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.

“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
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**

- ADR Clause Drafting
- ADR Ethics
- ADR Law & Policy
- Arbitration Advocacy
- Arbitration in the United States
- Business Organizations
- Contract Drafting, Analysis & Negotiation
- Contracts
- Criminal Procedure
- Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution
- Divorce & Family Mediation
- Employment Dispute Mediation
- Family Law Mediation Clinic
- International Arbitration
- International Investment Law & Arbitration
- International Negotiation & Mediation
- Labor Arbitration
- Legal Profession
- Mediation Advocacy
- Mediation Theory & Practice
- Negotiation Theory & Application
- Organizational Conflict
- Practical Mediation Skills Clinic
- Remedies
- Special Education Law & Dispute Resolution
- 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 is students are eligible to join CIArb at the Member level upon completion of specified coursework within the ADR curriculum.

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.

Career Development
We offer a series of specialized ADR career workshops that prepare you to develop and market your own dispute resolution practice. These workshops will help you build a business plan, develop marketing materials, enhance your networking to attract clients, and learn the day-to-day operations of a mediation business.

In addition, our office provides career support through other workshops, as well as individualized guidance on resumes, cover letters, interviewing and networking skills.

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!

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 to find the current tuition rate.

As our Admissions Committee automatically considers all applicants for scholarship and housing stipends, there is nothing further you need to do or submit to qualify for scholarship consideration after you apply. Our awards vary in amounts up to half the cost of tuition.

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/ to apply.

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<td>IELTS or TOEFL score (international applicants only)</td>
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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.

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<td>Priority Deadline</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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*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

To contact us, please email: ADR@law.usc.edu or call: +1 (213) 821-5916.
“Through my coursework as part of my LLM in ADR program at USC, 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 ‘19

“My MDR degree is exactly what I need to establish credibility for my new commercial-real-estate-focused ADR services business. Through my coursework, I am gaining the knowledge and developing the skills that are essential to becoming a successful third-party neutral.”
JAMES SULLIVAN
MDR ‘18

“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 gives me a broad range of perspectives that is invaluable for my legal practice.”
TINA ESPILI
ADR Certificate ‘18

“I’m excited to be learning from professors who are leaders in the world of ADR, and the practical training I’m obtaining is preparing me for the sports law career I will pursue upon graduation.”
EKTA NIJJAR
LLM in ADR ‘18