Osgoode Hall Law School
Juris Doctor (JD) Program | 2012-2013
What are the advantages of studying at Osgoode? Simply put, they are our people and programs. Over the past 120 years we have built our reputation for excellence and leadership on the strength of our internationally-renowned faculty, exceptional students, supportive staff and respected alumni.

We are also known for the depth and breadth of course offerings in our Juris Doctor (JD) program and for having the strongest Graduate and Professional Development programs in the country. When you factor in the many hands-on experiential and clinical programs that we offer our JD students, as well as international exchange experiences and opportunities to participate in student clubs and other activities, you can understand why Osgoode is a leader among law schools in Canada and in North America.

Through innovative programs such as our Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community course, the Osgoode Public Interest Requirement that requires our JD students to perform 40 hours of pro bono work as a condition of graduation, and our new praxicum requirement, which integrates theory and practice in a way that emphasizes “law in action”, we are helping to cultivate well-rounded graduates who will make a difference in the world. We take a holistic approach when reviewing applications for admission to the Law School, and we look at more than just marks when we assess applicants’ files. Yes, we’re interested in strong academic performers, but we’re also looking for individuals who are engaged with the community, who understand the importance of service to society, and who have the desire and the drive to be tomorrow’s leaders.

That said, it is not easy to describe the ‘typical’ Osgoode JD student. The law school attracts a large, diverse and exceptionally talented student body, not only from Ontario, but from all regions of Canada and beyond. Our students exemplify diversity and reflect the changing demographic makeup of Canadian society. It is a combination of intellectual ability and curiosity, real-world engagement and caring that describes the Osgoode student. Add to those qualities the desire and ability to succeed in any number of areas and the heart to make a true difference along the way, and you’ve got the reasons why Osgoode students are exceptional people. We take special pride in our holistic admissions policy and procedure, which culminates each year with a class of Osgoode graduates who bring their varied backgrounds and experiences to diverse careers in the legal profession, government, business and academia.

We invite you, the next generation of lawyers, to join us and be a part of our great institution.

It is all new and all for you.

Through a record $78 million in private funding, alumni giving and government support, we have been transforming our learning environment, our programs and our student financial assistance.

With the launch of Osgoode’s new building in the fall of 2011, the Law School continues to look to the future in a modernized, renovated and re-imagined space in one of the best student-centred facilities among law schools in North America.

• Meet friends in the new café and student lounge
• Study and research in the newly designed law library
• Learn in accessible, high-tech classrooms

These exceptional new facilities ensure the highest quality educational experience while bringing the Osgoode community together and making you feel “at home.”

What is distinctive about Osgoode?

In discussion groups held in the fall of 2010 as part of The Distinctly Osgoode Project, JD students described what they value most about Osgoode:

• Our diverse and talented student body “Surprises? — How great the section is… dynamic, really great opportunities. People lack arrogance and pretension. They talk to each other, support each other.”

• The quality and attitude of our faculty “Faculty and the work being done here are fantastic.”

• The diversity of courses and programs “So many ways to flourish here…”

• Commitment to critical thinking “Osgoode is modern, big ideas. A progressive school where students are taught to challenge everything.”

• Transformative experiences “I think differently, different language. It’s exciting and adds confidence.”

We invite you, the next generation of lawyers, to join us and be a part of our great institution.
Students can also obtain experience through the following programs without academic credit:
- Intellectual Property Law and Technology Program (IP Osgoode)
- Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC)
- Family Law Project (FLP)
- The Honourable Ian Scott Public Interest Internships
- Summer Public Interest Advocacy Program
- Centre for Innovation Law and Policy Summer Fellowship Program
- TheCourt.ca – award-winning academic blog on the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada
- LAMS – Law in Action Within Schools – mentoring and community outreach with local area high school students.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS
In addition to the three-year JD Program, Osgoode offers exciting joint degree programs that combine academic study at Osgoode and another faculty. Applicants to Osgoode may enter a combined program either as a first-year student into a four-year program or as a transfer student after their first or second year of study (depending on the program).

- JD/MBA with York’s Schulich School of Business (either a 3 or 4-year program): Application details specific to Schulich School of Business are available at www.schulich.yorku.ca/jd-mba
- JD/MDS with York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies (4-year program): Application details specific to York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies are available at www.yorku.ca/ews
- JD/MA (Philosophy) with York’s Department of Philosophy (4-year program): Application details specific to York’s Department of Philosophy are available at www.yorku.ca/phil
- JD/MAS with York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies (4-year program): Application details specific to York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies are available at www.yorku.ca/ews
- JD/Ms (Health) with York’s Faculty of Medicine (4-year program): Application details specific to York’s Faculty of Medicine are available at www.med.yorku.ca
- Civil Law Degree Program with Université de Montréal (4-year program, with application in 3rd year of JD studies): Application details are available at www.droit.umontreal.ca
- The deadline for applying to the first year of a program (for the JD/MBA, JD/MDS and JD/MA (Philosophy)) is November 1 of the year preceding the intended start date. Students must apply to Osgoode through the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLAS), indicating their intention to apply to the Joint Program, and then also apply and satisfy the criteria for admission to the other faculty by its application deadline. Students must be admitted by each faculty, according to its own admissions criteria, standards and procedures.

CLINICAL & INTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES
The clinical education opportunities at Osgoode are the most extensive in Canada and among the most innovative in the world. With new programs being introduced almost yearly, these programs offer students the chance to engage in real or simulated lawyering roles. As part of their course of study, students are placed in situations in which they grapple with the dynamics of the legal process and its relation to law as theory. Many courses and seminars offer elements of experiential learning and, through the new program requirement, every Osgoode JD student will put knowledge into action and gain essential lawyering skills. Separate from these opportunities, students can participate in the following programs, for academic credit:
- Advanced Business Law Workshops I and II: Corporate Finance & Governance, and Mergers & Acquisitions
- Osgoode Business Clinic
- Innocence Project
- Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP)
- Mediation Clinic
- Intensive Program in Criminal Law
- Intensive Program in Intellectual Property and Technology Law – New in 2011
- Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments
- Intensive Program in Anti-Ottorization – New in 2011
- Intensive Program in Poverty Law at Parkdale Community Legal Services
- Collaborative Research Teams Projects
- International Legal Partnerships
- Intensive Research Program/Supervised Research Papers
- Mooting Program
- Osgoode Hell Law Journal
- German Law Journal

Students in the first-year class take seven mandatory courses plus one elective. The curriculum is divided into four clusters of about 75 students each. In some courses students are further divided into smaller clusters of 20 to 25 students, for “small group” meetings with the instructor. Students can expect to do substantial amounts of work in at least four of their courses.

UPPER-YEAR PROGRAM
In 2011, after three years of intensive consultation and collaboration between students, faculty and staff, the Law School approved the following five key objectives:
- Encouraging critical and reflective approaches to the study of law;
- Better integration of skills development into the curriculum, especially high order research, analytical and communications skills, and
- Improving pedagogy through use of active learning methods, more engaged pedagogy, experiential education and reflective learning.

Osgoode is internationally recognized for our emphasis on student-engaged pedagogy, experiential education and reflective learning. Each year, there are over 150 upper-year courses and seminars to choose from. Courses are typically large classes (maximum of 95 students) and seminars are typically smaller classes (maximum of 20 students) and professors employ a wide variety of teaching and evaluation methods.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & COURSES

Students can choose Osgoode for its wide array of educational and extra-curricular opportunities. I am continually impressed by the quality of the faculty and my peers. They all have diverse backgrounds are always enthusiastic and supportive.

WHAT MAKES OSGOODE DISTINCT:
Osgoode and Schulich pioneered the first JD/MBA program in Canada. Through the Business Clinic, I have been able to work on client files with both upper-year students and lawyers from downtown firms. The networking opportunities that arise from these highly respected institutions allowed me to secure a first-year summer job in business law, leading me closer to my goal of practising in this area of law.

Amber Lam
- 2014 JD/MBA Candidate

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:
BBA (Hons) with Distinction, Finance and Accounting, Schulich School of Business, York University

EXPERIENCES:
Intern at Ernst & Young LLP, and at a famous parliamentary firm, working as a grader at Schulich and an intern at a state hospital at York University.

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INTEGRATIVE COMMUNITY 

We pride ourselves on the high calibre of our student body and the high quality of our graduates. An Osgoode legal education prepares JD level students for any professional role they might choose – including legal practice, legal education, government service, work with non-profit organizations, and alternative dispute resolution. Our primary aim is to develop leaders in all of these professional fields and in society more generally.

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM
Osgoode is committed to excellence and innovation in legal education. In 2007-08 we completed a significant overhaul of the first-year program, identifying these five key objectives:
- Encouraging critical and reflective approaches to the study of law;
- Incorporating legal ethics and professional responsibility into the curriculum;
- Ensuring that all first-year students are introduced to the transnational and globalized character of law;
- Better integration of skills development into the curriculum, especially high order research, analytical and communications skills, and
- Improving pedagogy through use of active learning methods, more engaged pedagogy, experiential education and reflective learning.

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OSGOODE JD – AT A GLANCE

First-Year JD Program

Fall Term
- Ethical Legalizing in a Global Community (Start of Fall term)
- Legal Process (All-year course)
- State and Citizen: Canadian Public and Constitutional Law (full-year course)
- Tort Law
- Contracts Law
- Criminal Law
- Legal Theory Seminar (optional full-year seminar, as alternative to Winter term Perspective Option)

Winter Term
- Ethical Legalizing in a Global Community (2 week January intensive)
- Legal Process (All-year course)
- State and Citizen: Canadian Public and Constitutional Law (full-year course)
- Property Law
- One Perspective Option (from a choice of among 10-15 courses) or Legal Theory Seminar (optional full-year seminar, as alternative to Winter term Perspective Option)

THERE IS A FALL TERM AND A WINTER TERM IN EACH OF THE TWO YEARS. THE STUDY PLAN THROUGHOUT THE FIRST YEAR, THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM PROVIDES SUPPORT TO STUDENTS AS THEY TRANSITION INTO LAW SCHOOL. OPEN SESSIONS ON PREPARING FOR CLASS AND EXAMS ARE ADVERTISED IN THE FALL. DEAN’S FELLOWS (PEER MENTORS) ARE ATTACHED TO MANY COURSE COURSES, AND THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF TIPS AND RESOURCES.

Second and Third-Year JD Program

THERE IS A FALL TERM AND A WINTER TERM IN EACH OF THE TWO YEARS. THE STUDY PLAN FOR ALL YOUR UPENN YEAR IS THE SAME DIPLOMA PROGRAM STUDENTS PERSONALIZED AND REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THEIR PERSONALIZED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

A 4-5 COURSE, TOTALLY AN AVERAGE OF 15 CREDITS (15-17/TERM)

ADVANCED STUDENTS MAY EARN CREDITS THROUGH:
- Clinical Intervences for between 9 and 15 credits
- Internship
- Directed Research papers supervised by a full-time Osgoode faculty member
- Enrollment in an approved level course in another York faculty

WHAT MAKES OSGOODE DISTINCT:
Osgoode’s strong focus on pro bono work encourages professionalism. Many Osgoode students are keen to work in the public interest and want to get experience in this area beyond the curricular requirements. This willingness to get involved outside of the classroom creates strong connections between Osgoode and the wider community.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & COURSES

Osgoode offers a broad range of courses and many areas of academic expertise. This means that students can truly tailor their law school program to their specific interests and experiences.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:
- BA (Hons), International Development Studies, Dalhousie University; MSc, Sustainable Development, University of Calgary (with exchange in Quito, Ecuador)

EXPERIENCE:
- Write for a newspaper in Costa Rica, worked for an NGO in rural Nicaragua through the Canadian International Development Agency; helped construct solar panels with landmine victims as an income-generating project for those left suffering from the prolonged impacts of the civil war; worked with a disaster relief firm that negotiated agreements between resource development corporations and indigenous tribes in Ecuador.

WHY I CHOSE OSGOODE:
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Jacqueline Kiggundu
- 2013 JD Candidate

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:
- BA, Psychology and Sociology, Queen’s University; MA, Human Rights, London School of Economics

EXPERIENCE:
- Research Assistant at Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.; Assistant in Post-Francisco and Earthquake Reconstruction in Indonesia; Development Program Support at an International Canadian NGO; Participant in the Poverty Law Intensive Program at Parkdale Community Legal Services.

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Noel Dekking
- 2012 JD Candidate

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Legal Theory and Edward J. Waitzer is the Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney the Canada Research Chair in Transnational Economic Governance and Osgoode also has three prestigious Chairs: Professor Peer Zumbansen is Council’s Killam Prize for the Social Sciences. He received Canada’s highest honour for a law scholar, the Canada Society of Canada, three to the Order of Canada, and two who have including nine professors who have been admitted to the Royal Among our faculty ranks are many of the country’s top legal thinkers, and by legal scholarship. Few law schools in North America can compare to Osgoode’s internationally-renowned faculty in terms of our active and engaged learning approaches, the quality of our research, and the influence that research has on the directions taken by the law, by public policy and by legal scholarship. Among our faculty ranks are many of the country’s top legal thinkers, including nine professors who have been admitted to the Royal Society of Canada, three to the Order of Canada, and two who have received Canada’s highest honour for a law scholar, the Canada Council’s Killam Prize for the Social Sciences. Osgoode also has three prestigious Chairs: Professor Peer Zumbansen is the Canada Research Chair in Transnational Economic Governance and Legal Theory and Edward J. Waitzer is the Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney Chair in Corporate Governance. A search is in progress to appoint a leading business law scholar to the Olde Chair in Business Law. Osgoode’s proud research tradition includes its curriculum, and recognition of the close linkage between education and the generation of new knowledge by both professors and students. Beyond the research-intensive focus of both our thesis-based LLM and PhD programs, Osgoode provides countless research opportunities for JD students, both within our wealth of regular seminar courses and beyond. Five important research centres or units are located at Osgoode – the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, the Jack & Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security, the Critical Research Laboratory in Law & Society; the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law, and the York Centre for Public Policy and Law. In addition, Osgoode is also home to TheCourt.ca – the award-winning online resource for debate and data about the Supreme Court of Canada – and IP Osgoode, our innovative intellectual property (IP) law and technology program.

EXCEPTIONAL AND DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

Osgoode’s students make visible and enduring contributions to the community and to the legal profession with their passion, energy, and commitment to excellence. As we derive energy and inspiration from our students, we also pledge to deliver an academic program and an approach to legal education that is defined by the themes: Excellence, Engagement, Experiential.

Our students have different interests, academic backgrounds and personalities. Without exception, they are committed, energetic, bright, thoughtful individuals who are the heart of the Law School. Osgoode is situated on the campus of York University in the northwest section of the vibrant, multicultural city of Toronto. As an outstanding Toronto-based law school, Osgoode clearly gives our students several academic, social (great restaurants, shopping, sports and cultural activities) and professional advantages. Whether you’re interested in athletics, student government, meeting or the environment, there is an association, society or club at Osgoode and York to satisfy every student’s desire to get involved in activities outside the classroom. Leading the way are the Legal and Literary Society, which is responsible for coordinating and funding the numerous professional, athletic, social and extracurricular activities within the law School, and Student Councils, made up of 16 student representatives who serve as members of Faculty Council and help promote students’ welfare and interests.

Chanakya Sethi – 2012 JD Graduates

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

BA, Politics, Princeton University

EXPERIENCE:

Worked for two years in finance at an investment bank in New York City. While at Osgoode I participated in a Canada-wide search for a leading business law scholar to the Olde Chair in Business Law. Osgoode clearly gives our students several academic, social (great restaurants, shopping, sports and cultural activities) and professional advantages. Whether you’re interested in athletics, student government, meeting or the environment, there is an association, society or club at Osgoode and York to satisfy every student’s desire to get involved in activities outside the classroom. Leading the way are the Legal and Literary Society, which is responsible for coordinating and funding the numerous professional, athletic, social and extracurricular activities within the Law School, and Student Councils, made up of 16 student representatives who serve as members of Faculty Council and help promote students’ welfare and interests.

WHAT MAKES OSGOODE DISTINCT:

First, the strength of Osgoode’s faculty, who are just as passionate about being leading scholars as they are about being dedicated teachers. Second, the breadth of the academic and extracurricular opportunities is second to none. And finally, the diversity of our community – in every dimension of that word, including intellectually, politically, ethnically and regionally. An excellent educational institution should provide you with opportunities to be consistently challenged by perspectives different than your own. On that front, Osgoode always delivers.
One of the benefits of Osgoode’s size is its ability to provide considerable support to students so that they can focus on their academic experiences. Osgoode’s Offices of Student Services provide friendly and helpful advice with respect to course and program selection, international opportunities, student financial assistance, medical and psychological accommodations, housing and career and internship opportunities. In addition, Osgoode students benefit from IT support, a book store and Osgoode’s exceptional Law Library. Osgoode students also have access to the numerous facilities, services and programs available centrally on the York Campus.

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Quick Facts
- All admitted applicants are automatically eligible to be considered for all scholarships and awards.
- Applicants MUST complete the Online Financial Statement form as part of the admissions process to be eligible for consideration for entrance scholarships/awards and early bursary notification.
- Osgoode’s Early Bursary Notification Program provides admitted students with an indication of how much they might receive in bursary funding and an opportunity to do some planning of finances for law school.
- Osgoode has an innovative and long-standing special program with the Royal Bank of Canada, offering student lines of credit of up to $20,000 for the fourth year and articling year.

For everything you need to know about Osgoode’s financial programs, please visit the Student Financial Services Office website.
everyone will find people with
environment and ensures that
come from all backgrounds. This
experiences. Osgoode students
share life and academic
Osgoode community. Everyone
WHAT MAKES OSGOODE DISTINCT:
fundamentals for a successful
faculty to provide me with the
knew that by choosing any area
me with a sense of security. I
the breadth of choices provided
area of law I wanted to pursue, so
opportunities. I was unsure of the
courses offered and the clinical
factors were the variety of
financial corporation.

EXPERIENCE:
Accomplished Hip Hop Musician
with five years of experience
working for a multi-national
financial corporation.

WHY I CHOSE OSGOODE: The
reason I chose to attend
Osgoode is because of its diverse
population. Other important
factors were the variety of
courses offered and the clinical
opportunities. I was unsure of the
area of law I wanted to pursue, so
the breadth of choices provided
me with a sense of security. I
know that by choosing any area
of legal study I would find a
plurality of options and a leading
faculty to guide me with the
fundamentals for a successful
career.

WHAT MAKES OSGOODE DISTINCT: I
am amazed every day by the
Osgoode community. Everyone
has been more than willing to
share their life and academic
experiences. Osgoode students
come from all backgrounds. This
helps create an inclusive
environment and ensures that
everyone will find people with
whom to build relationships.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Osgoode recognizes the importance of career development and
services for students. Our graduates are successfully practising in all
areas of law across Canada and internationally as well as pursuing a
variety of non-traditional career paths. The Career Development Office
assists students with their career planning and preparation by
providing the following programs and services:
• individual career coaching and a peer counselling program
• resume and cover letter review
• mock interviews
• job postings available online for summer, articling, associate and
career positions
• assistance in searching for summer and articling positions
• programs and workshops on practice areas and skills development
• including application preparation; interview skills, recruitment
• processes; careers in social justice; clerkships at the various courts;
• information panels on a variety of practice areas; opportunities for
graduate study; and alternatives to legal practice
• extensive resources and reference materials
• opportunities to build ongoing professional relationships with
lawyers and students

• a Public Interest Day, a Career Fair, and on-campus interview
• programs for Toronto, U.S. (New York), Vancouver and Calgary, and
Eastern Canadian law firms
• information about law firms, government offices, corporate legal
departments and other legal and non-legal employers of law
graduates
• information about the Licensing Process requirements in Ontario,
other Canadian jurisdictions and internationally

Graduating Class of 2010 Statistics Summary

Private Law Firm of 2-20 Lawyers 16
Private Law Firm of 21-50 Lawyers 25
Private Law Firm of 51-100 Lawyers 14
Private Law Firm of 100+ Lawyers 80
Private Sole Practitioner 3
In-House Department (corporate counsel) 5
Social Justice (Clerks and NGO) 7
Government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) 25
Social Services (Appellate and Trial Courts) 13

For further information, please visit the Career Development website.

PROGRAMS AND RECORDS OFFICE
Osgoode’s Programs and Records Office is the central hub for
students’ curricular planning. The Office is responsible for grades and
transcripts, examinations, timetabling, course enrolment, joint and
combined programs and international exchanges.

In addition, in conjunction with other offices, programs and centres at
York University, Osgoode’s Programs and Records Office provides
services and accommodations to students with disabilities. Students
may face challenges because of a physical, medical, sensory, mental
health or learning disability. Our goal is to assist students to realize their
academic aspirations within a learning environment that is equitable.

For additional information on York’s disability services, visit:
http://www.yorku.ca/cds

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING
Osgoode students have the benefit of applying to live in the
Osgoode Chambers, a comfortable, convenient and affordable
home away from home unique to Osgoode students. Osgoode
Chambers offers law students the opportunity to live with other law
students, first-year and upper-years, as well as graduate students.
In addition to establishing great friendships and professional
relationships from the start, this residence allows student access to
upper-year mentors who offer invaluable support and guidance as
you begin your legal studies at Osgoode. Incoming first-year students
who firmly accept Osgoode’s offer of admission are guaranteed
accommodation at Osgoode Chambers for the full three years of
study as long as they hold a continuous 12-month lease. Students
also have the option of an 8-month lease if they want the first-year
only at Osgoode Chambers. Suites will be allocated on a first-come,
first-serve basis beginning in April until June 15.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND WELLNESS
The Office of the Assistant Dean, JD Program offers programs
designed to promote the academic success of law students at
Osgoode. The lunch and learn sessions and other workshops are
designed to enhance your academic performance and increase your
marketability, whether you are pursuing a career in private practice,
public policy, academia, law reform, or applying for a court clerkship.
These programs involve legal research and writing, study skills, time
management, and exam preparation. Professors at Osgoode,
practicing lawyers, and law librarians lead these sessions to help
students achieve their full academic potential.

Programs that promote wellness are also offered through the Office
of the Assistant Dean, JD Program. Whether it is exercise, tips on
maximizing stress, or information on healthy eating and nutrition,
maintaining a balanced life enhances academic performance and
integrates students into the Law School. The Assistant Dean, JD
Programs works closely with student organizations at Osgoode to
foster a sense of community at the Law School.
F. Extended Time Program

The Extended Time Program allows a limited number of students admitted to our first-year program, whose life circumstances prevent them from engaging in a full-time study program, to reduce their courses to approximately half the normal required course load. Applications to the Extended Time Program can be made only after the student is offered admission to the JD Program.

G. First-Year Applicants

(i) General Applicants

The General category is to be used by all applicants to the first-year JD program (or one of the combined programs) unless applicants feel that they qualify to apply in the Aboriginal category.

(ii) General Academic Requirement

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must ordinarily have successfully completed a maximum of three full years at a recognized university in a program leading to a degree (90 credit hours of study).

Applicants With Less Than Three Years of University

Osgoode welcomes applications from individuals who have demonstrated, through the length and quality of their non-academic experience, an ability to successfully complete the JD program.

Applicants who have not attended university or have less than 3 years of university (as of June 1st of the year of admission) AND are at least 26 years of age (as of September 1st of the year of admission) AND have a minimum of 5 years of non-academic experience, are eligible to apply.

Minimum age and non-academic experience must be met as of September 1st of the year of admission.

(iii) Aboriginal Canadian Applicants

Osgoode Hall Law School is concerned that Aboriginal people do not have substantial representation in the legal profession and, accordingly, strongly encourages applications from such candidates. The Admissions Committee's decision to admit a candidate ultimately depends on its judgment of the candidate's ability to successfully complete law school. Applicants must provide some form of documentation corroborating identification with and connection to their Aboriginal community.

Osgoode Hall Law School endorses the Program of Legal Studies for Native People at the university of Saskatchewan, which provides a “head-start” program during the summer preceding the first year of the JD program. For more information about the Program of Legal Studies for Native People, interested applicants are encouraged to write to the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

(iv) The Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

All applicants to first-year are required to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Osgoode accepts an applicant's highest result as reported by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) in the year of application. LSAT scores for the past five years (i.e. 2012 and including June 2007) may be used. All applicants must complete the LSAT no later than February 2012. For test dates and registration, please visit the LSAC website at http://www.lsac.org.

(v) Personal Statement

All applicants must complete the Application Supplemental Information and Personal Statement. The purpose of the Personal Statement is to provide information to the Admissions Committee who will assist in making an informed and thoughtful decision about your application. The Personal Statement consists of two parts, Part A and Part B, which will be considered together with other components of an applicant’s file, including academic performance, LSAT and references.

Part A of the Personal Statement provides for discussion on such topics as: community leadership and involvement, academic leadership and involvement, advanced academic work, and athletic activities. Applicants are also asked to discuss their interest in legal education and how their law degree may be used in the future.

Part B of the Personal Statement provides for discussion on one or more of the following considerations, where applicable:

- Equity
- Week of Life Experience
- Diversity
- Performance Considerations
- Transcripts
- Confidential Information

Equity

Equity factors relate to systemic barriers faced by candidates to equal access to educational opportunities.

Week of Life Experience

For some applicants, work or life experiences, rather than academic achievement, is the best indicator of their suitability and capacity for legal education.

Diversity

Diversity factors include, and extend beyond, equity factors to include systemic barriers faced by candidates to equal access to the Canadian population.

Performance Considerations

Performance Considerations are used to evaluate academic achievement, LSAT and references.

Transcripts

Transcripts are required for all postsecondary institution attended and must be sent directly from the Registrar’s Office to OLSAS.

Confidential Information

All applicants must provide at least two letters of reference (academic or non-academic). At least one academic letter of reference is recommended.

Examples of letters of reference:

- A letter of permission
- A letter of recommendation from a former employer or professor
- A letter from a community organization
- A letter from a local government agency
- A letter from a religious leader

When writing letters of reference, applicants are encouraged to ask their referees to discuss their life’s work and their personal connection to the candidate.

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I. Process Overview

Strengths in:

• Awareness
• LSAT
• Achievements
• Varied life/non-academic experience
• Sustained engagement
• Continuing social and intellectual engagement

What we look for

The personal statement is an opportunity for applicants to write about their lives, what they have learned and what they want to learn and give to others in the future. Applicants generally provide specific anecdotes or statements about their personal experience and explain how they have learned and evolved from these experiences.

Specific Considerations (Part B of the Personal Statement):

• Equity Factors
  • How well the applicant is able to demonstrate that he or she overcame significant challenges, such as financial difficulty, illness, family conflict, social or cultural prejudice, language barriers, and changes in which we live
  • Applicants generally provide specific anecdotes or statements about their personal experience and explain how they have learned and evolved from these experiences.

Career/Life Achievement

• Opportunity to show how he or her employment/volunteer or extra-curricular activities were demanding, important, and led to skill development (i.e. leadership, creativity, courage)
• Preference if applicant can explicitly link efforts to an explanation of academic achievement and interest in legal studies

We consider how well-rounded the applicant is, and how he or she has balanced the demands of study, work and community involvement and how they have grown from these experiences.

Performance Considerations

• Explain any irregularities in their academic records or LSAT performances
  • We assess how the applicant has written about and reflected upon their performances. We consider how well the applicant is able to demonstrate that he or she overcame a significant challenge

We consider how well the applicant is able to demonstrate not only intellectual and academic achievements but also how they have contributed to their communities.

Osgoode’s Admissions Statement

Osgoode Hall Law School’s admissions policy and procedure stresses excellence and equity. We admit an outstanding class of students whose academic abilities, varied experiences, and sustained engagement make a continuing social and intellectual contribution to the law school, the legal profession and the community. Our admissions policy identifies a diverse and exceptional group of students with a commitment to excellence, demonstrated through academic and other contributions to society. Together with our renowned faculty and dedicated staff, these students form a vibrant and diverse intellectual community that contributes to Osgoode’s international reputation for leadership in legal education, thoughtful and creative scholarship, and the promotion of social justice. Our innovative programs foster strong foundations in legal reasoning, recognition of diverse perspectives on law, and an understanding of how an education of law's transformative role in promoting a just society. Our spirit of service to society is exemplified in our motto: Through Law to Justice. We encourage our students, as part of their education, to be critically aware of and actively involved in access to justice and the advancement of the public interest. Through diverse career paths, our students develop into leaders in all areas of professional and public life.

Osgoode’s historical and contemporary leadership role in diversifying and reshaping the legal profession is second to none. Our admissions policy recognizes, fosters and celebrates excellence and equity. We consider academic and LSAT results, significant achievements, and the ways in which barriers created by social inequality can stand between students with a demonstrated capacity and a legal education. Our current admissions policy encourages students to identify equity barriers they face in seeking to enter the legal profession. We continue to place a priority on opening doors to communities that traditionally have been underrepresented in the legal profession. In creating each class, we look for those who can demonstrate not only intellectual achievement, but also a passion for learning and service.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS/HOW TO APPLY

III. Language Proficiency

Proof of language proficiency must be provided if one of the following criteria does not apply:

• Your first language is English, OR
• You completed at least one year of full-time study at an accredited university in a country (or institution) where English is the official language of instruction.

Applicants may sit one of several examinations, including the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the York English Language Test (YELT).

Applicants relying on TOEFL must sit the test that includes the Test of Written English (TWE) component; for TOEFL, the minimum acceptable score is 600 (paper-based) or 250 (computer-based), 80 IELTS, as well as 5 on the TWE component. Applicants relying on YELT must score in Band 7. Applicants must arrange to write one of these tests on their own.

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Contacts and Inquiries

Osgoode Hall Law School
Recruitment & Admissions Office
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
Tel: 416-736-5712
Fax: 416-736-5618
E-mail: admissions@osgoode.yorku.ca
www.osgoode.yorku.ca
www.facebook.com/Osgoode

Ontario Law School Application Service
www.osnar.on.ca/olsas

Law School Admission Council (LSAT)
www.lsac.org

World Education Service (WES Foreign Transcript Evaluations)
www.wes.org

National Committee on Accreditation (NCA)
Federation of Law Societies of Canada / Fédération des ordres professionnels de juristes du Canada
www.flsc.ca

Native Law Centre
University of Saskatchewan
www.usask.ca/nativelaw

Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
www.yorku.ca/fes

Schulich School of Business, York University
www.schulich.yorku.ca/ssb-extra/jointanddual.nsf

Department of Philosophy, York University
www.yorku.ca/gradphi

Université de Montréal
http://www.droit.umontreal.ca/international/programmes_exchange.html

Additional Facilities at York University

York Athletic Facilities include the multi-purpose Tait
McKenzie Physical Education Centre as well as an ice arena,
10 playing fields, 19 tennis courts and a track and field
centre. 416-736-5185

Counselling and Disability Services (CDS)
416-736-5297

Learning Disabilities Services
416-736-5297

Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre
416-736-5959

Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services
416-736-5140 (Voice and Information Line)
416-736-5263 TTY

Mental Health Disability Services (MHDS)
416-736-5297

Scott Religious Centre
416-736-5144

TBLGAY – Trans Bisexual Lesbian Gays Allies at York
416-736-2100 ext. 20494

York Centre for Women and Trans People
416-736-2100, ext. 33484

York Lanes Health Centre
647-722-2370

York Lanes Dental Office
416-736-5038

York Parking Services
416-736-5335

York Student Housing Services (Osgoode Chambers)
416-736-5152

York University Co-operative Childcare Centre
416-736-5190

For more information:
www.osgoode.yorku.ca