Welcome to Western Law

CONTENTS

4 Dean’s Welcome
5 Admissions Fast Facts
6 Programs
10 Curricular Streams
13 Faculty
14 Business Law
16 Global Opportunities
18 Career and Professional Development
20 Legal Clinics
22 Student Life
24 Life in London
26 Come for a Visit
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 mooting 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 sponsored a new mindfulness program for first-year students in 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 2014 for Fall 2019 admission**

Last LSAT score accepted for 2019 cycle: **January 2019 score**

Profile of 2018 Incoming Class

Class size: **178**
(drawn from over 2,200 applications)

Gender: **45% female / 45% male**
**10% undeclared**

Discretionary category admissions: **14%**

Undergraduate programs: **37**

Provinces represented: **6**

Average age: **24**

Mean “Last 2” Average: **3.7**

Mean Highest LSAT Score: **162**

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 2018/19): **$23,890**

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

Reasonable housing costs in the City of London

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)
- Orientation to Law and the Legal System
- 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 22 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.
PROGRAMS
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, negotiations and appellate moots
- 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
- externships

“Attending the UN Commission on the Status of Women allowed me to observe firsthand how international law is applied in practice, which is something that cannot be learned in a classroom.”

Priya Chopra, JD ’18
PROSPECTUS 2019 – 2020

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.
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.

Certification in Legal French
The Dean’s Certification in Legal French is designed to provide experience and competence in the use of the French language in a range of legal settings. Students who complete the Certification are familiar with French as applied in legal contexts, including speaking, reading and writing skills. Through academic courses, substantial French experiences and extracurricular activities, students gain knowledge and proficiency in thinking and working in legal French.

Global Sustainability Certification
This program is designed to train 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 and develop workable strategies 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, typically taught by high-profile lawyers and visiting scholars from around the world. 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.
Michael Coyle, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean Graduate Studies
Teaching: Aboriginal Law, Negotiation and Mediation, Contract Law, Negotiating International Conflicts
Research: First Nations treaty rights, negotiation theory, the significance of Indigenous legal orders in Crown-First Nations relations
Interests: Playing squash and acoustic guitar, drafting scholarly articles in French cafés

Kate Berger, Assistant Professor
Teaching: Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Advanced Public Law
Research: Constitutional structure and amendment, procedural fairness in public decision-making, legal pluralism
Interests: Hot yoga devotee, Netflix junkie, avid reader

Chris Nicholls, W. Geoff Beattie Chair in Corporate Law, Fulbright Scholar
Teaching: Corporate Law, Securities Regulation, Corporate Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions
Research: Corporate Governance, Shareholder Activism, Financial Innovation, Financial Institutions and Markets, Mergers & Acquisitions
Interests: Financial History, Modern Art, Shakespearean drama, the Seinfeld show

Valerie Oosterveld, Associate Professor, Member of The College of the Royal Society of Canada
Teaching: Public International Law, Capstone in International Law, International Criminal Law, Jessup Moot Coach
Research: Gender issues in international criminal law
Interests: Mother of three, world traveller, Harry Potter fan

Thomas Telfer, Professor, Catalyst Capital Fellow in Insolvency Law, Senior Fellow Melbourne Law School
Teaching: Contracts, Bankruptcy, Legal History of Business Regulation, Mindfulness in Law for 1Ls
Research: Legal history of bankruptcy law, interface of federalism and bankruptcy law, mental health and mindfulness education
Interests: Yoga practitioner, ailurophile (pets Pepper and Pumpkin), Star Trek aficionado

Our 35 full-time and 52 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.
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.
“Through Western’s JD/MBA program I have gained the skills, knowledge and confidence to effectively tackle both the business and legal challenges my clients face.”

Ashley Taborda
JD/MBA ’17

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 6 years instead of 7. 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.
Western Law has established exchange partnerships with 20 leading law schools around the world: in Scandinavia, the UK, Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the USA 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.

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

Over the past 13 years, our internship program has grown to provide 15 internships in the areas of international & environmental law, business & trade law, indigenous law & access to justice, and sports law.

You are encouraged to attend the information sessions held during fall term to learn more about WLIP from the previous summer’s interns. Application deadlines are advertised to all first- and second-year students. Short-listed candidates participate in an interview as part of the competitive selection process.

Internships are generally 10-12 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 in helping 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

1,026 Number of student interviews at our Toronto OCI Program

42 Number of alumni mentors for 1L students

28 Number of Canadian cities where our students article

Toronto Market that hires the largest number of our students

40% Applicants who secure positions through OCIs

25+ Number of Career Development sessions offered per year

50+ Number of employers who attend our annual Career Conference
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
- Wills and powers of attorney
- Immigration
- 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.

CLS will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019 after serving over 25,000 clients since its inception. To commemorate this milestone Western Law will be hosting 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.

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. Many participating students receive formal academic credit for their work in CLS and the DRC.

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 complete legal research or other law-related projects for member organizations under the supervision of a lawyer mentor.

The Sport Solution Clinic is a program of AthletesCAN, the association of Canada’s National and Olympic Athletes. The clinic offers Western Law students the opportunity to assist our high-performance athletes with a variety of internal administrative appeals, including team selection, discipline and Athlete Assistance Program carding disputes.
STUDENT LIFE
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.
LIFE IN LONDON
Western boasts one of the most picturesque campuses in North America. 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 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. Winter sports can be enjoyed at London’s Boler Mountain and in our many ice rinks, while in the summer Londoners enjoy the beaches of two Great Lakes (Huron and Erie) in Grand Bend and Port Stanley. London also offers affordable sporting events, a thriving creative community and numerous festivals.
Come for a visit!

Learn more about Western Law: www.law.uwo.ca
Arrange a Western Campus tour online: www.welcome.uwo.ca
Arrange a Law School tour: lawapp@uwo.ca or 519.661.3347