



Western Law

PROSPECTUS 2020 – 2021

Welcome to Western Law

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DEAN'S WELCOME

“As a Western Law graduate, I can personally attest to the quality of our legal education and our unparalleled student experience.”

I am delighted that you are considering joining us at Western Law. A legal education leads to a wealth of exciting opportunities, and a degree from Western will provide you with the interdisciplinary and international experience you need to thrive in today's demanding global environment.

Our small group program provides students the opportunity to actively engage with professors and classmates in a comfortable setting, and to receive regular, individualized feedback on their writing and advocacy. This program also supports the collegial community that is the core of the Western Law experience.

We strive to provide students with rigorous, relevant, and active learning experiences. We have one of Canada's most robust moot programs, a wide range of exchange partners and summer internships, and we offer clinical opportunities in diverse areas like litigation, criminal, business, sports, and intellectual property law. We are also the only Canadian law school to offer interested first-year students the option of taking corporate law, allowing them the opportunity to begin taking advanced business law courses at an earlier stage.

We recognize that the transition to law school presents new challenges, and we care about your well-being. Western Law has sponsored a mindfulness program for first-year students since 2017, and we have also introduced a full-time, dedicated Student Wellness Counsellor to provide individual counselling services and deliver wellness programming for the entire student body.

Finally, the value of professionalism is highlighted for all incoming students through a formal induction ceremony that welcomes new students to Western Law and the legal profession.

Erika Chamberlain
Dean, Western Law

ADMISSIONS FAST FACTS



Academic Requirements

Minimum of three years of full-time (or equivalent) university study

Competitive grades: **80% / A- / 3.7 or higher**

Both cumulative and “Last 2” grades considered, with focus on the latter

Competitive LSAT score:
160 (80th percentile) or higher

Highest LSAT score is used

Oldest LSAT score accepted:
June 2015 for Fall 2020 admission

Last LSAT score accepted for 2020 cycle:
February 2020



Profile of 2019 Incoming Class

Class size: **185**
(drawn from over 2,200 applications)

Gender: **46%** female / **45%** male
9% undeclared

Discretionary category admissions: **18%**

Undergraduate programs: **40**

Average age: **24**

General Category

Mean cumulative average: **3.5**

Mean “Last 2” average: **3.7**

Mean highest LSAT score: **161**

For more information regarding the diversity of our class, please visit:
law.uwo.ca > JD Admissions > Class Profiles



Other Admission Considerations

Employment

Awards and honours

Extra- and co-curricular activities

Personal and professional achievements

Rigorous research and writing experiences

Leadership experience

Graduate degrees



Finances

Full-time tuition and fees (for 2019/20): **\$21,730**

Estimated books and supplies: **\$1,200**

Reasonable housing costs in the City of London

Multiple performance and need-based scholarships available

OSAP and Western bursaries also available



Application

Deadline for first-year applicants: November 1

Deadline for upper-year applicants: May 1

For more information see: **ouac.ca/olsas**



First-Year JD Program

First-year students are required to take the following foundational courses:

Torts
Property
Contracts
Criminal Law
Constitutional Law
Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy (LRWA)
Legal Ethics and Professionalism OR Corporate Law

The Small Group Program

The small group program lies at the heart of the Western Law experience. First-year students take one course in a small group of approximately 21 students, led by a professor and assisted by upper-year students who provide peer and academic support. The program provides an interactive and supportive learning environment, which enables you to develop your skills in legal analysis, research, and written and oral communication with personalized attention from your professors. In addition to promoting collegiality and building lifelong friendships, the small group program gives you the confidence and analytical skills you need to become a successful advocate.



Upper-Year Curriculum

During their upper years, students are required to take the following courses:

Administrative Law
Civil Procedure
Corporate Law OR Legal Ethics and Professionalism
Electives

Students must also complete essay and professional writing requirements, which improve the development of critical communication skills.

The upper-year curriculum provides a diverse array of courses, clinical opportunities and intensive experiences. Western Law offers several optional curricular streams, which provide you with informal guidance on the courses and co-curricular activities you may wish to pursue in light of your personal interests and career aspirations.

Our Capstone courses, which are offered at the end of each curricular stream and bring together theoretical, practical and interdisciplinary components, require you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during the JD program. Experiential learning activities that will ease your transition from legal education to legal practice include:

- Oral advocacy exercises such as civil and criminal trials, examinations for discovery, motions and appellate moots;
- Negotiation, mediation and arbitration exercises;
- Extended simulations of complex litigation files or corporate mergers;
- Field trips to courts, government agencies and international organizations;
- Opportunities to engage with leading scholars, practitioners and judges;
- Community engagement projects;
- Client and file management;
- Job shadowing;
- Externships.



“Working as a research assistant for MADD Canada has vastly improved my understanding of effective legal writing and advocacy. The opportunity

to apply theoretical knowledge from first year into practice so soon and contribute to such meaningful work has been incredibly rewarding.”

Lauren MacLeod, JD '21

CURRICULAR STREAMS

BUSINESS LAW

CRIMINAL LAW

GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

INTERNATIONAL LAW

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

LITIGATION

MANDATORY &
CORE COURSES

ELECTIVES

CO-CURRICULAR OPTIONS

Clinical Experience
Advocacy Programs
International Internship
and Exchange Opportunities

CAPSTONE

The capstone courses
assist students in making
the transition from legal
education to legal practice.

THE
SPENCER NIBLEY
SCHOOL OF LAW
BUILDING

FACULTY

Our 36 full-time and 67 adjunct Faculty are recognized as leading scholars in a wide variety of fields. Our small class size provides students with excellent opportunities for direct interaction with their professors.



Michael Coyle
Associate Professor

Teaching & Research: Aboriginal Law, First Nations treaty rights, Negotiation theory and power relations, The significance of indigenous legal systems in Crown-First Nations relations

Interests: Playing squash and acoustic guitar, Drafting scholarly articles in French cafés



Claire Houston
Assistant Professor

Teaching & Research: Family Law, Children and the Law, Feminist Legal Theory, Criminal Regulation of the Family

Interests: Dancing with my children, Vegetarian cooking, The Bachelor/ette



Christopher Nicholls
W. Geoff Beattie Chair in Corporate Law, Fulbright Scholar

Teaching & Research: Corporate Law, Securities Regulation, Corporate Governance, Regulation of Financial Initiatives

Interests: Financial history, Contemporary art, Seinfeld reruns



Valerie Oosterveld
*Associate Professor,
Member of The College of the Royal Society of Canada*

Teaching & Research: Gender Issues in International Criminal Law, Public International Law, International Law Capstone, Jessup International Law Moot team

Interests: Mother of three, World traveller, Fan of all forms of dance



Wade Wright
Assistant Professor

Teaching & Research: Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Crown (Government) Liability, Law and Sexuality

Interests: Music aficionado (and frustrated musician), News junkie, Lover of travel

Advocacy Programs

Advocacy is a fundamental skill for aspiring lawyers, which our students develop by preparing written and oral submissions and arguing hypothetical cases before trial and appellate moot courts. Our internal advocacy competitions span many subject areas and participating students receive comprehensive feedback from practising lawyers and judges. Upper-year students compete in provincial, national and international advocacy competitions for academic credit and routinely win awards at these competitions. Western Law students also hone their practical skills in negotiation, client counseling and contract drafting competitions.

Intensive Courses

Western Law offers several week-long two-credit intensive courses during the academic year, which cater to students' specific interests in a niche area of law. Examples include Canadian Competition and Law Policy, Racial Profiling and Police Law, and Cannabis Law and Practice.

Indigenous Law Camps

In 2017, Western Law participated in our first Anishinaabe Law Camp, hosted by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and facilitated by Professors John Borrows and Heidi Stark from the University of Victoria. Our second camp in 2019, supported by the Law Foundation of Ontario, was hosted by Walpole Island First Nation and led by Professor Valerie Waboose. These Law Camps, which also attract scholars from faculties across Western's campus, contribute to our continued efforts to build valuable connections with our Indigenous communities.

Global Sustainability Certification

This program trains the next generation of leaders in the global mining industry. Through interdisciplinary seminars and a culminating experience, which may include summer internships and domestic and international field schools, students collaborate with professionals to promote sustainable resource exploration and extraction. This Certification is part of our commitment to teaching mining law best practices and providing our students with unique practical opportunities to learn about this challenging sector.

The January Intensive Experience

A Western Law innovation, January intensive courses are designed to provide an active learning experience for every student in the faculty. First-year students concentrate on practical exercises that develop their research, writing and oral advocacy skills. Upper-year students choose one limited-enrolment course from a broad range of options. Several of these courses include experiential components, such as externships, community placements, extended simulations and site visits.

Global and Intercultural Engagement Honor

This program recognizes students' achievements in global and intercultural competencies. Through coursework and extracurricular activities, students enrich their legal educational experiences and develop the skills needed to succeed and prosper in our increasingly interdependent global society. When successfully completed, the Honor appears on the official Western transcript.



The Business Law Advantage

As Canada's premier business law school, Western Law's curriculum offers a wide range of courses examining the fundamentals of business organizations, finance, securities, mergers and acquisitions, trade and taxation, as well as leading-edge topics in mining and energy law, corporate social responsibility and corporate restructuring.

In addition to renowned full-time faculty, Western Law's visiting professors and business law speakers programs allow students to learn from pre-eminent lawyers, economists and leaders in the business and public sectors. Since 2007 Western Law has hosted more than 30 of the world's foremost scholars in business and law from the world's top universities.

Western Law also provides numerous opportunities for students to gain real-world experience in business law, including our Business Law Clinic, business-related advocacy competitions and summer internships.

"Western's JD/MBA program combines a stellar legal education with best-in-class business training. I've gained the legal skills and knowledge to advise my clients, and the business perspective to understand their needs."



Shane Freedman
JD/MBA '19

Western Law and the Ivey Business School

The HBA/JD

Each year Western Law sets aside a number of places in its first-year class for high achievers in the Ivey Business School HBA program who wish to obtain their Ivey degree and a JD degree in six years instead of seven. Students apply directly to the Faculty of Law at the end of their third year of study (called the HBA1 year) and complete the first year of law school in Year 4 of the combined program. Years 5 and 6 consist of an approved mix of required and elective courses from both Faculties.

The JD/MBA

The JD/MBA Program is designed for students who envision a career where business and law intersect. It provides an exceptional education for highly motivated, talented students capable of managing the demands of two intensive programs simultaneously. Students in this program, who are expected to have at least two years of quality work experience, begin with the business essentials component of the MBA in the spring and summer prior to first-year law.

Graduates from both the HBA/JD and JD/MBA programs are uniquely positioned to pursue highly rewarding careers in law and business and make valuable contributions in fields that require the application of both disciplines.

Exchange Program

Western Law has established exchange partnerships with 19 leading law schools around the world: in Scandinavia, the UK, Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Quebec.

Participating in an exchange term allows you to benefit from expanded curriculum options, study legal issues from a new perspective and create a network of international contacts for the future.

Information sessions are held during Fall term, providing an opportunity to learn about our partner schools from visiting exchange students. The application deadline is in January.

More than 55 placements are offered every year, with two to four places available at each partner school. Course offerings are available in English at all partner schools (with the exception of Laval).

Western Law values and embraces the international experience, believing that in this era of globalization, exposure to another legal system is exceedingly important.



Summer Internships

Through our thriving Western Law Internship Program (WLIP) you have the opportunity to intern with international organizations, embassies, non-governmental organizations and private industries.

Over the past 14 years, our internship program has grown to provide up to 15 internships per year in the areas of international and environmental law, business and trade law, indigenous law and access to justice, and sports law.

Information sessions are held during Fall term. Short-listed candidates participate in an interview as part of the competitive selection process.

Internships are generally 8-12 weeks during May to July. Students receive a stipend to assist with travel and living costs.



CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Law is a very rewarding profession and the career opportunities for students with a legal education are endless. While all Canadian law schools offer career services, what sets Western apart is its collegial environment in which upper-year students and alumni take a real interest and active roles as speakers and mentors to help you meet your career objectives.

A Western Law degree opens the door to both the traditional practice of law and a host of alternative career options. Our distinguished alumni can be found working across the globe and include judges, lawyers in both private practice and government, politicians, business leaders, academics, journalists and social advocates.

Western Law's Career and Professional Development Office (CPDO) provides information and tools to help you succeed in today's competitive job market. We offer individual one-on-one counseling to prepare you for the recruitment process and run a wide variety of programs and events throughout the year. Some of the seminars are intended to help you hone your job search skills, while others, like Western Law's Annual Career Conference, provide you with an opportunity to meet with and learn about various employers, practice areas and career paths. We also host one of the largest On-Campus Interview (OCI) programs for Toronto employers and run joint Off-Campus interview programs in Toronto to connect you with employers from Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa and the Maritimes.



It gives us great pride at Western Law to say that our placement rate is consistently among the best in Canada. Our students graduate with knowledge and skills that enable them to gain fulfilling employment and leadership opportunities throughout their careers.



Over 90%

Students who secure Articles by graduation



1,079

Number of student interviews at our Toronto OCI Program



49

Number of alumni mentors for 1L students



1100+

Number of law firms and legal departments in our employer database



Toronto

Market that hires the largest number of our students



86%

Percentage of OCI applicants who are offered interviews



25+

Number of Career Development sessions offered per year



50+

Number of employers who attend our annual Career Conference

LEGAL CLINICS

Community Legal Services (CLS) is among the most progressive legal clinics in Canada and a leader in the cause of access to justice. Our clinic provides free legal services to low-income people in the London community and provides law students who work there insight into the real-life practice of law. Students handle all aspects of the case from interviewing a client to drafting pleadings to conducting a trial. Upper-year students act as caseworkers, handling cases in the areas of:

- Criminal law
- Landlord and tenant
- Small Claims Court
- Family law
- Public legal education
- Human rights
- Employment law
- Intellectual property
- University appeals

First-year students can gain experience as associate caseworkers who assist with the Public Legal Education Program, handle initial interviews with clients, and help caseworkers with files. Student caseworkers receive guidance from five lawyers and 10-12 senior students. Many students receive formal academic credit for their work in CLS.

CLS celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019 after serving over 25,000 clients since its inception. To commemorate this milestone Western Law hosted the 2019 Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education Conference, as well as a Community Legal Services reunion.



Western Law offers students numerous opportunities to develop practical skills and gain valuable hands-on legal experience.

The Western Business Law Clinic provides small start-up and early-stage businesses with student legal assistance overseen by practising lawyers who act as mentors. The clinic creates an environment for students to learn invaluable practical skills in the area of business law and gain exposure to a wide range of client files.

Pro Bono Students Canada is a national program that was launched at Western in 1998. Law student volunteers are matched with community agencies that need legal services but cannot afford them. Volunteers conduct legal research, participate in placements, or complete other law-related projects for local organizations under the supervision of a lawyer mentor.

The Dispute Resolution Centre is a division of Community Legal Services that provides mediation services to members of the community. The DRC also offers training to students.



The Sport Solution Clinic is a program of AthletesCAN, the association of Canada's National and Olympic Athletes. Sport Solution is the only program of its kind in North America. The clinic offers Western Law students the unique opportunity to experience the practice of sport law and assist our high-performance athletes with a variety of internal administrative appeals, including team selection, discipline and Athlete Assistance Program carding disputes. Students may be involved in interviewing athletes, conducting research, drafting documents, and representing athletes in mediation and arbitration. First-year students, who are hired as caseworkers, assist upper-year students on files. Caseworkers may also be hired back with the clinic as a case manager or program manager.



STUDENT LIFE & WELLNESS

Our class size remains among the smallest in Ontario, allowing more one-on-one time with professors and an enriched classroom and co-curricular experience where classmates become lifelong friends. We look forward to welcoming you to our dynamic collegial community.

Western Law has its own Student Wellness Counsellor to help students experiencing mental health issues or other personal challenges. You can access timely and convenient care, including individual appointments, group programs or workshops. Services are free and confidential.

Student committees are also devoted to ensuring you focus on your health during law school. The Student Wellness Committee runs events throughout the year such as free massages, guest speakers, Run for the Cure and goat yoga!

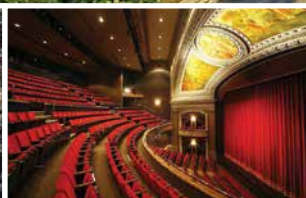
Wellness is also promoted by our faculty. Professor Thomas Telfer runs an eight-session optional non-credit course on mindfulness for first-year students that provides strategies to improve focus, resilience and well-being. In 2019, he will be offering an upper-year credit course, *Mindfulness and the Legal Profession*.



LIFE IN LONDON

Western boasts one of the most beautiful campuses in Canada. Situated along the banks of the Thames River in London, Ontario, our gothic-style architecture and our ivy-covered campus blend in seamlessly with 400 acres of rolling hills and endless scenic locations to study, chat with friends or relax.

With a population of approximately 400,000, London offers the best of both worlds: big city excitement with a small town feel, including very affordable living and accommodation compared to other Canadian cities. Affectionately called the Forest City due to its numerous trees and more than 200 public parks, London has an extensive trail system that runs along the Thames River right on to Western's campus. Opportunities for winter sports abound, while in the summer you can enjoy the beautiful beaches of our Great Lakes (Huron and Erie). London also offer affordable sporting and concert events, a thriving creative community and numerous festivals.





Come for a visit!

Learn more about Western Law:
law.uwo.ca

Arrange a Western Campus tour online:
welcome.uwo.ca

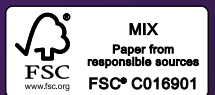
Arrange a Law School tour:
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