

Western Law

Exchange Program Fact Sheet 2016 - 2017

Top 5 Reasons to apply for a Western Law Exchange

Our exchange program is one of the most active in Canada. Each year we welcome 30-40 visiting students from our partner law schools around the world.

- 1. Academic excellence** Western Law is one of Canada's leading law schools and boasts a number of professors with international reputations. This excellence is displayed in our courses, conferences and faculty research.
- 2. Student experience** Western Law has a diverse and collegial atmosphere where students study and socialize together. Our many student legal and recreational associations contribute to the rich extra-curricular student life.
- 3. Innovative Programs** Our unique January intensive courses are taught by visiting international scholars. During the Fall and Winter terms, visiting scholars - who are leaders in their field of study - teach special one week intensive courses. Our Community Legal Services clinic offers students an opportunity to gain valuable "hands-on" experience and exposure to a wide range of legal matters.
- 4. Location** London, Ontario is Canada's tenth largest city with close to 500,000 people in the metropolitan area. Located halfway between Toronto and Detroit, this thriving university town combines the affordability, charm and security of a mid-size community together with easy access to major urban centres such as Montreal, Chicago and New York.
- 5. Life in Canada** Canada is known for its open-mindedness, multiculturalism and dedication to human rights. During your exchange term, take advantage of our great Canadian wilderness and way of life. Hike and bike London's trails along the Thames River. Learn to ice skate and ski. Camp, canoe and backpack in numerous provincial parks. Enjoy the pristine sandy freshwater beaches of Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

Who We Are

The University of Western Ontario (also known as Western University), established in 1878, is one of the oldest and most beautiful campuses in Canada. Western prides itself on having a strong sense of community and offers exceptional amenities. The Faculty of Law, established in 1959, offers a unique blend of academic study, practical experience and extracurricular academic activities.

- Program: 3-year Juris Doctor - JD degree
- Number of Western Law students: 530 with 175 admitted annually
- Grade average on admission: 80-84% (3.7 GPA)
- Average LSAT score: 88th percentile
- Total number of Western students: approximately 38,000 undergraduate and graduate students including more than 3,700 international students from 117 countries.

Application Requirements

- **Application deadline** for Full year or Fall term exchange participants is **April 15, 2016**.
- Applications for Winter term participants will be accepted until October 1, 2016.
However, course selection will be limited for applications received after July 1.

Program Dates 2016-2017

- **Fall Term 2016:** September 7 – December 19, 2016
Fall Break is November 7-9, 2016; no classes will be held on these 3 days.
- **Winter Term 2017:** January 9 - April 28, 2017
Study Week is February 20 – 24, 2017; No classes are held during this week.
The Winter Term begins with a period of intensive instruction. During the month of January, students will enroll in one intensive course. The regular Winter Term courses will begin near the end of January and continue for the rest of the term. Students participating in the Winter Term exchange must enroll in both the January intensive and Winter term courses.

Acceptance Information

- **May 2016:** Letters of acceptance will be provided directly to students. Additional pre-arrival information will be provided to students via email.

Course Selection

- **July 2016:** Course selection is completed by students via a web-based program.
This includes choosing courses for the entire academic year (Fall term, January intensive course & Winter term). The exam schedule will be included with the course selection materials.

Course Offerings

- The Faculty of Law offers over 100 courses each year.
- Enrollment in compulsory courses (those required by our students to receive the JD degree) will not be available to visiting exchange students, due to demand from our students.
 - These courses are: Corporate Law, Civil Procedure and Administrative Law
- The course offerings vary each year and are included in these following broad subject areas:

Business and Private Law	Public Law	Advocacy, Procedural, Specialty and Legal Theory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial & Insolvency ▪ Common Law and Equity ▪ Corporate ▪ Insurance ▪ Intellectual Property & Information Technology ▪ International Business ▪ Labour & Employment ▪ Private International Law ▪ Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administrative ▪ Constitutional & Human Rights ▪ Criminal ▪ Family ▪ Public International Law ▪ Tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative Dispute Resolution ▪ Competition/Anti-trust ▪ Ethics and Professionalism ▪ Law, Language and Literature ▪ Legal History ▪ Legal Theory ▪ Litigation/Advocacy ▪ Research

Learning Expectations

- Course Load Requirement: 14 to 16 credit hours per term, 29 to 31 credit hours per year.
- Class Participation: expected in most courses, assessment varies by course and instructor.
- Examinations: a variety of formats including research papers, written final exams, and take-home exams.

Language Requirements

Proof of proficiency in English will be required prior to acceptance for all students whose home school instruction is not in English. **Required** acceptable test scores are listed below. Other recognized language proficiency tests may also be considered.

- TOEFL: 92 – 95 with no individual score below 20
- IELTS: minimum 6.5 with no individual score below 6.0

Fees

Students will pay tuition to their home university. Some supplementary fees are required for visiting exchange students at Western Law.

The fees listed below are approximate and may vary slightly pending budget approval.

- \$225 – London Transit bus pass, including special late night bus service
- \$31 – WesternONE student card fee
- \$25 per term – Western Law student Legal Society fee

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) Requirements

The eTA is a new Citizenship and Immigration Canada entry requirement. As of **March 15, 2016** citizens of all visa-exempt countries (excluding the United States) will require an eTA before boarding a plane to Canada. More information about the eTA requirement can be found at: <http://www.uwo.ca/international/iesc/visas/trv/eta.html>

Apply for the eTA at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp>

Health Insurance

While in Canada and registered at Western, all exchange students are **required** to be enrolled in the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). Enrollment will be completed upon arrival. For information about UHIP and what is included in the coverage, please visit: www.uhip.ca

The UHIP fees for 2016-17 will be:

- \$204 for four month term / \$408 for eight month academic year

While the UHIP plan covers most doctor visits and hospital costs in Ontario, it does not include any supplemental coverage for services such as prescription medications, dental care, eyeglasses nor for most out-of-country expenses. We encourage you to review the health insurance plan details on the UHIP website and **strongly recommend purchasing supplemental coverage** in addition to the UHIP plan.

Housing

- Information about on-campus residence arrangements may be viewed at: www.residenceatwestern.ca/exchange_students

NOTE: Exchange students attending for only one semester may receive a guaranteed offer or waiting list information, depending on availability.

- University residence accommodations include both traditional dormitory-style rooms and apartment-style suites, with most offering or requiring a meal plan.
- For the 2016-17 academic year, both the London Hall and Alumni House Residences are reserved for upper year students. Visiting law exchange students have enjoyed living in these suite-style residences. London Hall is located close to the law school and the recreation centre. A meal plan is optional in these residences since cooking facilities are provided in each suite.
- Note that all other University residences are primarily occupied by first-year undergraduate students (that is, most residents are 18-19 years of age). These residences will require the purchase of a mealplan and will have more rules regarding visitors and overnight guests.
- Western is located in a residential area with many housing options close to campus. Western's off-campus housing office provides a wide range of services including listings for off-campus housing rentals; average rental prices for various types of accommodations in London; and advice and translation of rental agreements, terms and conditions. Staff are also available to provide personal assistance via email or phone: offcampus.uwo.ca/exchange_students

Orientation

A **mandatory** orientation program is provided at the beginning of each term for incoming exchange students. Law Exchange Orientation will be held on **Tuesday, September 6, 2016 and Monday, January 9, 2017** and will include:

- welcome to Western Law,
- tour of the law school and university campus,
- academic integrity and computer orientation,
- introductory lectures on Canadian Law and legal citation,
- welcome reception and opportunity to meet your Western Law student "buddy", and
- additional events during the term such as Western's Homecoming football game or hockey game.

Computer Facilities - www.uwo.ca/its

- Western Law and the Western campus provide access to a high-speed wireless network.
- An “@uwo.ca” email address will be issued when application materials are complete.

Student Activities

- Western Law student clubs, trips, pubs, and formal events: www.law.uwo.ca/support_services/student_legal_society
- Western International Student activities and trips - iesc.uwo.ca
- Note that one formal outfit of clothing is recommended for some social events/receptions and for court appearances (if enrolled in Litigation Practice or volunteering with Community Legal Services).

On-Campus Facilities

- University Community Centre - westernusc.ca/ucc-mall
The facilities in Western’s student centre include the campus bookstore and computer store, cafeterias and pubs, Student Health Services, pharmacy, postal services, movie theatre, grocery store, copy centre and banking machines.
- Western’s Student Recreation Centre - www.westernmustangs.ca
One of the largest university recreation centres in Canada, this facility includes a 50 metre swimming pool, five gymnasiums, five squash courts, a large fitness centre as well as classrooms and locker rooms. The Rec Centre is adjacent to the Thompson ice arena.

Other helpful websites:

- Western University: www.uwo.ca
- Accessibility at Western: accessibility.uwo.ca
- Western’s International web portal: international.uwo.ca
- Government of Canada’s International Gateway: www.canadainternational.gc.ca
- City of London: www.london.ca

For more information, contact:

Ms. Andrea Streufert

International Programs Officer

Phone: (519) 661-3831

E-mail: astreufe@uwo.ca

Ms. Adeline Sanders

Administrative Assistant for International Programs and Faculty Services

Phone: 519-661-3346

E-mail: asander9@uwo.ca

law.uwo.ca/international

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