12 units from the ADR curriculum. To be eligible for the ADR certificate, you must have earned a bachelor's degree.

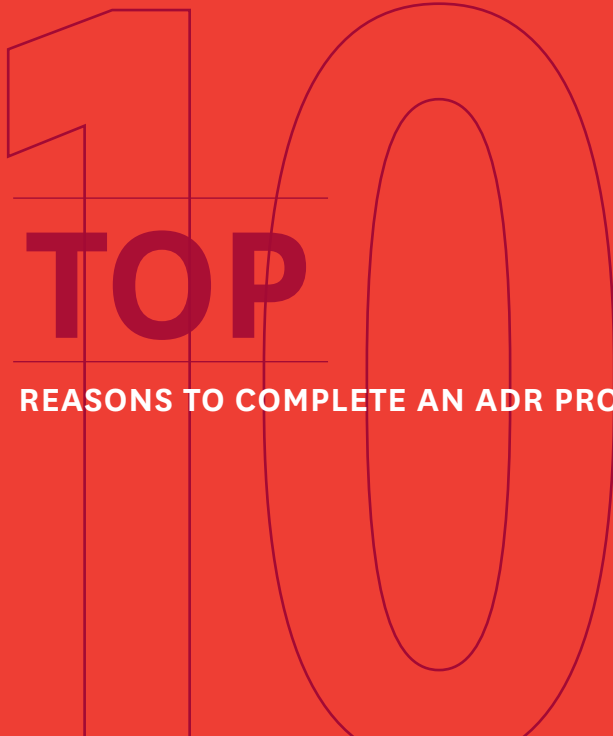
Information on graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the certificate program, and other important information can be found at <http://bit.ly/usccertificatesge>



*"We are proud to offer three programs that provide both recent graduates and experienced professionals an opportunity to advance their careers in the growing field of alternative dispute resolution. Our programs emphasize the practical application of ADR concepts, enabling students to build their skillsets and establish credentials from a top-ranked law school."*

ANDREW T. GUZMAN  
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law,  
and Professor of Law and Political Science

**USC Gould**  
School of Law



## REASONS TO COMPLETE AN ADR PROGRAM AT USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW

- 1** ADR is one of the fastest growing fields, both in and outside of the legal arena
- 2** Earn a degree from an elite, top-20 and nationally recognized law school
- 3** Available for both lawyers and non-lawyer professionals
- 4** Create new career opportunities
- 5** Attend law school in the heart of Los Angeles
- 6** Gain hands-on practical skill development
- 7** Scholarship funding available
- 8** Become part of the Trojan Family network
- 9** Receive specialized career and professional support
- 10** Convenient and flexible class scheduling

### CURRICULUM

As an ADR student, you may enroll in a wide variety of ADR or other Law courses. Classroom work may include experiential learning opportunities by which students participate in simulations or engage directly with clients. Our Practical Mediation Skills Clinic allows students to learn the dispute resolution skills necessary to become mediators, and provides students with opportunities to use those skills, as neutrals, in mediating actual disputes in the California court system or in another mediation setting.

Please see below for a sample selection of courses; please note that courses may change and may not be offered every semester.

#### ELECTIVE COURSES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADR Clause Drafting                       | <input type="checkbox"/> International Arbitration                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADR Ethics                                | <input type="checkbox"/> International Investment Law & Arbitration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADR Law & Policy                          | <input type="checkbox"/> International Negotiation & Mediation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration Advocacy                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Arbitration                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration in the United States          | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Profession                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Organizations                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation Advocacy                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Drafting, Analysis & Negotiation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation Theory & Practice                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiation Theory & Application           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Procedure                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Ombuds                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution         | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical Mediation Skills Clinic          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce & Family Mediation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Remedies                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Dispute Mediation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Law & Dispute Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law Mediation Clinic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Topics in American Law                     |

\* Students may also enroll in other upper-division Law courses that are offered each semester to be applied toward the degree.

## Flexible Scheduling

Our programs are all offered on both a full-time and part-time basis, and if you are a part-time student, you may select from a fall or spring start date.

In addition, we offer convenient and flexible scheduling options for our ADR courses, including both daytime and evening courses, as well as some weekend courses.

Our Registrar will work with you individually to help you create a schedule that fits your needs and existing commitments.

## CIArb Recognized Course Provider



USC Gould is one of only three Recognized Course Provider schools in the U.S. for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), a leading professional membership organization representing the interests of ADR practitioners worldwide with nearly 16,000 members across 133 countries. CIArb membership is one of the world's most recognized credentials in international arbitration, and USC Gould is proud that its students are eligible to join CIArb at the Member level upon completion of specified coursework within the ADR curriculum.

## Career Development

We offer a series of specialized ADR career panels and workshops and jobs announcement emails, helping students understand career options and encounter job opportunities that leverage their skillset and education.

Students meet ADR professionals from many industries and roles, creating opportunities to expand their network and identify concrete steps toward rewarding careers in ADR or to develop their own ADR practices.

Additionally, our office provides career development services, such as skills workshops and individualized guidance covering resume and cover letter writing, networking, interviewing and job search strategy.

Most importantly, as a USC student, you will have access to our famous Trojan Family of alumni, as well as our award-winning faculty, who can help you with your professional development both as a student and after you graduate!

## Externships

As an ADR student, you may obtain real-world experience and receive credit towards your degree or certificate by working as an extern for an ADR organization or firm. Our ADR Externship Director will assist our students in securing approved externships.

## U.S. Bar Exam Eligibility

If you are enrolled in our LLM in ADR and you have a first degree in law from outside the U.S., you may become eligible to sit for the New York or California bar exams. Our advisors will work with you directly to ensure that your courses meet the requirements for these exams. Please note that we cannot guarantee eligibility to sit for either exam. For more information about the eligibility requirements, please visit the state bar website.

## Tuition and Scholarship

Tuition for full-time degree students is assessed on a flat-rate basis. Tuition for part-time and certificate students is assessed on a per-credit basis. Please check [gould.usc.edu](http://gould.usc.edu) to find the current tuition rate.

Our most exceptional candidates will be considered for our Dispute Resolution Scholars Award, which provides full tuition. Other qualified applicants will be considered for other merit scholarships, which range in amount and may cover up to 50 percent of tuition. All applicants are automatically considered for scholarships and housing stipends – no additional submission is required.

If you are a permanent resident or U.S. citizen, you may also qualify for federal aid. We are happy to connect you with an advisor to discuss financing options.

## Eligibility and Admissions Requirements

Please see below for the admissions and eligibility requirements for each program.

We do not require the LSAT or other standardized test for admission, and we do not have a minimum GPA or TOEFL/IELTS score.

Visit [gould.usc.edu/admissions/](http://gould.usc.edu/admissions/) to apply.

MDR	LLM in ADR	ADR Certificate
Bachelor's degree	Law degree	Bachelor's degree
Application		
Resume or CV		
Personal Statement		
Transcripts for all institutions attended		
IELTS or TOEFL score ( <i>international applicants only</i> )		

## Admissions Decisions

We offer two start dates for students: August and January. We encourage you to apply by the priority deadline for each start date. We will continue to consider applications received after the priority deadline on a rolling basis as space is available.

	Fall Start	Spring Start*
Priority Deadline	March 1	October 1
Rolling Basis	After April 1	After October 15

\*Spring start dates available to part-time students only.

You can expect to receive an admissions decision within four weeks after we have received your completed application.

## Contact Us

To learn more about our ADR courses, deadlines, scholarships and more visit: [gould.usc.edu/go/ADRdegrees](http://gould.usc.edu/go/ADRdegrees)

To contact us, please email: [ADR@law.usc.edu](mailto:ADR@law.usc.edu)  
or call: +1 (213) 821-5916.



*“Through my LLM in ADR coursework, I was able to upgrade my membership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. With an amazing faculty and staff, USC Gould should be the first choice for anyone serious about improving their skills in ADR and gaining world-recognized credentials.”*

**SEAN GALLIHER, LLM in ADR**

*“My MDR degree was exactly what I needed to establish credibility for my new commercial-real-estate-focused ADR services business. I gained the knowledge and developed the skills that are essential to becoming a successful third-party neutral.”*

**JAMES SULLIVAN, MDR**

*“I chose USC Gould because of its outstanding reputation, diverse student body, wide range of studies, and flexible schedule. Working side by side with lawyers and non-lawyers from around the world gave me a broad range of perspectives that are invaluable for my legal practice.”*

**TINA ESPILI, ADR Certificate**

*“The MDR program offers a multitude of topics and practical outcomes that are translatable to any profession. From the beginning, I was able to apply the lessons I learned in my work, helping me become a better listener and more effective communicator.”*

**DANIEL CHOI, MDR**

*“USC Gould’s LLM in ADR offers a unique opportunity to study the latest methods of conflict resolution, as well as gain practical experience in the field. Through its world-renowned faculty, dedicated support staff and international student body, I feel prepared to achieve my goal of making a positive impact in people’s lives in my home country of Brazil.”*

**FERNANDA FLORES, LLM IN ADR**