Welcome to Western Law

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“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 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 recently developed a series of curricular streams to help you build a progressive and coherent course of study; each stream culminates in a “capstone” course that promotes the transition from learning to practising law.

Western Law is 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.

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
A 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 2013 for Fall 2018 admission

Profile of 2017 Incoming Class

Class size: 176
(drawn from 2,200 applications)

Gender: 45% female / 55% male

Discretionary category admissions: 17%

Undergraduate programs: 36

Average age: 24

Mean “Last 2” Average: 3.7

Mean Highest LSAT Score: 162

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

Application

Deadline for first-year applicants: November 1

Deadline for upper-year applicants: May 1

For more information see: ouac.ca/olsas

Finances

Full-time tuition and fees (for 2017/18): $22,785

Estimated books and supplies: $1,450

Reasonable housing costs in the City of London

Performance and need-based scholarships available

OSAP and Western bursaries also available
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 students to develop their skills in legal analysis, research, and written and oral communication with personalized attention from their professors. In addition to promoting collegiality and building lifelong friendships, the small group program gives students the confidence and analytical skills they need to become successful advocates.
WESTERN LAW PROGRAMS
Upper-Year Curriculum

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

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<tr>
<th>Administrative Law</th>
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<td>Civil Procedure</td>
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<td>Corporate Law OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Ethics and Professionalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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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
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.
Our 35 full-time and 51 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 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 Glover, 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: Modern financial art buff, Shakespearian theatre enthusiast

Valerie Oosterveld, Associate Dean (Research), 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

Adam Parachin, Associate Professor
Teaching: Property Law, Trust Law, Estate Planning, Legal Research, Writing & Advocacy
Research: The law of charity, or “doing good by others” through charitable and not-for-profit organizations
Interests: Amateur auto mechanic, plausible stunt double for Dr. Sheldon Cooper, aspiring endurance runner (kind of)
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 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, will 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.

“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
Exchange Program

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.

Summer Internships

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

Over the past 12 years, our internship program has grown to provide 16 internships in the areas of international & environmental law, business & trade law, indigenous law & access to justice, and sports law.

Students are encouraged to attend the information sessions held during fall term to learn more about SLIP 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.
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 our students meet their 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 will 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

**40%**
Applicants who secure positions through OCIs

**25+**
Number of Career Development sessions offered per year

**42**
Number of alumni mentors for 1L students

**28**
Number of Canadian cities where our students article

**50+**
Number of employers who attend our annual Career Conference

**Toronto**
Market that hires the largest number of our students

1,026
Number of Canadian cities where our students article

25+
Number of Career Development sessions offered per year

50+
Number of employers who attend our annual Career Conference

40%
Applicants who secure positions through OCIs

Over 90%
Students who secure Articles by graduation

28
Number of Canadian cities where our students article

19
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
- 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.
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