



Meet Carrie Golden, a dual degree student in International Studies and Juris Doctorate, who manages to bridge realism with idealism.

Tell us a bit about your background: I am originally from Massachusetts. I completed my undergraduate education in Philosophy, French and Cognitive Science at the University of Pennsylvania and then lived in South America for a bit; I was working with a non-profit, teaching sports health and nutrition in Peru, along with girls' empowerment.

What brought you to the University of Denver? It was the opportunity to pursue a [dual degree](#); it's rare to find a program with specific concentrations like [development](#) or [human rights](#)--usually they are more political science-orientated. As far as a dual degree goes, both the [Josef Korbel School of International Studies](#) and the [Sturm College of Law](#) have a strong interest on public force; the law school provides me with the professional skills, while the graduate school provides me with the knowledge base—the history and the current events. It's exactly what I expected: the graduate school shows me how the world works, while the law school shows me how to work within the world.

What is it like to be a student in two different schools of study? I can apply the concepts much better, because I understand the context; at the Josef Korbel School, I have the legal bent and at the law school, I have the practical cases. There's a lot of figuring out who I am in both places: at the Josef Korbel School, I am a realist, but at the law school, I am a head-in-the-clouds do-gooder. You have to think of yourself as a dual degree student; it's a master's and a law degree—that makes the difference.

I do feel that putting the programs together is on myself, but the opportunities are there and they obviously overlap. There is so much freedom to schedule the classes you want and I have connected with professors in both schools, but it is a bit difficult as there is so much back-and-forth between the schools. I do feel, however, that I came to be part of the Josef Korbel School before my classes here started, and now that I have completed my required courses, I am still not done here. I am auditing classes and attending lectures and still being part of the school.

What are the practical applications of a dual degree? I came in with an idea of what I wanted to do, and then I found internships in the field which were great, but the Josef Korbel School helped me define what I already had in mind-- the rule of law. I am interested in international development in legal systems, legal governments and good governance. I had an internship with the [ABA Rule of Law Initiative's \(ABA ROLI's\) Latin American and Caribbean Division](#), which offers

consultants for international development and legal education in the region, and I would like to do something similar in the future—either abroad or in Washington D.C.

What do you miss most about Peru? I miss the lady who sells *arroz con leche* at midnight underneath a beach umbrella for two sols (\$0.66).

- - Nirvana Bhatia, Master's candidate International Human Rights
Josef Korbel School of International Studies