Welcome to Osgoode

We are a law school known for excellence, engagement and innovation. We seek occasions to experiment, to push boundaries, to expand horizons, and to lead. Why? Because we believe in the potential of a law school to improve the law and the lives of all who are touched by the justice system.

We are inspired by our outstanding students. They enrich our community with their intelligence, diversity and creativity. In turn, we offer an extraordinary legal education that ensures their success in whatever course they choose. Our expansive Juris Doctor curriculum is rich in opportunity to integrate theory and practice. We have unparalleled clinical and intensive programs and exciting collaborations with community organizations. Our students can represent clients in court, provide legal services to start-up companies and engage in cutting-edge legal research and law reform, all before they graduate. Our full-time faculty are top legal scholars whose research continues to influence the legal and policy landscape in Canada and beyond. They are joined by a dynamic group of practising lawyers and judges drawn from the Toronto Bar.

At Osgoode you will find a vibrant and inclusive space where students, faculty and staff collaborate to make a positive difference around the globe. Our commitment to excellence and leadership, coupled with our spirit of service, is articulated in our motto, Through Law to Justice. It is also embodied in the tremendous accomplishments of our renowned alumni, who have excelled worldwide in public agencies, private law firms, corporations, government, legal clinics and universities.

I invite you to learn more about Osgoode and how you will join the next generation of distinguished legal leaders.

Lorne Sossin, Dean
Class of 1992
An Osgoode education will transform the way you think.

Starting on day one, our unique Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community intensive course will challenge you to reflect on important questions of ethics and professionalism and introduce you to the global dimensions of law. You will then become well-grounded in the core areas of Canadian common law and equipped with a wide range of relevant skills, including legal researching, writing and reasoning. Combined, this will provide you with an exceptionally strong foundation from which to move forward with your distinct educational goals.

Beyond first year, your experience is in your hands; you determine the path you wish to take and we will help you on your way. Osgoode is distinguished by its progressive curriculum with some of the most innovative teaching methods in the country. As a student, you have the advantage of choosing from a tremendous range of learning opportunities. Our offerings are unparalleled both in terms of substance and mode of instruction, enabling you to design an individualized course of study uniquely suited to your personal objectives and career aspirations.

You can create your curriculum from a myriad of study options:

- More than 150 lectures and interactive seminars, ranging from the traditional to cutting-edge law
- 16 clinics and intensive programs
- Four optional curricular streams: International, Comparative and Transnational Law, Labour and Employment Law, Tax Law and Litigation, Dispute Resolution and the Administration of Justice
- An advanced Mooting and Skills Program
- A wide range of international exchanges and summer abroad programs
- Individual supervised research papers
- Senior editor positions with the Osgoode Hall Law Journal and other law journals based in the faculty
- Approved graduate level courses in another faculty

Expand your scope by pursuing one of our four joint degree programs:

- Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration (JD/MBA) with the Schulich School of Business (three year or four year option)
- Juris Doctor/Master of Environmental Studies (JD/MES) with the Faculty of Environmental Studies
- Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Philosophy (JD/MA) with the Department of Philosophy
- Juris Doctor/Bachelor of Civil Law (JD/BCL) with the Université de Montréal, Faculté de Droit
First Year Courses

- Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community (intensive at the start of terms one and two)
- State & Citizen: Canadian Public and Constitutional Law
- Tort Law
- Contract Law
- Criminal Law
- Legal Process (research, writing and civil procedure)
- Property Law
- Choice: Legal Theory Seminar or Perspective Option (elective seminar)

Upper Year Course Offerings

Our extensive options include: Indigenous law, business law, constitutional and administrative law, family law, health law, human rights law, intellectual property law, labour law, legal theory, natural resources and the law, property law, regulatory law, social justice, equality and the law, taxation law and transnational law. To explore the full range of courses and seminars visit our website.

Osgoode is a leader in experiential education, offering some of the most unique and extensive opportunities in the country.

Applying theoretical knowledge in real world settings is essential to deepening your understanding of the impact of law and preparing you for practice in any context. With this in mind, Osgoode leads the way in developing a curriculum that combines theory and practical application. Through the first ever Office of Experiential Education at a Canadian law school, we offer the most innovative and wide array of externships, skills-based courses, student-led clinics and other unique hands-on learning methods. Before you graduate you can serve clients directly, develop practical legal skills and build professional networks, providing you a distinct advantage with prospective employers.

Clinics and Intensives

- Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments
- Advanced Business Law I: Corporate Finance at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
- Advanced Business Law II: Mergers & Acquisitions at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
- Anti-Discrimination Law at Human Rights Legal Support Centre
- Community and Legal Aid Services Program (on-site legal aid clinic)
- Criminal Law Intensive
- Disability Law Intensive at ARCH Disability Law Centre
- Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic
- Immigration and Refugee Law Intensive
- Innocence Project
- Intellectual Property Law and Technology Intensive
- International and Transnational Law Intensive
- Mediation Intensive
- Osgoode Business Clinic at Stikeman Elliott LLP
- Poverty Law Intensive at Parkdale Community Legal Services
- Test Case Litigation Project

Mooting and Skills Program

Our comprehensive Mooting and Lawyering Skills Program will enable you to develop and refine your legal research, drafting and advocacy skills. In turn, you can contribute to Osgoode’s long-standing tradition of victories in local, national and international mooting competitions.

“Participating in the Immigration and Mediation Intensives, and an internship at the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic exposed me to the world of law and helped shape my career.”

- Rebecca Lockwood
  Class of 2014
  Lawyer, Jackman, Nazami & Associates
**Internships**

Internships provide an added dimension to the Osgoode experience. Spend your summer immersed in legal practice through an impressive array of placements covering: public interest/social justice law, health law and patient rights, environmental law, corporate law, women and the law and Indigenous law.

The Osgoode summer internships vary in their location. For example, you might choose to stay close to home in the legal department of Toronto’s Centre for Addiction and Mental Health or you may go global to assist clients at a legal aid clinic in Africa. Many of our internships allow you the freedom to propose your own placement – anywhere in the world – and all are supported at $10,000 per student.

**International Study**

Studying abroad is an extraordinarily enriching experience and one that is increasingly valuable for law students given our global context. That is why Osgoode offers term and full year exchanges to more than 15 countries.

You can also spend a summer studying in Germany, Israel, Italy or Malaysia.

These experiences allow you to learn about foreign legal systems, expand your thinking on a global level, and gain meaningful insights into different cultures and perspectives.
You will be welcomed into a vibrant, intellectual and inclusive community.

Entering Class of 2016

*as of June 2016

Our unwavering commitment to diversity of people and perspectives creates an environment that will broaden your outlook and foster personal growth. Your Osgoode experience will be enriched by the close connections you make with your classmates, many of whom will become your lifelong friends. Opportunities for meaningful interaction and engagement exist through numerous student-led activities. Together you can:

- Substantively contribute to the governance of the law school through Student Caucus and the Legal and Literary Society (Osgoode’s student government)
- Shape the debate by writing for the law school newspaper, Obiter Dicta, or one of several law journals
- Develop and explore interests, social issues and different cultures through more than 40 student clubs and organizations
- Showcase your talent at Mock Trial, our musical revue

Engage With the Community at Large

While individually diverse, we are a group united in our passion for leadership and service. We believe so strongly in connecting with and supporting the surrounding community that it is embedded in our curriculum. Through our 40-hour volunteer public interest graduation requirement, you will contribute to access to justice, identify areas of interest, meet mentors and potential employers, and engage with community members in a variety of settings.

For example, you might choose to:

- Provide free legal services to those in need and support projects dedicated to access to justice and law reform through Pro Bono Students Canada
- Deliver law-related educational programming and act as a mentor to high school students from low-income neighbourhoods with the Law In Action Within Schools (LAWS) program
- Address local legal issues unique to the Global South while stationed in the area via the International Legal Partnership
- Collaborate with Innovation York and Torys LLP through the IP Innovation Clinic, a needs-based innovation-to-market legal clinic
You will be inspired and encouraged as you learn from Canada’s preeminent legal thinkers.

Our full-time faculty are internationally renowned for their scholarship and significant influence on law and public policy in Canada and abroad. The exceptional calibre of instruction that they provide is augmented by a large number of adjunct faculty, including judges and lawyers from the Toronto Bar. This offers you the benefit of practical, relevant advice and the opportunity to connect with leading local practitioners, right inside your classroom.

While our faculty members are diverse in their experiences, perspectives and approaches, they are single-minded in their dedication to the success and well-being of all students.

Meet A Few Of Our Esteemed Full-Time Faculty

PROFESSOR MARY CONDON – Associate Dean; Former Vice-Chair and current part-time Commissioner of the Ontario Securities Commission. Teaches: Securities Regulation and Advanced Securities

PROFESSOR CARYS CRAIG – Associate Dean, Research; founding member of IP Osgoode (Intellectual Property Law and Technology Program). Teaches: Intellectual Property, Trademarks, Copyright and Legal Theory


PROFESSOR ROBERT WAI – Former Associate Dean; Rhodes Scholar, Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School. Teaches: Contracts, Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community, International Business Transactions and International Trade Regulation

A Driving Force In Legal Research

Osgoode has a proud tradition of leadership in legal research. Students are encouraged to engage in research activities through courses, seminars, directed research papers and a host of on-site research centres including:

- Canadian Forum on Civil Justice
- Critical Research Laboratory in Law and Society (CRL)
- Intellectual Property Law and Technology Program (IP Osgoode)
- Institute for Feminist Legal Studies (IFLS)
- Jack and Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security
- Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business Law
- Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution
Your success is our priority.

Recognizing the important relationship between academic, professional and personal success, we offer a full complement of resources and support to ensure you maximize your potential in all of these realms.

Our Associate Dean (Students) will help to ease your transition into law school and encourage your academic achievement through:

- An Academic Success Program comprised of skills sessions such as exam writing and note-taking
- The Dean’s Fellows Program which matches an upper-year student mentor to each first-year course
- Individual consultation to address personal, academic concerns

We offer necessary accommodations to ensure an equitable learning environment for those who face challenges because of physical, medical, sensory, mental health or learning disabilities. One example is our Dean’s Scribes Program which was created to pair anonymous scribes with students who, because of their disability, required the assistance of a note-taker.

Our Student Success and Wellness Program will nurture your personal growth and support your emotional well-being through:

- A dedicated on-site professional counsellor, exclusive to Osgoode students
- Wellness programming
- Weekly yoga
- Mindfulness sessions
- Mental health awareness events

Melanie Banka Goela graduated with a JD degree from Osgoode in 2003. In 2006 she completed a Master of Education in Counselling Psychology and is now a Registered Psychotherapist.

Melanie is strongly committed to supporting the well-being of all law students. That is why she, with the cooperation of other Ontario law schools, developed JustBalance.ca, a website to provide information about mental health services on campus and in the community.
Your journey through Osgoode will lead you to achieve, and exceed, your highest aspirations.

Osgoode graduates are among the most renowned and sought after legal professionals in Canada and around the world. An Osgoode JD opens countless doors in private practice, policy development, business, government, politics, social activism and academia.

The Career Development Office will be instrumental in helping you define and achieve your short- and long-term goals through individual counselling, résumé review, mock interviews, networking events, workshops, job postings and formal recruitment processes.

Our Alumni Mentor Program, which pairs you with upper-year students and graduates, provides an added opportunity for networking, exposure to different career paths and invaluable advice.

To provide a further advantage as you prepare for your career, Osgoode’s one-of-a-kind Learning and Leading Series – consisting of optional, voluntary certificate programs – equips you with relevant, marketable skills and knowledge beyond what one expects from a traditional legal education.

Class of 2015 Articling Statistics

90% secured articling positions
10% seeking articles or pursuing alternative avenues
68% private practice
14% government
4% business/industry
4% clerkships
8% public interest work
2% other

*as of October 2015

“Through exposure to the world’s leading legal minds and an array of learning opportunities I acquired the necessary skills and confidence to embark on the career I had envisioned.”

- Avnish Nanda
Class of 2014
Founding Partner, Nanda & Company
As an Osgoode graduate you join an elite community of more than 15,000 alumni shaping the legal landscape in Canada and across the globe.

PAUL JEBELY, CLASS OF 2005 - Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in Shanghai; leading aviation lawyer and the only lawyer to receive the award for “Outstanding Contribution to African Aviation Development.”

PAUL JONATHAN SAGUIL, CLASS OF 2007 - Senior Counsel, TD Bank Group; Chair of Law Society of Upper Canada Equity Advisory Group; member of Ontario Bar Association’s Council, Equality Committee, and Governance Committee; Chair of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law Section; member of Canadian Corporate Counsel Association – Ontario Chapter Executive; awarded 2016 Canadian Bar Association’s Canadian Corporate Counsel Association (CCCA) Community Builder Award, 2015 Precedent Setter Award; member of Board of Directors for Out On Bay Street and Community One Foundation.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR, CLASS OF 1984 (JD/MBA) - Chair, Board of Directors of RBC; Former President and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts; Chair, Board of the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation and member of its Board of Trustees; Director of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board; Director of the Adecco Group; Director of the Air Canada Board.

CARA ZWIBEL, CLASS OF 2004 - Director, Fundamental Freedoms Program for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA); former law clerk to the Honourable Justice Ian Binnie at the Supreme Court of Canada and associate at large national firm; LLM from New York University (Arthur T. Vanderbilt Scholar).

“I am continually impressed by the Osgoode students that I teach in my securities law class and hire at Goodmans LLP. Osgoode helps students develop into great leaders and it’s an honour to be a part of that.”

- Dale Lastman
  Class of 1982
  Chair, Goodmans LLP
You are about to embark on an extraordinary legal journey that will open up endless possibilities. Here is how you begin.

**Your Application To Osgoode**

Applications are due **November 1**. You can apply online at ouac.on.ca/olsas.

**Admission Categories**

**Indigenous:** Osgoode seeks to improve representation of Indigenous people in the legal profession and therefore encourages applications from such individuals. Indigenous applicants must provide some form of documentation corroborating their identification with, and connection to, their Indigenous community.

**General:** All other applicants should apply in the general category.

**Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to apply you must:

1. Complete a minimum of three years of study (90 credits) at a recognized university. If you have less than three years of study, or no university study, you are eligible if, as of September of the year of admission, you:
   (i) are at least 26 years of age, and
   (ii) have a minimum of five years of non-academic experience.

2. Write the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).
   The LSAT is offered four times a year. Upcoming test dates are available at lsac.org. We will accept scores from tests taken between June 2012-February 2017*. 

   Proof of English Language Proficiency is required unless:
   (i) English is your first language, or
   (ii) you have completed a minimum of 1 year of full-time study at an accredited post-secondary institution in a country (or institution) where English is the official language of instruction.

*Applicants wishing to be considered for the Income Contingent Loan Program must write the LSAT by December 2016.
Application Components

• Online application form
• All post-secondary transcripts (we consider your cumulative GPA for all undergraduate university study)
• LSAT score (we consider your highest score)
• Two reference letters (minimum one academic advised)
• Personal statement
• Autobiographical sketch
• Language proficiency score, if applicable
• Financial statement (required to be considered for entrance scholarships, Income Contingent Loan Program and Early Bursary Notification Program)

Osgoode’s Holistic Admissions Policy

Our admissions policy seeks to identify a diverse and outstanding group of students whose exceptional academic abilities, varied achievements and sustained engagement will positively contribute to the law school, legal profession and community. We encourage applicants to identify barriers they face in seeking to enter the legal profession, and place a priority on opening doors to communities traditionally under-represented in the legal profession.

When reviewing applications we do not apply any weighting or formula but rather review all components of the application holistically. We consider strength in:

• Post-secondary academic achievements
• LSAT scores
• Varied life/non-academic experiences and achievements
• Sustained social and intellectual engagement
• Overcoming challenges
• Written and oral communication

While there are no minimum cumulative GPA and LSAT scores, based on past trends successful applicants generally have a CGPA of an A- or better and LSAT score in the 80th percentile or better.

Timing Of Decisions

Offers are made on a rolling basis from early December until June. The majority of offers are made in January/February. For more information about Osgoode admissions, visit our website.
Financial Aid

An outstanding legal education is a substantial investment in your future.

Osgoode is committed to ensuring talented individuals are not deterred from pursuing a legal education due to financial constraints. To that end we have developed an innovative and robust financial aid program to help make your legal aspirations a reality.

Osgoode offers significant funding through:

- Financial need-based bursaries
- Entrance and upper year scholarships
- Course and essay prizes
- Discretionary awards for outstanding achievement beyond the classroom
- Summer internship awards
- Emergency loan program for students facing unexpected financial circumstances

In addition to our more traditional financial aid programs, we have developed several progressive approaches for improving access to legal education and reducing debt upon graduation, including:

**Canada’s first ever Income Contingent Loan Program**

Each year, five Osgoode students do not pay tuition. Rather, Osgoode fully covers their tuition through bursary and loan funding. These students will repay the loan portion after graduation over a ten-year period, only if their income affords them this ability.

**The Wendy Babcock Social Justice Award Program**

This back-end debt relief program offers significant funding to graduating students who have high educational debt and are pursuing careers in social justice.

The Financial Services Office also maintains an External Funding Database and assists students in accessing auxiliary sources of support including government aid and professional student bank loans.

For more information about Osgoode financial aid please contact financialservices@osgoode.yorku.ca
During your time at Osgoode, you will enjoy exploring the incredible cultural richness of one of Canada’s largest, metropolitan, multicultural cities. Our location in Toronto – the country’s largest legal market – also affords the benefit of countless opportunities to connect with Canada’s top legal experts.

Osgoode’s commitment to collaboration and engagement is reflected in the thoughtfully designed classroom, reading, study, presentation and social spaces of our Ignat Kaneff Building. Our modern, bright facility is student-focused, featuring a student lounge, Reflection Room and Family Room for students with young children. Your learning experience will be enhanced by our innovative electronic classrooms, which make use of leading-edge technology.

Osgoode is also home to the Osgoode Hall Law Library, the largest law library in Canada. It offers an outstanding collection of print and digital resources and a supportive staff of professional law librarians to guide you.

Steps across from the law school you will find many of our students living in Osgoode Chambers, which offers convenient, affordable on-campus suites dedicated specifically for Osgoode students. As a resident, you will establish close connections with your classmates and have access to upper-year mentors who will support your transition to law school.

We are excited for 2017 when Osgoode will become fully accessible by subway.
We Would Love To Show You Osgoode.

To visit the law school, meet current students and learn more about the possibilities in store for you at Osgoode contact recruitment@osgoode.yorku.ca.

We are eager to meet you at one of our admission events this Fall. Visit our website to find out where we will be.

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