What is The Palmer School of Long Island University, and what’s it doing at NYU?
The Palmer School is part of LIU’s College of Education and Information Sciences. It offers the MLSIS degree in Manhattan and at its other sites; it also offers a Ph.D. at its Brookville campus. The Palmer School was founded in 1959 and is one of only 63 schools nationwide to hold American Library Association accreditation. The Palmer School is based at LIU’s C.W. Post campus, but has had a presence in Manhattan since 1986. We have been housed in NYU’s Bobst Library on Washington Square since 1993, offering the full MLSIS program. Students may take courses in Brookville, Brentwood, or Westchester.

Are most students just out of undergraduate school? We have students who have just graduated, and we have students who have been out of college upwards of 30 years. Our student population runs the gamut from 20-something to 50-something plus.

Do your recent graduates get jobs? Do you do job placement? We do everything we can to help graduates learn about positions that are available, and to prepare them for the working world. We encourage students to be proactive in their search and their career by joining professional organizations, networking and attending meetings. Our required internship experience sets our students apart and required internship experience sets our students apart and is one of only 63 schools nationwide to hold American Library Association accreditation. The Palmer School is based at LIU’s C.W. Post campus, but has had a presence in Manhattan since 1986. We have been housed in NYU’s Bobst Library on Washington Square since 1993, offering the full MLSIS program. Students may take courses in Brookville, Brentwood, or Westchester.

Where are the classes? Classes are held in NYU’s Bobst Library on Washington Square South, right in the heart of Greenwich Village. Our classrooms are on the 2nd floor of Bobst, in the Avery Fisher Center, or on the first lower level (Lower Level 1). Students can find where a class meets by referring to the class schedules posted on http://wotan.liu.edu/blog. The Bobst Library classrooms have been very recently renovated and are equipped with the latest technology. LIU students do not have access to other NYU buildings. Coffee and snack machines can be found on Lower Level 1!

Who does advising? Advising is done by our professors and by Palmer administrators at all sites. The Manhattan Program Director and the Senior Academic Counselor at C.W. Post both have extensive academic advising experience and could help students who may not be in touch with the assigned faculty advisor.

How many courses must one take in the program? The program is 36 credits. Most students take two or three courses per semester, depending upon their own time constraints. It is not recommended that students take four courses unless they are free to be full-time students only and have library experience. All of our courses are three credits, so students usually average between six and nine credits per semester. During the summer, a number of courses are offered in an intensified format, allowing students to earn as many as 12 to 15 credits. As you can see, how long the program takes is truly dependent upon each individual’s particular situation.

How long do students usually take to complete the program? The program is 36 credits. Most students take two or three courses per semester, depending upon their own time constraints. It is not recommended that students take four courses unless they are free to be full-time students only and have library experience. All of our courses are three credits, so students usually average between six and nine credits per semester. During the summer, a number of courses are offered in an intensified format, allowing students to earn as many as 12 to 15 credits. As you can see, how long the program takes is truly dependent upon each individual’s particular situation.

How many courses must one take in the program? What if I have a Ph.D. already? 36 credits (12 courses) are required for the program. Up to 6 credits may be transferred in from another graduate program, but credits will not be considered for transfer if they are part of a completed degree. If you have a Ph.D., 36 credits are still required, but some core courses might be waived depending upon your academic background.

If I work all day and take some courses in the evening, will I have adequate access to Bobst Library? Yes, Bobst is open during the week from very early morning (usually about 7:30 a.m.) until midnight and later, depending on the time in the term. It is open long hours on the weekend as well – again from early morning until midnight. We have never heard complaints from students about limited hours of access to Bobst.

How big are classes? They can range from about 8 to 30, with the average at around 17. Some classes have limited enrollments of 12 or so if they involve many field trips or limited equipment.

When are classes offered? Since most of our students are working, we try to accommodate them by holding classes in the evening and sometimes on Saturdays or Sundays. Most courses start at 6:30 p.m. and run until 8:20, and some start at 4:30 and go until 6:20. In the summer we offer some courses in a concentrated format that consists of a full week, or full days over a few weeks. Watch the schedule for these opportunities.

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What is The Palmer School of Library and Information Science
Long Island University/ Manhattan
Frequently Asked Questions
Are there scholarships?
Yes, there are scholarships through Long Island University and through various outside sources. Many library associations give scholarships and a partial list of these organizations can be found on our blog: http://wotan.liu.edu/blog.

Do I need GRE’s to apply?
GRE’s are required for anyone applying whose overall grade point average from undergraduate work is under a 3.0. If you have a master’s degree, you do not need to take the GRE.

Do all students work in libraries after graduating?
No, our students work in all kinds of places where information is a priority, including financial institutions, health related institutions, museums, law firms, etc. The MSLIS is a practical and in-demand degree.

Is there a ‘fast track’ program?
The program is 36 credits. Students sometimes take three courses per semester, although two is more common. Some students, who work full time, find that one is a comfortable load but that two is possible. The only real fast track option is to take courses in the summer when they are offered over a shortened period of time, allowing for more classes to be taken. Palmer School students can take week-long courses at Rare Book School run by the University of Virginia; they are taught both there and here in Manhattan in January. With the addition of a final project, students can receive credits for these courses toward their Palmer degrees.

What are the application deadlines?
Admission is on a rolling basis, so there is no firm application deadline. Students can enter the program in the fall, spring or summer terms. However if you qualify for Graduate Scholarships & Grant Programs (based on an undergraduate or graduate GPA), the following deadlines to apply for admissions are August 1 for Fall, December 1 for Spring and April 1 for Summer. You should allow approximately three weeks for notification of acceptance.

Why should I do an internship if I already work in a library?
The point of the internship is to expose students to an aspect of librarianship to which they have not yet been exposed, and to give them an opportunity to meet a range of professionals in the field. Sometimes it is difficult for students who are full time employees to carve out the time to work in a different setting. In cases like those, we might work with the student and the library to offer the student a different type of work within the same organization. Alternately, students might be able to find weekend opportunities. However structured, the ideal internship introduces students to new workplaces, new ideas, new people, and new responsibilities.

Can I do the required 120 hours of internship in my current, regular library job?
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Are there language requirements?
Students seeking the School Media certification must have completed at least one year of study in a language other than English. For other students, a foreign language is of course advisable if the student plans to work in a setting where informational materials are largely non-English.

Can I use Bobst Library’s collections and services as a Palmer student?
Yes! Almost all of Bobst’s resources are available to you as a Palmer student. You are able to check out books, use reference and reserve services, and use the vast array of NYU online subscriptions and A/V collection while in Bobst itself. For home access to many databases of interest to library science students, you can use your library account with LIU.

Does Bobst Library have library science materials?
Yes, the Bobst library does have some library science journals available to our students through either print or internet access. In addition, the C.W. Post Schwartz Library has extensive library science materials which are usually available through inter-library loan and online.

Who staffs the Manhattan office?
The Palmer Manhattan office is staffed by a full-time Program Director (Alice Flynn) and the coordinator of the Rare Books concentration. Other faculty from our program have office space here and are frequently available for meetings and advising. The Director’s office is open Mondays – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. You may call (212.998.2680) or email (alice.flynn@liu.edu) ahead for an appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PALMER, email alice.flynn@liu.edu and visit http://liu.edu/palmernyc