THIS IS U OF T LAW
JD Admissions Guide 2021-2022
WELCOME TO OUR REMARKABLE HOME

We acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

PROFESSOR MARTHA SHAFFER (CRIMINAL LAW, FAMILY LAW, EQUALITY IN LAW) FOUR-TIME RECIPIENT OF STUDENT CHOICE MEWETT TEACHING AWARD
CONNECT WITH A *DIVERSE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY*
At the University of Toronto, we offer one of the world's outstanding legal educations. To be a student at our law school is to join a wonderful community of the finest legal scholars and students, working together in the pursuit of academic and professional excellence. You will learn from our esteemed faculty, who frequently win major research awards, and are significant thought leaders in academia, the legal profession and public policy. Studying at U of T Law will give you access to some of North America's most established co-curricular opportunities that will acquaint you with the best of the legal profession both locally and internationally. You might work on criminal appeals pending before the Ontario Court of Appeal or Supreme Court of Canada, volunteer for the UN while on an international human rights internship, or help give legal advice to tech start-ups at law firms and incubators across the city.

Our commitment to accessibility, diversity and the public interest means that as a student, you will experience a community with a wide range of knowledge, experiences and perspectives. A legal education at U of T not only teaches legal doctrine, but equips our students with analytical tools that can be brought to bear on a range of real-world problems. Our graduates go on to leadership positions in public interest organizations, politics, business, and on the bench and bar with an education that serves them well in making a transformative impact on our community.

I am excited about the future of our law school. Our new Jackman Law Building, which opened in 2016, includes innovative technology and houses many of the programs and centres that make this faculty truly unique. Expanded classrooms and social spaces create dynamic engagement opportunities for students, professors and the community.

I hope that you’ll take up our invitation to visit with us as you carefully consider the many options available to you.

EDWARD IACOBUCCI
DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW
JAMES M. TORY PROFESSOR OF LAW
BELONG TO A GREAT UNIVERSITY

Reap the benefits of academic, cultural, social, athletic and recreational opportunities at one of the world’s foremost research-intensive universities. Immerse yourself in a rigorous learning environment that fostered 14 Supreme Court justices, four Canadian Prime Ministers, and five Nobel Prize laureates. U of T continues to make the world a better place through leadership, inquiry, discovery and innovation.

INTERDISCIPLINARY ADVANTAGE

Take advantage of countless opportunities to engage with U of T’s other top-ranked graduate faculties and schools such as its Rotman School of Management, Faculty of Medicine, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, etc. Explore the interdisciplinary dimensions of the law through workshops and conferences featuring top academics and experts from around the world.

WHY

In 2020, the respected Times Higher Education law school rankings placed us in the top 10 globally, ahead of all other Canadian law schools.

BECOME PART OF A COMMUNITY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE
WHY U OF T?

LIVE IN A GREAT CITY

Revel in the myriad of sights, sounds, and tastes to discover in one of the world’s most multicultural cities. Here, you can attend many festivals, check out the vibrant arts, culture, entertainment and professional sports scenes and discover your inner foodie. With a population smaller than New York City but larger than Chicago, Toronto has it all.

The Faculty of Law is steps away from Museum Station where you can hop on the subway to get around this great city in just minutes. Toronto is known for its 140 distinctive neighbourhoods. Our students’ local favourites – Yorkville, Kensington Market and Queen West – are all within easy walking distance of the campus.

Toronto’s amazing festivals include OVO and Unity (hip-hop); VELD and Dreams (EDM), Fringe and Summer-Works (theatre, art and dance); TIFF (film); Maker and Vector (technology and new media); Fan Expo and Comicon (comics, sci-fi, horror, anime and gaming).

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

At U of T Law, you are minutes away from the provincial legislature, Ministry of the Attorney General law offices, several court houses including the Ontario Court of Appeal, dozens of legal aid offices, and over 3,000 law firms, including Canada’s largest national and international firms.
50+ FULL-TIME FACULTY
11:1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

In addition to our homegrown talent, we recruit our faculty from peer institutions at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Oxford, Melbourne and other top global law schools.
EXPERIENCE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The Faculty of Law’s acclaimed faculty will inspire your learning throughout your degree. Our faculty members win major teaching and research awards, publish in prominent scholarly journals, address global policymakers and advise Canadian governments at all levels on the most pressing issues facing society today. From a range of backgrounds, law schools, countries and perspectives, our faculty provide you with insights into cutting-edge legal, social, economic and political issues to keep you at the top of your field.
Ari is the Director of Student & Associate Programs at Aird & Berlis LLP. He is responsible for all aspects of the firm’s student program, including the recruitment, supervision and professional development of summer and articling students.

Before joining Aird & Berlis LLP in 2009, Ari was the Director of Student Programs at the Toronto office of a national law firm. Prior to that, he practiced corporate commercial law at another major Bay Street firm, and was in-house at IBM.

With its world-class faculty, downtown campus, stunning new building and holistic admissions process, the Faculty of Law continually attracts a very talented and diverse student body. Its students are coveted by employers from Bay Street and beyond.

ARI BLICKER | BA (McGILL) 1992 | LLB (TORONTO) 1995
DIRECTOR, AIRD & BERLIS LLP
TOP STUDENTS ATTRACT TOP EMPLOYERS

We provide top-notch support to help you define and launch your career, whether your aspirations are in government, academia, social justice, private practice, business or the arts.

Our Career Development Office (CDO) provides extensive career planning and professional development workshops, résumé and cover letter review, interview preparation and access to postings for summer, articling and post-graduation jobs.

2019-2020
CDO SUPPORTS

215 Articling job postings

221 Combined first and second year summer job postings

38 Career workshops, information sessions and events

1098 Counselling appointments including individual consultations, mock interviews, résumé and cover letter reviews

TOP RECRUITERS FROM THE MAJOR LEGAL MARKETS COME ON CAMPUS TO HIRE OUR STUDENTS

VANCOUVER
CALGARY
TORONTO
OTTAWA
NEW YORK
U of T Law’s New York recruit allowed me to prove myself in the world’s most sophisticated legal market. During my interviews, it was clear that NY firms value the high calibre and well-roundedness of U of T students. My firm even celebrates Canada Day with Tim Hortons and poutine!

JERRY LEE | BSC (MCGILL) 2015 | JD (TORONTO) 2018 | NAMED A NEXT GENERATION WOMEN LEADER BY MCKINSEY & COMPANY 2017
ASSOCIATE WHITE & CASE LLP (NEW YORK) | 1L SUMMER STUDENT, DAVIES WARD PHILLIPS & VINEBERG LLP (TORONTO)
ARTICLING AND EMPLOYMENT

Our students’ unmatched success in the job market tells our story best.

2020 JD GRADUATES

Articling Positions

197  JD graduates
180  Full-time articling, clerkship and New York associate positions
  7  Seeking articling positions
  7  Non-practicing careers, graduate studies or deferring articles
  3  Unreported

Clerking positions at appellate and trial courts in Canada

Supreme Court of Canada
Federal Courts
Provincial Courts of Appeal
Provincial Superior Courts

2020 SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS IN EARLY YEARS

Second Year Students

217  Students completed 2nd year
191  Secured summer jobs (law-related and other)
  26  Unreported

First Year Students

47  Positions available at Toronto law firms for students across Canada
19  Positions at Toronto law firms secured by U of T Law students

WE INVEST IN YOU

Each year the law school hires or places almost 90 students in paid summer jobs and internships.

WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARTICLE

79%  Greater Toronto Area
9%   New York City
2%   Ottawa
6%   Alberta & British Columbia
4%   Elsewhere

TOP 10 ARTICLING PRACTICE AREAS

1  Full-service law firms
2  Government & Public Interest Law
3  Litigation
4  Labour & Employment Law
5  Intellectual Property Law
6  Tax Law
7  Family Law
8  Criminal Defence
9  Immigration Law
10  In-house positions

Page statistics as of July 2020.
U of T was the best place to launch my legal career. I learned from committed, thoughtful faculty, and was supported by excellent staff. The law school has also supported me as an alumna. By giving me opportunities to teach, and promoting my Bencher candidacy, U of T Law has demonstrated a real commitment to my professional success.

ATRISHA LEWIS | BCOMM (MCGILL) 2009 | JD (TORONTO) 2012 | RECIPIENT, DEAN’S KEY AWARD & GORDON CRESSY AWARD

Atrisha Lewis is a senior associate in McCarthy Tétrault’s Litigation Group in Toronto. In 2020, UofT Law awarded Atrisha the Wilson Prichard Award for Community and Professional Service. In 2019, she was elected Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, and in 2018, she was recognized as a “Precedent Setter” by Precedent magazine.
CONNECTING YOU TO LEADERS

U of T Law alumni are some of the top lawyers and leaders in Canada and around the world. Our alumni network, more than 10,659 strong, is an incredible resource both during law school and after graduation.

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
Get matched with an experienced lawyer who is practicing in an area of law that you are keen to learn about. Mentors provide invaluable guidance on how to navigate the profession and create contacts that will help your career development.

LAWYERS DOING COOL THINGS WITH THEIR LAW DEGREES
This is a popular series of lunch-time conversations with alumni about their cool jobs (both inside and outside the profession), the important issues they are tackling, and how their law degrees got them there. Previous speakers have been leaders in entertainment law, tech startups, health rights, cannabis law, constitutional advocacy, and food sustainability.

FROM STELLAR STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFUL LAWYERS

LEADERSHIP SKILLS PROGRAM (LSP)
Succeeding in the legal profession requires outstanding academic skills and the ability to effectively communicate ideas, work with diverse colleagues, and manage conflict—all in a highly complex and sophisticated work environment.

Our LSP provides opportunities for you to work with leadership experts to develop the skills you need to transition from awesome student to successful lawyer.

ROTMAN@LAW
A partnership between U of T Law and the Rotman School of Management, Rotman@Law allows you to take online pre-MBA courses that cover the foundations of accounting, finance and statistics. You will build your business fluency, knowledge and skillset before you enter the profession.

PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
At the start of your first year you’ll be matched with an upper-year student mentor who will provide the “inside scoop” about making your first year a success, from academic support to co-curricular and social activities.

2020-2021 LSP WORKSHOPS
COMMUNICATING IDEAS
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
NETWORKING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
TEAM WORK
EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY AT U OF T LAW

We strive to ensure that our community is welcoming, accessible and inclusive. Our vision is a legal profession that fully reflects the diversity of our society.
Admissions

For full details on our JD admission policies, requirements and application procedures, visit law.utoronto.ca/admissions

SELECTION

Our admissions process is designed to identify exceptional students who bring a broad and complex set of life experiences to the study of law.

We consider all aspects of your application: academic, intellectual and personal.

The assessment is based two-thirds on the academic record and LSAT, and one-third on personal information. Our “whole person review” includes at least three readers, including faculty, staff and students. We have no quotas of any kind. We seek outstanding candidates from a wide variety of institutions, who come from across Canada and the world, of a variety of ages, with varied life experiences. This careful process allows us to assemble a vibrant and inclusive class where you will flourish.

JD ADMISSION CATEGORIES

General – the majority of applicants.

Indigenous – Indigenous people, including those of Indian (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit heritage, whose representation in the legal profession we strive to increase.

Mature – those who will have at least five complete years of non-academic experience (outside of full-time study) by September 2021.

BLACK STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS (BSAP)

Regardless of admission category, Black candidates can opt to apply to this stream, which aims to increase Black law student representation at U of T Law.

BSAP applicants will have their personal statements reviewed by members of the Black community, including our staff, students, faculty and alumni.

You must meet the same LSAT and academic requirements for admission that we seek from all candidates. BSAP does not have a designated quota for admission.

To be considered for BSAP, apply to a JD program by our standard deadlines and procedures, and also select the BSAP option in the School Submissions section of the application form.

First-Year Admission Requirements

ACADEMIC RECORD & GPA

By the end of May 2021, you will have successfully completed at least a three-year undergraduate degree at a recognized institution.

No particular courses are recommended. Almost all of our students have completed a four-year undergraduate university degree. Over the last decade, all of the admitted Mature applicants had some university education.

Last year’s entering class had a 3.86 out of 4.0 median GPA on their best three years of full-time undergraduate study.

LSAT: LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST

For entry in August 2021, we accept scores from standard and Flex tests taken from June 2016 to January 2021 inclusive. Last year’s entering class had a median LSAT score of 166 (93rd percentile).

PERSONAL STATEMENT

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the selection committee, help it assess your likelihood of success at the Faculty of Law and predict what your contributions to the class will be. Try to demonstrate how your academics, experience (work and personal) and career goals make you an excellent fit for the program.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ESSAY

You may provide further personal information from a choice of topics we suggest, such as a meaningful intellectual experience, a vision of your future goals, obstacles to achievement, or how your identity, background and experiences will contribute to the diversity of the law school.

BSAP ESSAY

Black Student Application Process candidates must submit the standard admission materials plus an essay highlighting why they chose the BSAP stream.

RÉSUMÉS

Required for Mature applicants only.

INTERVIEWS, REFERENCES, GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS

These are neither required nor requested.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST 20, 2020
JD Applications open online for entry in 2021

AUGUST 29, 2020
LSAT test date

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020
U of T Law application information sessions
law.utoronto.ca/admissionevents

SEPTEMBER ONWARD
U of T Law campus tours
law.utoronto.ca/campustour

OCTOBER 3, 2020
LSAT test date

NOVEMBER 1, 2020
JD Year 1 application deadline

NOVEMBER 7, 2020
LSAT test date

DECEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021
JD Year 1 offers of admission made. Most offers are issued by February.

JANUARY 16, 2021
LSAT test date (last acceptable test for 2021 JD Year 1 admission)

FEBRUARY 19, 2021*
Welcome Day for students offered admission

APRIL 1, 2021
Deadline for acceptance of JD Year 1 early offers of admission

JUNE 1, 2021
UofT Law JD Financial Aid application deadline

AUGUST 23, 2021*
Start of JD Year 1 classes

* Tentative date

How to Apply
www.ouac.on.ca/olsas

Obtain, submit and pay for the application online with the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS), operated by the Ontario Universities’ Application Centre (OUAC).

Submit all required documents directly to OLSAS, as per the instructions on its website.

For JD combined degree programs, apply to each program separately according to its own admission requirements and application procedures.

Timing of Admission Decisions, Key Dates

Your file is considered complete when all required documents have been submitted to OLSAS, and are then forwarded to us by OLSAS for assessment.

For first year applicants, the earliest that we usually review any files, whether complete or incomplete, will be within a week after the close of the November 1 application deadline.

As much as possible, we try to review completed files quickly. For first year applicants, we expect to make three main rounds of offers of admission. The first round occurs in early December, the second round in late January, and the final round in mid-March. Most offers are issued by February.
OUR 2020 FIRST YEAR (1L) CLASS

212 STUDENTS
54% WOMEN
4% MATURE STUDENTS
(FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE)
42% STUDENTS OF COLOUR
11% LGBTQ+ STUDENTS
9% STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

2204 APPLICANTS

20-39 AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS
24 AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS
AGE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

79% FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL
8% FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE
28% BORN OUTSIDE OF CANADA

60% PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) BORN OUTSIDE CANADA
7% GREW UP IN A RURAL AREA
42% IDENTIFY WITH A RELIGION

43 UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED
3.86 MEDIAN GPA OUT OF 4.0 ON THE BEST THREE FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE YEARS
166 MEDIAN LSAT SCORE, 93RD PERCENTILE

21% Students with graduate education

TOP 3 COMBINED PROGRAMS
1. ECONOMICS (MA)
2. PUBLIC POLICY (MPP)
3. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)
TOP 5 REASONS FOR CHOOSING UofT LAW

- High academic quality & location
- Calibre of students & faculty
- Career opportunities
- Variety of courses & clinics
- Student support & financial aid

FOOD DELIVERY SERVICE PREFERENCE

- 45% UberEATS
- 12% DoorDash
- 6% OTHER
- 25% NO PREFERENCE
- 12% NEVER USED

PRIOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- 21% ENGINEERING/MATH/SCIENCE
- 18% BUSINESS/ECONOMICS
- 18% POLITICAL SCIENCE/INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- 16% CLASSICS/HISTORY/PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION
- 11% CRIMINOLOGY/GENDER STUDIES/PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIAL SCIENCES
- 8% INTERDISCIPLINARY/OTHER
- 6% ENGLISH/LINGUISTICS/COMMUNICATIONS
- 2% VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

76% GRADUATED FROM ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

24% GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITIES IN THE REST OF CANADA AND INTERNATIONALLY

ARE BILINGUAL IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

TOP 10 LEGAL AREAS OF INTEREST ON ENTRY

- BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL
- CONSTITUTIONAL
- CRIMINAL
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- HEALTH
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATION
- INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
- LAW & ECONOMICS
- LITIGATION/DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
- SOCIAL JUSTICE

SAMPLE PRE-LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

- CAFE & MUSIC VENUE OWNER
- DENTIST
- EXHIBITION CURATOR
- GOAT FARMER
- PROCESS ENGINEER
- PROFESSIONAL POKER PLAYER
- PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYER
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS ANALYST
- RENOVATION & REPAIRMAN
- URBAN PLANNER

FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS

1. DEPENDABLE
2. INDEPENDENT
3. ADVENTUROUS
4. HELPFUL

STRENGTHS I’LL BRING TO LAW SCHOOL

1. HARDWORKING
2. ADAPTABLE
3. COMMITTED
4. TIE: RESILIENT, SOCIABLE
JOIN A STUDENT BODY THAT RANKS AMONG THE STRONGEST IN NORTH AMERICA

At U of T Law, Aaqib and Saqib have found a strong support network. Both brothers have contributed in many ways to the law school community:

AAQIB (pictured, on left)
South Asian Law Students’ Association (Co-President)
United Nations (Summer intern)
Human Rights Watch (Summer intern)
Orientation Week 2018 (Co-Chair)

SAQIB (pictured, on right)
Muslim Law Students’ Association (President)
Students’ Law Society (1L rep)
United Nations (Intern)
Sierra Leone Ministry of Justice (Summer intern)
South African Society for Labour Law (Summer intern)

Our U of T Law experience has been transformative. We have learned a tremendous amount about the law, the world around us, and about ourselves from interacting with our incredible professors, who are some of the brightest legal minds in the country, and from our vibrant colleagues who enrich our everyday experiences at the law school.

AAQIB & SAQIB MAHMOOD, 4L JD/MBA | BAH (YORK) 2016 | MA (YORK) 2017
What truly engages you? Culture, recreation, politics, media, performance, social issues, professional development or academic debates? Explore your passion and discover new interests by getting involved in the huge range of student clubs and activities that reflect the diversity and strength of our student body.

55+ STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Our student clubs and student government host prominent speakers, put on plays, tackle social issues, and hold events that connect with the community.

Aboriginal Law Society
AI and Law Club
Alternative Dispute Resolution Society
Artists’ Legal Advice Services
Asia Law Society
Athletics Association
Black Law Students’ Association
Business Law Society
Canadian Assoc. of Refugee Lawyers
Cannabis Law Club
Career Development Student Advisory Committee
Charity Law Interest Group
China Law Project
Christian Legal Fellowship
Correctional Law Society
Criminal Law Students’ Association
Environmental Law Club
Feminist Law Students’ Association
First Generation Network
Food Law and Policy Society
Forensic Science Group
Health and Wellness Student Advisory Committee
Health Law Club
In Vino Veritas - Wine Tasting Club
Indigenous Law Journal
Indigenous Law Students’ Association
International Law Society
JD/MBA Students’ Association
Jewish Law Students’ Association
Journal of Law & Equality
Labour & Employment Law Society
Law and Politics Club
Law Ball
Law Follies
Law Games
Litigation Association
Muslim Law Students’ Association
Out in Law
Peer Mentorship Program
Privacy & Cybersecurity Law Group
Runnymede Society
South Asian Law Students’ Association
SPINLAW
Sports and Entertainment Law Society
Students’ Law Society
Supreme Chords (a capella group)
Tax Law Society
Technology and Intellectual Property Society
Ultra Vires Student Newspaper
U of T Animal Justice
U of T Faculty of Law Conservatives
U of T Faculty of Law Liberals
U of T Faculty of Law Review
U of T Faculty of Law Union
U of T Law and Social Justice Society
Venture Capital Law Society
Women and the Law
Our first year (1L) program encourages you to develop close connections with your peers and professors. In addition to six substantive law courses, you take two courses that prepare you to study law: *Legal Methods* and *Legal Research and Writing*.

**WELLNESS & ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

Let’s be honest—law school is amazing but it also can be challenging at times.

Like other professional programs, law school is a rigorous academic and co-curricular program that demands a lot from students. That’s why we offer a broad range of student supports to make sure that you get the most out of your law school experience.

Through tutoring programs, peer and alumni mentoring programs, resilience coaching and in-house mental health counselling, we support you to thrive in law school and your future career.
LEGAL METHODS INTENSIVE

One of the central goals of our JD Program is to train you to “think like a lawyer.” The first year begins with a legal methods intensive course delivered during the last two weeks in August. The course introduces you to the foundational information and reasoning needed to make the most of the JD program from the minute you set foot in your first substantive class in September.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

The work product of lawyers consists of words. These words must be carefully selected based on deep understanding and research. In this course, legal research and writing experts guide you through a series of carefully designed research and writing assignments to equip you to produce well-crafted legal text.

SUBSTANTIVE LAW COURSES

Every student takes one of the principal first year courses in a year-long small group of 16 students. The remaining five substantive law classes are taught in larger groups over a single term (two in first term and three in second term).

Collectively, our first year provides you with a deep and rigorous legal foundation rooted in diverse academic views about law and legal methodology.
YOUR UPPER YEARS: CHART YOUR PATH

Building on the foundation of your 1L year, in the upper years you have the freedom to shape your studies to suit your interests and professional goals. Choose from over 180 courses that span the spectrum of legal practice and scholarship.

FOCUS IN ONE OR SEVERAL AREAS, INCLUDING:

- Aboriginal Law
- Academic Research and Writing
- Administrative and Regulatory Law
- Business Law
- Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Environmental Law and Natural Resources
- Family Law and Children
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property and Innovation Law
- International, Comparative and Transnational Law
- Judges and Courts
- Labour Law
- Law and Development
- Legal Ethics and Professionalism
- Legal Theory/Interdisciplinary Legal Studies
- Private Law
- Social Justice and Equality
- Taxation Law

Augment your JD studies with courses offered by other academic units at U of T. Complete a collaborative program or earn an additional certificate or a graduate degree.

CERTIFICATES
- Aboriginal Legal Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Sexual Diversity & Gender Studies

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM
- Jewish Studies

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS
- JD/Master of Business Administration
- JD/Master of Global Affairs
- JD/Master of Information
- JD/Master of Public Policy
- JD/Master of Social Work
- JD/MA in Criminology
- JD/MA in Economics
- JD/MA in English
- JD/MA in European & Russian Affairs
- JD/PhD in Criminology
- JD/PhD in Economics
- JD/PhD in Philosophy
- JD/PhD in Political Science

JANUARY INTERSESSION

U of T Law attracts leading visiting academics from the world’s top law schools.

Held in early January, the intersession offers intensive, week-long courses taught by visiting professors offering diverse perspectives on a huge range of legal topics.
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES OFFICE

In accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, Indigenous and non-Indigenous students engage with Indigenous Elders, scholars, activists and professionals in classes and activities at the faculty, in the courts and in the community.

You can compete in the Kawaskimhon Moot, work on the student-run Indigenous Law Journal, and have opportunities to learn about Indigenous and Aboriginal law inside and outside the classroom.

You can also gain practical experience by participating in our clinical program with Aboriginal Legal Services, and deepen your academic experience with the Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies.

“During my 1L year, I was co-president of the Indigenous Law Students’ Association (ILSA). Not only are the other Indigenous students a great support system, but the ILSA office itself is a great space to study, bead, smudge and hold meetings. It’s even right next door to Amanda Carling, Manager of Indigenous Initiatives - another incredible support within the Faculty!"

KARLIE NORDSTROM 2L | BCOMM (SASKATCHEWAN) 2019
2L SUMMER STUDENT, AIRD & BERLIS LLP (TORONTO)
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Making the connection between the classroom and real-life lawyering will prepare you for practice in whatever area you choose.

At U of T Law the range of experiential opportunities is impressive. You can take a course in trial advocacy, compete in an intellectual property moot, immerse yourself in an international human rights clinic, do an externship with the municipal government, or volunteer at ProBono Students Canada. The possibilities are endless.

IN-HOUSE CLINICS

Exclusive to our law students, U of T Law houses several legal clinics that offer academic credit in part-time, half-time and intensive, full-time formats. Students can also volunteer. Our clinics are led by full-time directors who are highly-regarded experts in their fields.

THE DAVID ASPER CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

The Asper Centre focuses on advocacy, research and education about Canadian constitutional rights. Students work on leading constitutional and Charter rights cases at the highest courts in Canada and learn how to advocate for Charter-based law reform.

THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM (IHRP)

The IHRP enhances the legal protection of existing and emerging international human rights obligations through advocacy, knowledge-exchange, and capacity-building initiatives. Students acquire the skills, knowledge and professional network to become effective human rights advocates.

DOWNTOWN LEGAL SERVICES (DLS)

DLS is the law school's community legal clinic. Students assist clients who are experiencing legal problems in a number of high priority areas of law including criminal, employment, family, housing, refugee and immigration and university affairs. In their work at DLS, students critically examine the intersections of law and social inequality while developing the professionalism and ethical literacy that is essential to practicing law.

INVESTOR PROTECTION CLINIC (IPC)

New in 2020, the U of T IPC provides free legal services and public legal education to members of vulnerable communities who are at risk of suffering harm, or may have suffered harm, relating to their investments. Law students assist clients with legal claims, develop and deliver public legal education, and collaborate with regulators and key stakeholders on policy projects and litigation.

SUPERB CLINICAL EDUCATION, EXCLUSIVE TO U OF T LAW STUDENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
CRIMINAL LAW
EMPLOYMENT LAW
FAMILY LAW
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE LAW
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INVESTOR PROTECTION RIGHTS
TENANT HOUSING RIGHTS
UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS
The IHRP’s Digital Verification Working Group (DVWG) is at the cutting edge of contemporary human rights investigation work. Due to the proliferation of smart phones and open media platforms, evidence of war crimes and other human rights abuses are increasingly first reported on social media.

Student volunteers assist researchers from Amnesty International to investigate and authenticate content including photographs and video.

U of T Law is a founding member of this project alongside the University of California Berkeley’s Human Rights Centre, the University of Cambridge’s Centre of Governance & Human Rights, Pretoria University’s Human Rights Centre in South Africa, and the University of Essex’s Human Rights Centre.
GO GLOBAL: STUDY, RESEARCH, WORK

Spend a semester at top law schools on academic exchange in some of the world’s best cities.

AUCKLAND  AMSTERDAM
SYDNEY    BRUSSELS
BEIJING   LYON
HONG KONG  PARIS
SINGAPORE   VIENNA
TEL AVIV   BUDAPEST
DUBLIN    OSLO
GLASGOW   UPPSALA
LONDON

MAKING AN IMPACT

COMMUNITY EXTERNSHIPS

In addition to our in-house clinics, you can participate in clinical placements for academic credit at community clinics and organizations. U of T Law offers placements with 16 externship partners.

EXTERNSHIP CLINICS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Aboriginal Legal Services clinic
Advancing the Right to Housing externship
Advocates for Injured Workers clinic
Appellate Criminal Litigation externship
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Board Governance externship
Citizen Lab externship
City of Toronto externship
Environmental Law externship
Health Justice Initiative clinic at St. Michael’s Hospital
Innocence Canada externship
Innovation and Entrepreneurship externship
Mergers and Acquisitions Litigation externship
Ontario Human Rights Commission externship
Pro Bono Ontario litigation externship
Structural Genomics Consortium externship

PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA (PBSC)

Founded by U of T Law in 1996, PBSC is the largest pro bono organization in Canada with chapters in 22 law schools. PBSC’s volunteer students and supervising lawyers partner with community organizations to provide free legal support to people facing barriers to justice. This includes legal research, creating public legal education resources, and supporting clients and self-represented litigants through specialized clinics, in multiple areas of law. U of T Law students have the unique opportunity to participate in two of PBSC’s award winning initiatives, the Family Law Project and Indigenous Human Rights Program.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

U of T Law offers dozens of paid summer internships with public interest and community organizations. For example, students can spend the summer with the United Nations in Geneva, a grassroots human rights organization in Kenya, an Indigenous Band Council in Northern Ontario, a Toronto-based community advocacy organization, or a Chinese law firm in Shanghai.
The Donner Fellowship gave me an opportunity to advocate for the health of local ecosystems. I engaged directly with legislation and policies pertaining to ravine health in Toronto, and used this information to assist local environmental stakeholders understand their legal rights and obligations when engaging in environmental stewardship. I am very thankful for this opportunity to pursue environmental law as a 1L student.

HALEIGH RYAN 1L JD/MBA | HBA (TORONTO) 2019 | DONNER CIVIC LEADERSHIP FELLOW WITH TORONTO RAVINE REVITALIZATION SCIENCE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

Choosing to go to law school is a significant and rewarding investment in your life. If you are offered admission, tuition should not be a barrier to your education or your career. The Faculty of Law’s approach to financial aid is different than most law schools. With less than a handful of merit scholarships available, we apply an equitable and transparent approach to giving aid, where the students with the greatest financial need receive the most assistance.

POST-GRADUATION DEBT REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The rumours are true: most law students in North America graduate with some debt. They also go on to fulfilling positions in a range of fields. Many of our students choose to dedicate themselves to legal aid clinics or specialty law firms that offer relatively lower-paying salaries. To support their career choices, we assist these students with the repayment of their eligible law school debt for up to ten years after graduation. Ours is the only program of its kind in Canada.

FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

When assessing financial aid applications, the same budget is applied to all eligible domestic students.

- 2020-2021 tuition fee: $33,040
- Books and supplies: $1,100
- Incidental and ancillary fees: $1,600
- Room and board (if not at home): $11,000
- Personal expenses: $2,200

ALL FIGURES LISTED ARE IN CANADIAN CURRENCY, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST $100

NO GUESSING GET AN INSTANT AID ESTIMATE

We make it easy for you to know the amount of financial aid you may receive. Use our exclusive online calculator for an aid package estimate tailored to your financial means at law.utoronto.ca/financial-aid-calculator

PLANS THAT WORK

Jimmy left the home in Saskatchewan that he shared with his single parent who has an annual income of $28,100. Jimmy received a U of T Law bursary of $20,350; a tuition tax credit of $6,600 and government student aid grants of $4,330. Altogether this non-repayable aid provided $31,280 which is approximately 95% of his tuition.

Yolande came from a two-parent home in Ontario, and has one younger sister who is in high school. With an annual parental income of $127,300 Yolande received a U of T Law bursary of $8,930; a tuition tax credit of $6,600 and government student aid grants of $3,030. Altogether this non-repayable aid provided $18,560 which is approximately 56% of her tuition.

NOTE: THESE ARE SAMPLE PLANS FOR 2019-2020 ONLY YOUR U OF T LAW FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED BASED ON THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IN YOUR U OF T LAW FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION.
As the first in my family to attend university with the support of my hard-working single mother, I initially thought I would have to sacrifice U of T’s top-notch legal education for a less expensive program. The financial aid program gave over 35% of my tuition in bursaries, and the interest-free loans will cover my remaining tuition and bar admission fees. I expect to fast-track my way to getting called to the bar in January 2021 and be debt-free sooner than expected. Without the law school’s financial aid I would not have been able to spend my 1L summer on a human rights internship in Sierra Leone, or spend a term of my final year in Australia as an exchange student.

HIAM KOGIASHVILI-AMAR BAH (YORK) 2011, JD (TORONTO) 2020 | RECIPIENT, DEAN’S LEADERSHIP AWARD, ARTICLING STUDENT

FINANCIAL AID STATS 2019-2020

$4.6 million
AWARDED BURSARIES

$13,214
AVERAGE FIRST-YEAR BURSARY

$12,453
AVERAGE BURSARY (OVER ALL THREE YEARS)

$22,413
MAXIMUM BURSARY AWARDED

345
# OF STUDENTS WHO APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID

83%
% OF FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED AID
GET A HEAD START

We are proud to offer several programs and resources that aim to increase access to legal education.
**BECOMING A LAWYER IN ONTARIO**  
[link](law.utoronto.ca/getstarted)

This resource is your starting point if you’re thinking about becoming a lawyer. Prepared by U of T Law, it provides a comprehensive overview of the path from high school to becoming licensed to practice law.

**BLACK FUTURE LAWYERS**  
[link](bfl.law.utoronto.ca)

Black Future Lawyers (BFL) is a collaboration between U of T Law, our Black Law Students’ Association, members of our Black alumni community, and the broader legal profession. Funded by U of T’s Provost’s office and U of T Law, BFL offers supports and engagement opportunities to Black undergraduate students who aspire to go to law school and become lawyers. BFL’s goal is to increase the number of Black students who attend law school and join the legal profession.

**LAW SCHOOL ACCESS PROGRAM (LSAP)**  
[link](law.utoronto.ca/lsap)

A free LSAT preparation course for high-potential, low-income undergraduate students who are in 3rd or 4th year or are recent university graduates.

**LAWS: LAW IN ACTION WITHIN SCHOOLS**  
[link](lawinaction.ca)

Founded by U of T Law in 2005, LAWS is Canada’s leading law school youth access program. As an award-winning model of collaboration that has transformative impact on high school students facing personal or systemic barriers, LAWS activities increase legal knowledge, encourage academic engagement and promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. LAWS works with over 1,200 youth and relies on the support of over 400 justice sector volunteers annually.

**SEE YOURSELF HERE**  
[link](law.utoronto.ca/syh)

Each year, over 200 high school students visit the law school for one day of fun and educational programming. Students in grades 10 and 11 spend the day learning from law students, lawyers and professors. Originally started by the Black Law Students’ Association, the event is designed specifically for students who identify with communities that have been historically underrepresented in the legal profession.

**YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM**  
[link](ysp.utoronto.ca)

In partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, every summer the Faculty of Law offers a unique summer camp opportunity for high school students who are keen about the law.
VISIT US!

Visiting us is the best way to experience our law school community. Book your student-led tour today at law.utoronto.ca/campustour.

Can’t make it to the law school? Check out our admissions events page to see when we will be visiting a location near you at law.utoronto.ca/admissionevents.