

# LAW

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## Programs

The graduate law program at Queen's University offers to students from Canada and from countries around the world an intellectually rich and challenging environment for legal learning and scholarship. Queen's offers two graduate degrees in law:

- the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree, a one-year program with thesis and course-based options;
- the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, a four-year program of advanced legal research.

Queen's also offers two graduate diplomas in law:

- the Graduate Diploma in Legal Services Management (GDLSM)
- the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law (GDipICL)

The graduate law program at Queen's is a small, academically oriented program with a global emphasis.

## Financial Assistance

Students accepted into the Ph.D. and LL.M. programs are eligible for scholarships and fellowships administered by Queen's University. All candidates for graduate work at Queen's may compete for these awards. The Faculty of Law may also be able to provide awards.

The GDLSM and GDipICL programs are not eligible for government funded student loans. Queen's Law has partnered with RBC to offer a student line of credit tailored to your needs, for both full-time and part-time studies. The line of credit is available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada only. Acceptance to the program does not guarantee or imply qualification for financing.

## Departmental Facilities

Queen's University Library's research collections include millions of print and digital items supported by a strong technology infrastructure and a focus on scholarly communications. Library facilities are heavily used campus hubs with a mix of inviting, accessible learning spaces, computers and collections. Queen's University Library is a member of the Association of Research Libraries and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

The William R. Lederman Law Library, part of Queen's University Library, is located on the second and third floors of the Faculty of Law, and the other principal libraries are conveniently located nearby. Along with legal databases from

Canada and other countries, the Law Library's print collection numbers about 150,000 volumes with particular strengths in Constitutional and Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, Feminist Legal Studies, International Law, Labour & Employment Law, Intellectual Property, and Policy. Primary source materials include a robust collection of case law, statutes and regulations (federal and provincial), from Canada (both in print and electronically) and case law and legislation from the U.S., Great Britain and some Commonwealth countries (largely electronically). Most journals, as well as a growing number of books, are available electronically.

All libraries on campus have desktop computers as well as wi-fi. You can use all our databases and electronic materials anywhere in the world – if you're off campus, you'll just be asked to enter your netID and password when you connect to a resource through Queen's University Library.

## Policy Respecting Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of Queen's University that no applicant be denied admission to any program on the basis of race, creed, colour, age, gender or sexual identity, marital status, ancestry, or place of origin. In addition, the Faculty of Law's Commitment in Principle Relating to Equality Issues extends to the LL.M. and the Ph.D. programs and the J.D. program.

## Admission Requirements, Ph.D. Program

The faculty seeks doctoral students with records of impressive academic achievement and demonstrated scholarly potential. Applicants will normally have a first or undergraduate law degree (LL.B. or J.D. or equivalent) and an LL.M. or equivalent masters-level degree in law. Exceptional applicants may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program after obtaining a J.D. or LL.B. (or equivalent first law degree), without having completed an LL.M. or equivalent masters-level law degree. Students without a prior law background but who have an outstanding academic record and/or relevant professional experience may also be considered for admission.

Applicants are accepted under the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies. Applications are assessed on the basis of academic transcripts and awards, quality and strength of references, merits of the statement of proposed research, research capacities and potential as revealed by previous academic writing, especially published work, and compatibility with Faculty resources (in particular the availability of a qualified supervisor and the sufficiency of library holdings in the proposed area of research). Where



appropriate, weight may also be given to the ability of the student to participate as a research assistant in an externally-funded faculty research project. Offers made to applicants still in the process of completing a first or master's-level degree in law will be made conditional upon timely completion of that degree with a satisfactory standing.

## Admission Requirements, LL.M. Program

Applicants holding a bachelor's degree in Law, or equivalent graduate degree, are accepted under the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies. Due to the number of places in the program being limited, high academic standing is an important factor. Professional, teaching, or research experience related to the applicant's area of research will also be taken into consideration. Students without a prior law background but who have an excellent academic record and/or relevant professional experience may be considered for admission.

## Part-Time Students (LL.M.)

In any given year, a small number of part-time LL.M. students may be admitted. The course requirements for part-time students are designed to encourage completion of the degree requirements within a two-year period. Specific information should be requested from the Graduate Studies Assistant at the Faculty of Law. This aspect of our program is mostly geared to people who live near Kingston and are otherwise employed.

## Admission Requirements, GDLSM

**Note: admission to this program is temporarily suspended.**

To be considered for admission to the GDLSM an applicant must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a recognized university, including students currently enrolled in or who have graduated from a JD (or equivalent) program. Performance in a JD or equivalent will be taken into account in the admissions process. The program is not limited to lawyers or law students. The program is designed to benefit law firm managers, paralegals, legal secretaries, and any others working in the field of legal services delivery.

Applications will be welcomed and actively sought from qualified members of underrepresented groups, such as indigenous peoples, those from visible minorities, with disabilities, or from the LGBTQQ community, all of whom have faced challenges in entering and succeeding in traditional legal markets.

## Course Registration Without Admission to the GDLSM

Students can take up to three courses before choosing to apply to the Graduate Diploma in Legal Services Management to finish up the fourth course. You must obtain a minimum grade of B- in each course in order to be eligible for the Diploma.

## Admission Requirements, GDipICL

1. A Bachelor's degree from a recognized university
2. A minimum of a B average or the equivalent in that degree
3. Language Test Scores

Proficiency in English is a prerequisite for admission. Those applicants whose native languages do not include English will be required to obtain satisfactory standing in an English Language Proficiency Test as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted. Tests must have been taken within the last 24 months prior to submission of an application.

Minimum requirements for the three English language proficiency tests which are accepted for applications to this program are as follows:

- IELTS (Academic): minimum overall score 6.5 with at least 6.5 for each component
- TOEFL-PBT Paper-based test: minimum overall score of 587
- TOEFLiBT Internet-based test: minimum overall score of 95

Note that applicants wishing to register for the Entry-to-Practice Exam with the national regulator are required to demonstrate the equivalent of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) level 9 for English based on a test completed within the past two years before registration for the Entry-to-Practice Exam.

Individuals seeking admission to the GDipICL with "borderline" language test scores may wish to consider enrolling in the Queen's English for Academic Purposes program prior to submitting a formal application. Applicants who receive a grade of A- (A minus) or higher in ESLA 140 or ESLA 150 in the Queen's English for Academic Purposes program, may not require another test score.

The Admissions Committee retains the discretion to require a personal interview and/or submission of a language proficiency test score as part of the admissions process for applicants whose native languages include English.

#### 4. Letters of Recommendation

Applicants to the GDipICL are required to submit two references. At least one academic reference is required for students who have graduated from their bachelor's degree less than five years prior to application. Applicants who have graduated more than five years prior to application are not required to submit an academic reference. Referees should be individuals familiar with the candidate's academic or work place performance.

#### 5. A Statement of Objectives (electronic)

Applicants must submit a 200-250 word statement of your career objectives and reasons for wanting to pursue the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law to [immigrationdiploma@queensu.ca](mailto:immigrationdiploma@queensu.ca), with your name and "Statement of Objectives" appearing in the document.

#### 6. Eligibility

The GDipICL is open to applicants of all nationalities, regardless of residency or citizenship status in Canada. However, the Entry-to-Practice (EPE) exam administered by the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) can only be written by Canadian citizens and permanent residents. For more information, see: ICCRC's "Become a RCIC" and the Entry-to-Practice Exam Application Checklist.

### Access Category, GDipICL

Under exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to highly motivated individuals with some post-secondary education, as well as extensive professional experience who do not have a minimum of a B average or a bachelor's degree from a recognized university. Additional requirements for the access category include a detailed cv with a minimum of 5 years related work experience. Applicants wishing to apply as an "access" candidate should contact [immigrationdiploma@queensu.ca](mailto:immigrationdiploma@queensu.ca) for more information.

### Interest Students, GDipICL

Individuals who do not wish to apply for the GDipICL but meet the criteria for admission can apply as an Interest Student. Once enrolled as an Interest Student, students can take no more than four GDipICL courses. Upon meeting the minimum grade requirement of B minus- in all four courses, their standing will be reviewed and they may be matriculated into the GDipICL program. Interest Students who are matriculated into the GDipICL will need to complete the remaining five courses required to obtain the GDipICL.

If a grade less than B minus- is obtained in any course, students will need to retake the course and are subject to the regulations to remain in Good Academic Standing.