



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

Faculty of Law

Juris Doctor

PROSPECTUS 2026-27

Leading with Purpose.

The University of Alberta Faculty of Law, part of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, is Western Canada's oldest law school and one of Canada's leading legal education and research institutions. For more than 100 years, the Faculty has been at the forefront of legal scholarship, fostering generations of thought leaders and legal professionals.

Juris Doctor Program

The Juris Doctor is a three-year degree program with a reputation for providing students with a strong foundation in the law that opens doors to bright and impactful careers. We cultivate highly-skilled, well-rounded graduates who are prepared to serve in a variety of settings, within Canada and beyond.

Join us in shaping the future of law.

TREATY 6 TERRITORY

The Faculty of Law is located in Amiskwacîwâskahikan on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous Peoples, including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway / Saulteaux / Anishinaabe, Inuit and many others who shape our community.

The Law Centre has been the home of the Faculty of Law for more than 50 years and is located on River Lot 7. Laurent Garneau was the Métis son of a French fur trader who, as a youth, sided with Louis Riel and the provisional government of 1870 in the Red River area. He came to Edmonton in 1874, settling on River Lot 7 on the river's south side. The U of A developed on the adjacent River Lot 5 in 1910 and in the 1960s expanded to part of River Lot 7, on which the Law Centre now stands.



To learn more about the Faculty of Law's history, visit ualberta.ca/law/history

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WELCOME TO THE **FACULTY OF LAW**

When you become a student in this Faculty, you become part of a longstanding tradition of excellence in legal education more than a century in the making.



Studying at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law means becoming part of a long tradition of excellence in legal education. Our students learn from some of Canada's most outstanding legal scholars whose research helps inform legal decision-making, law reform and public policy.

Our faculty members and sessional instructors, many of whom are alumni, are also dedicated mentors, invested in our students' growth as future leaders in law. Whether coaching students for a moot court competition or preparing applicants for a Supreme Court of Canada clerkship interview, our faculty members go the extra mile. It is this sense of camaraderie that sets the U of A apart.

Beyond our academic reputation, the Faculty of Law is distinguished by its dedication to service. We believe in the transformative power of law to effect positive change in society. Through our experiential learning programs, partnerships with community organizations, and land-based learning opportunities through the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, our students and faculty actively engage in addressing real-world legal challenges and advancing access to justice. As a relative newcomer to the Faculty, I can attest to its welcoming nature and strong sense of community. Support for diverse perspectives and backgrounds are reflected in the academic curriculum, student support services, and the wide variety of student organizations.

Additionally, the Faculty offers more than \$1.4 million in student financial aid in the form of scholarships, awards and bursaries, many of which specifically support students from racialized and equity-deserving groups. We also provide year-round career and wellness support to students through an active career services office, our Student Wellness Officer, and our Indigenous Support Officer.

As you explore this prospectus, you will discover the extraordinary breadth of opportunities available to you at the Faculty. Whether you're interested in international law, Indigenous law, environmental law, or any other field, you will find specialized programs and expert guidance to support your academic and professional aspirations.

I invite you to join our vibrant community of scholars, practitioners, and advocates who are passionate about serving Alberta and beyond.

Fiona Kelly
Dean, Faculty of Law

Leading in Legal Education

At the Faculty of Law, we are driven by a shared vision of shaping the legal landscape through cutting-edge research and forward-thinking curriculum.

The world needs legal professionals equipped to navigate complex challenges. Our curriculum combines academic rigor with real-world experiences, all taught by experts at the top of their fields.

By choosing the Faculty of Law, you become part of a vibrant community of aspiring legal minds, accomplished alumni and influential scholars.

U of A Law is a

TOP 5

English speaking program in Canada



Connections to the Profession

Connections to the legal profession give our law students and graduates an edge. As a student, you benefit from the Faculty's close connections to alumni across the globe who are doing great things — as partners and lawyers in leading law firms; as senior counsel to major businesses and corporate entities; and as inspiring entrepreneurs.

Our Faculty maintains strong ties with the legal community. These connections help students expand their horizons and forge paths to new opportunities.



Networking

Our alumni regularly return to the Law Centre as moot coaches, sessional instructors, visiting speakers and career mentors. Having direct contact with lawyers and members of the judiciary helps students create connections and build a professional network.

Law Alumni & Friends

Established in 1998, U of A's Law Alumni & Friends is an active alumni association deeply committed to giving back. Each year, they raise funds for bursaries, awards and summer internships to help the next generation.

Mentorship

Our alumni are invested in helping you build connections with the profession. One of our newest mentorship programs is spearheaded by Justice Cheryl Arcand-Kootenay, '92 LLB, of the Court of King's Bench. Her mentorship has included allowing students to shadow her in the courthouse.



“Lean on us, look to us, reach out to us. We can support you so that you can achieve your dreams as well. They’re not impossible dreams.”

Justice Cheryl Arcand-Kootenay, '92 LLB
Court of King's Bench

Firsts in the Profession

Throughout the Faculty's history, our alumni have forged firsts in the profession. Here are a few of our notable alumni.



Lillian Ruby Clements, 1915 LLB:
First woman admitted to the Alberta Bar.



Ronald Martland, 1928 LLB:
First alumnus appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.



Peter Lougheed, 1952 LLB:
First alumnus to serve as premier of Alberta.



Violet King Henry, 1953 LLB:
First Black woman lawyer in Canada.



Catherine Fraser, 1970 LLB:
First woman to be appointed chief justice of Alberta and chief justice of the Northwest Territories.



Leonard S. Mandamin, 1982 LLB:
First First Nations graduate to be appointed a judge at any level.

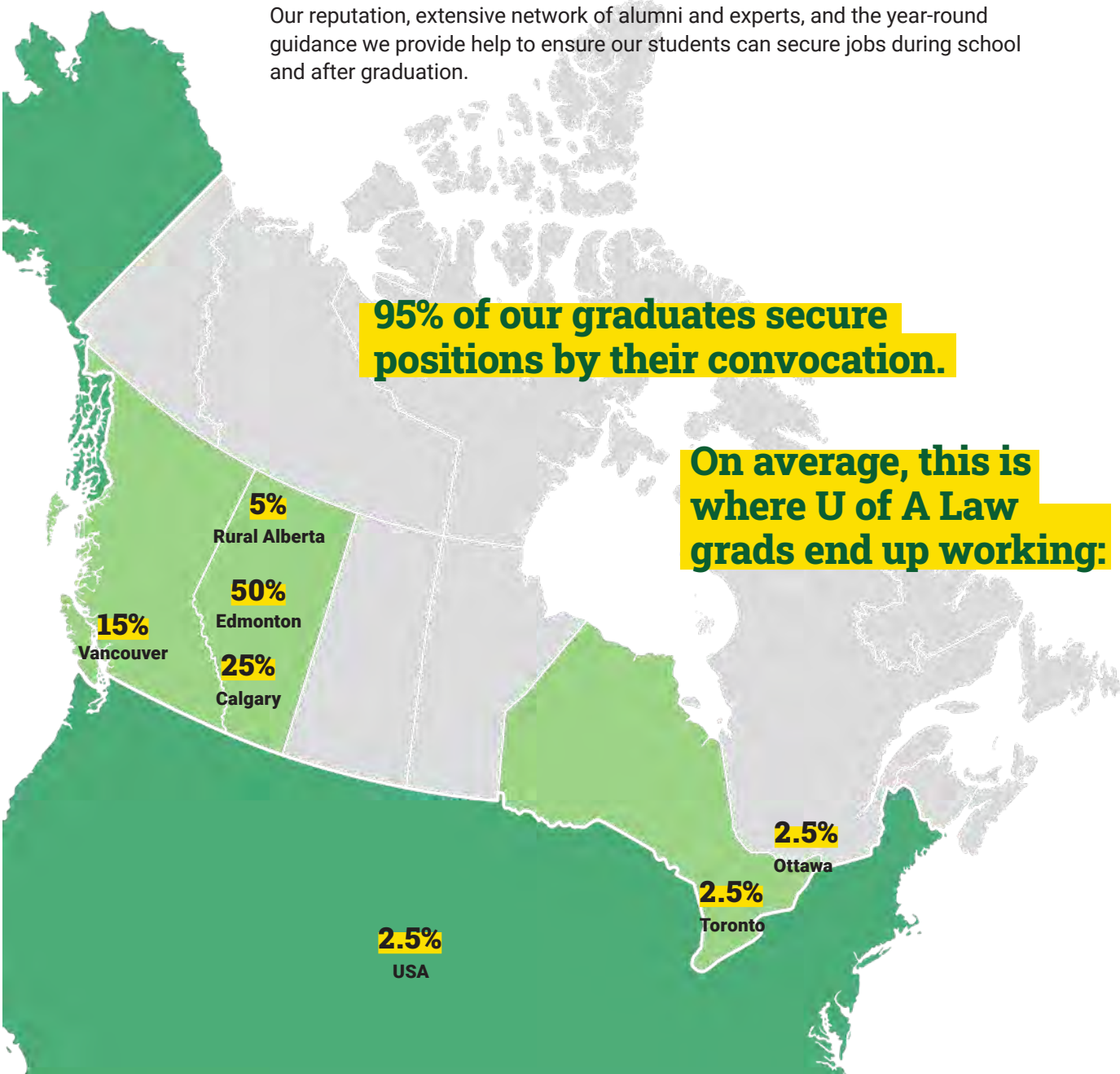
Employment

Whether you are interested in private practice, public service or alternative legal careers, we are here to help you to thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of the legal profession. The Faculty of Law has a long-standing reputation of fostering innovative, pioneering and successful legal minds.

Career Services

The Career Services Office is thrilled to stay connected with our students and track their exciting career journeys!

Our reputation, extensive network of alumni and experts, and the year-round guidance we provide help to ensure our students can secure jobs during school and after graduation.





To the Supreme Court

Our students and graduates are a common fixture at Canada's highest court. Eight students in the past six years have secured highly competitive clerkships at the Supreme Court of Canada — and sometimes work under and learn from University of Alberta alumni.



Our alumni go on to successful careers with top employers across Canada and around the world. Our Career Services team gives you the tools to get you where you want to go.

- Exclusive access to job postings
- Organized firm visits
- Career fairs
- Networking receptions
- Seminars to assist you in your job search
- Student-focused, individually tailored career counseling sessions
- Application reviews
- Job application and interview skills workshops
- Career panels with practising lawyers
- Mock interviews with firm representatives



“The U of A Law alumni community consistently supported me throughout my own law school journey and I am glad to see these relationships continue now. While applying to law school, I spoke with many alumni and then again while going through the articling process. Alumni provided me with mentorship and friendship that was really valuable as I maneuvered my way around developing my career. I am proud that the Law Alumni & Friends group has continued to build strong relationships with students and provide them with support and guidance.”

Samantha Hanson, '17 JD
Law Alumni & Friends president

Faculty

Learn from the best. Our Faculty is home to nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the field of law. They are dedicated instructors and highly cited scholars with a track record of fostering a collaborative environment and providing vital guidance to the next generation of lawyers.

Our world-class faculty are influential scholars, accomplished practitioners and dedicated mentors who are passionate about your success. They will challenge you, inspire you and guide you on your legal path.



Prof. Godwin Dzah, an expert in domestic and international environmental law, has consulted locally and internationally for state agencies, international organizations, and research institutions in Ghana and other parts of Africa, as well as in Canada. His recent teaching and research interests include environmental and climate law, international law, energy law, law of the sea and ocean governance, and critical approaches to law.



Prof. Jessica Eisen, an expert in animal law, examines the ways we, as human beings, relate to other animals through the legal system. Her current research explores the place of animals in constitutional law.



Prof. Joanna Harrington, an expert in international law, has recently explored the foreign corruption of public officials, the corporate commission of transnational crimes, and the use of non-trial resolutions and victim-centred settlements. A past Fulbright scholar at the University of Texas at Austin, she is also a past member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and a former academic-in-residence with Global Affairs Canada.



Prof. Tamara Pearl, an Indigenous law professor, researches “anti-dominance” training, a method to challenge the settler-colonial framework that is imposed on Indigenous Peoples. She contributes to training legal practitioners to respectfully engage with Indigenous legal traditions and communities, using Treaty relationships as a guide.



Prof. Timothy Caulfield is a health law and science policy expert. He does interdisciplinary research on topics like stem cells, genetics, research ethics, the public representations of science, health misinformation, and public health policy. He is an author, contributes frequently to the popular press and has hosted and produced documentaries. Caulfield is also the co-founder of the science engagement initiative #ScienceUpFirst.



Research

The Faculty of Law is home to thriving research units that are tackling the most pressing legal issues of our times. They offer unique opportunities for law students to gain work experience as interns and summer students.

Alberta Law Reform Institute

For over 50 years, the Alberta Law Reform Institute has provided independent and comprehensive recommendations to the Government of Alberta and other agencies to ensure that the law and administration of justice are kept up to date and serve Albertans to the best extent possible.

Centre for Constitutional Studies

The Centre for Constitutional Studies is a hub for constitutional research and public education in Canada. It connects leading scholars, contributes to constitutional debate and creates resources for the public. Current projects include a podcast series on free expression, a special journal issue on the notwithstanding clause, and an upcoming workshop on the Charter rights of unhoused persons.

Environmental Law Centre

An Edmonton-based advocacy and law reform charity established in 1982, the Environmental Law Centre became an affiliated institute with the university in 2023. The ELC is now housed in the Weir Law Library, where its researchers continue their work advocating for laws that sustain ecosystems and ensure a healthy environment.

Health Law Institute

In 1977, the Honourable Ellen Picard launched the Faculty of Law’s Health Law Institute, establishing the very first research institute in Canada in the health law field. Now led by research director Professor Timothy Caulfield, HLI is an internationally recognized centre for law and policy research. Recent work has included targeting the surge of misinformation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge

The Wahkohtowin Lodge, led by Associate Professor Hadley Friedland and Koren Lightning, responds to the expressed needs of Indigenous communities and organizations to uphold Indigenous laws and governance. The lodge supports Indigenous communities with identifying, articulating and implementing their own laws.

1:14
faculty to
student ratio

38
full-time
faculty
members

For more information
on our faculty, visit
ualberta.ca/law/faculty

Our Community

Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity

We believe that a diverse and inclusive legal profession is not only a moral imperative but a strategic advantage. Throughout our curriculum, we incorporate diverse legal traditions, perspectives and experiences.

Our commitment to equity goes beyond the classroom. We continuously work to remove barriers and promote opportunities for all students, whether that is through financial support, mentorship or community-building.

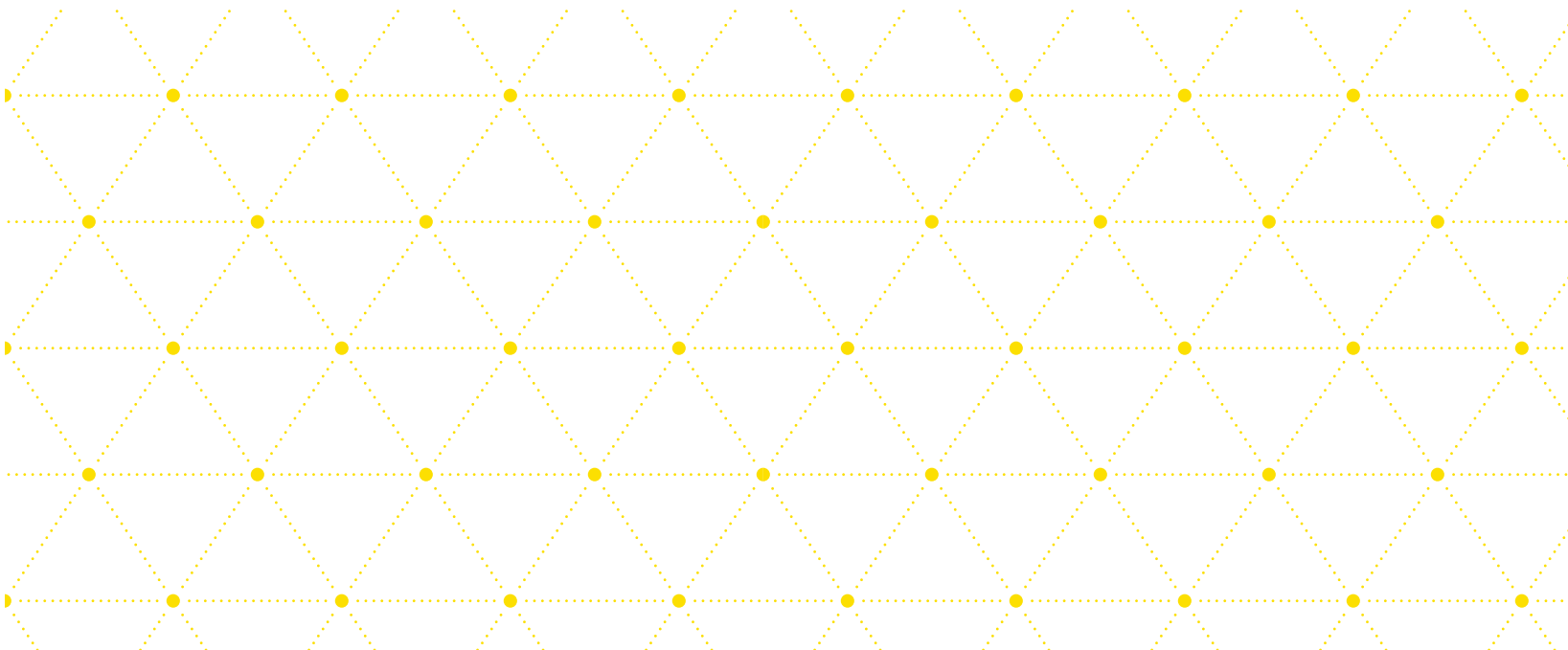
Truth and Reconciliation

As a law school, we are in a unique position to address and enact reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Our work and collaboration towards the principles of reconciliation includes more fully integrating Indigenous law and legal traditions into our curriculum; academic and cultural support offered by our full-time Indigenous Support Officer; an Indigenous Speaker Series; and the Wahkohtowin law and Governance Lodge, which provides on-the-land and in-class education based on the Cree concept of “wahkohtowin” or interdependence.

Student Support

At the Faculty of Law, we know the success of our students depends on a strong support network. Our dedicated Student Services team ensures our students receive the guidance and resources they need to thrive. From financial advising to mental health support, we are here to help you navigate law school from day one.

Need to talk about
supports? Contact our
Student Wellness
Coordinator, Michael Rajan,
at lawlife@ualberta.ca.



Campus Life

The Faculty of Law is known nationally for its collegial atmosphere and immersive student experience. More than 30 clubs and associations help deepen knowledge and build lifelong bonds.



Legal Innovation and Digital Law Conference

Student Group Events:

LEGAL INNOVATION AND DIGITAL LAW CONFERENCE

Organizers of the student-run Legal Innovation and Digital Law Conference are fascinated by innovations in artificial intelligence and their real-life implications to the legal profession. The annual conference is jointly presented by the Law and Business Association and the Digital Law and Innovation Society. It features industry leaders and entrepreneurs on the cutting edge of AI and legal tech.



Selection of Student Groups

- Animal Justice
- Black Law Students Association
- Environmental Law Students Association
- Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers
- Golden Berristers / Panda Berristers Rugby Club
- Mental Health and Wellness Committee
- OUTLaw

For a complete list of student groups, visit ualberta.ca/law/student-groups

INDIGENOUS LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION SPEAKER SERIES

Since 2002, ILSA's annual speaker series has attracted those on the forefront of Indigenous law — from community members and activists to lawyers and judges. The 2023 lineup included Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin of the Supreme Court of Canada, the first Indigenous person to sit on Canada's highest court.

LAW SHOW

A beloved tradition at the Faculty of Law, Law Show is a student-run cabaret that raises money for charity. It was founded by Steve Blackman, '97 LLB, the now renowned Hollywood writer and producer behind Netflix hit The Umbrella Academy, as well as Bones and Fargo. Each year, law students perform a musical parody that is produced entirely in-house.



A Place to Call Home

#1

Urban Park in North America, the river valley has more than 160 km of trails



50
Annual Festivals

North America's oldest and largest Fringe Theatre Festival

Edmonton Heritage Festival, world's largest three-day multicultural celebration

Edmonton Folk Music Festival, one of the leading folk festivals in the world

Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton's Art District is the largest in Western Canada

Surrounded by history

The University of Alberta is ranked in the Top 5 universities in Canada and the Top 120 worldwide. Our main campus, located near a local cultural centre, Whyte Avenue, has more than 150 buildings that cover more than 50 city blocks — a true city within a city. Its boundary is the bank of Edmonton's River Valley, a beloved greenspace full of wildlife, lush vegetation and opportunities for relaxation and recreation. Over its more than 115 years of history, the U of A campus has grown to include landmark architectural masterpieces from many eras and sports numerous open outdoor spaces for student use. Its buildings are steeped in history, telling the story of world-changing graduates, while currently hosting ground-breaking technology and research set to change the future.

Live on campus

Students can choose from a diversity of on-campus housing options that can meet any need. Whether you are a new student who came to Edmonton from abroad, a long-time resident of Edmonton with a family or even a couple moving in together for the first time, we have a community for you. Learn more about on-campus housing, including information about Peter Lougheed Hall and Nîpisiy House, located beside the Law Centre: residence.ualberta.ca

Exploring Edmonton

Alberta's capital city has an entrepreneurial spirit. Here, taking a risk is encouraged, and having a sense of adventure is engrained in where Edmontonians live, work, learn and play. The city's rapidly growing public transit system makes it easy to explore all the city has to offer. The area around the University of Alberta is highly walkable, and it sports cafés, restaurants and nightlife, along with many opportunities to take in local festivals and events. Edmonton's core is also home to many large and successful businesses and innovative startups, many of which were founded right here by U of A graduates.

325

Days of Sun

0%

Provincial Sales Tax

1.32

Million People (metro)

Prospective Indigenous Students



"We are proud to have a thriving Indigenous student community at the faculty. Many of our Indigenous students find their home at the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge, which provides an extraordinary number of opportunities for learning, as well as a strong sense of community. However, support for Indigenous students can be found throughout the faculty, from curriculum to the Indigenous Student Support officer to the Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot. As a faculty, we are also incredibly proud to see that many of our Indigenous graduates are now leaders who have helped to redefine Indigenous legal issues in Alberta and beyond."

Fiona Kelly
Dean, Faculty of Law

First People's House

Housed at the University of Alberta, First Peoples' House (FPH) provides First Nations, Métis and Inuit students with the supports needed to create a community around them that fosters mental, emotional, physical, cultural and financial wellness.

FPH is part of the U of A's ongoing efforts to create an empowering environment for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. In addition FPH hosts numerous events throughout the year to gather our student community together in a meaningful way.

Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge



A research unit based at the University of Alberta's Law Centre, the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge aims to identify and protect Indigenous laws and systems of governance. The institute aims to support Indigenous communities in

identifying, articulating and implementing their own laws, and developing valuable research methods and accessible public legal education resources. The Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge offers a great many opportunities for law students to get hands-on experience in research and law, and make a difference in Indigenous communities.

The institute's origins go back to 2016 with the creation of the Wahkohtowin course, co-taught by a U of A instructor and a community learning team, designed to explore the concept of Wahkohtowin, a Cree concept roughly translated as interrelatedness and interdependence. It has been a core tenet of Cree law for centuries.

Launchpad into Law



Open to incoming Indigenous law students, Launchpad into Law runs in early August at the Law Centre. The 10-day in-person program introduces students to core legal concepts and skills, and helps set them up for success in the Faculty of Law. Launchpad into Law is offered to eligible students without cost, and those who complete the program can receive three credits to go toward their degree.

For more information and to register, contact the University of Alberta's Indigenous Support Officer at makela@ualberta.ca

Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot

Established in 1995, the Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot asks teams to make their cases in accordance with concepts such as peaceful negotiation and consensus building. Each year, teams from across Canada — including from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law — gather for the moot. Each team represents a party in a complex negotiation made in the context of Indigenous customs and law with the guidance of Indigenous facilitators and an Elder.

Indigenous Law and Legal Issues

Indigenous laws and legal issues are incorporated into the JD curriculum at the University of Alberta in a number of ways. Law students can also pursue research on various Indigenous issues under the supervision of a full-time faculty member.

Courses:

- Indigenous Jurisdiction and Constitutional Pluralism
- Indigenous Law: Foundations and Methods
- Indigenous Legal Issues
- Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Law
- Indigenous Peoples and International Law
- Methods of Indigenous Legal Engagement
- Métis Law and the Canadian State
- The Gladue Principles
- The TRC, Law, Justice and Reconciliation
- Wahkohtowin Intensive



Kathleen Makela
Indigenous Support Officer

Kathleen, a descendant of Old Man Beaulieu, is a member of Fort Resolution Métis Nation in the NWT. She ensures Indigenous law students have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive in law school and beyond. Here is a glimpse at some of the support offered:

- Daily Smudging
- Confidential support
- Sweat Lodge Ceremony before exams
- Connecting students with mentors

To learn more about our Indigenous initiatives and equity, diversity and inclusivity, visit ualberta.ca/law/ii-edl.



bex mitchell
'25 JD

"The Indigenous Law Students' Association (ILSA) is dedicated to raising awareness on current Indigenous legal issues. The group is open to any and all law students interested in Indigenous legal issues, or who are curious to learn more about Indigenous law. We offer a range of opportunities from networking and mentorship to cultural events and movie nights to speaker series with Indigenous leaders. You can find us most lunch hours playing cards in the Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge. We look forward to meeting you!"



Neal Ruth
'25 JD

"As a mature Indigenous student with a background in the trades and military, I never imagined I would end up in the Faculty of Law. But I'm glad I took a chance on myself, and I hope to inspire others to do the same. Now, I'm proud to say that I'm in my third year. I've met many other like-minded students on campus — students who want to work to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples and communities. I've gotten involved with Indigenous student groups that have come to feel like second homes and families. There were challenges along the way, but the constant support I receive from my peers reaffirms that I am where I'm supposed to be."

Admissions

For more information on admissions, visit ualberta.ca/law/admissions

INDIGENOUS STREAM

Admission is based on an applicant's pre-law academic record, LSAT score and on a number of special considerations. This holistic review is designed to help address the historic underrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the legal profession.

REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate Degree or Equivalent: An undergraduate degree, or at least the first two years (60 credits) of a program leading to an undergraduate degree.

Admission Average: An applicant's admission average will be calculated based on the most recently completed 60 graded credits minimum.

Law School Admission Test Scores: An LSAT written within five years prior to the September in which admission is sought, but no later than January of that year.

Documents Required: Status and/or membership identification, transcripts, personal statement, resume and two academic references. We collect LSAT scores.

Each year, the Faculty of Law admits approximately 185 students. We seek students who exemplify the dedication and intellectual curiosity needed to thrive in the legal field.

For more information on admissions, visit ualberta.ca/law/admissions

REGULAR STREAM

Admission is based on an applicant's pre-law academic record, LSAT score and a number of considerations. The Admissions Committee adjusts the weighting of these scores annually in order to provide the best prediction of success in law school.

REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate Degree or Equivalent: Undergraduate degree, or at least the first three years (90 credits) of a program leading to an undergraduate degree.

Admission Average: The estimated grade point average of students with an undergraduate degree is a 3.8 on the U of A's 4-point scale. An applicant's admission average will be calculated based on the most recently completed 60 graded credits minimum.

Law School Admission Test Scores: An LSAT written within five years prior to the September in which admission is sought but no later than January of that year.

English Language Proficiency: If English is not your first language, you must meet the U of A's English language proficiency requirement. [Studyincanada.ualberta.ca](https://studyincanada.ualberta.ca)

Documents Required: Transcripts and personal statement. We collect LSAT scores.

Apply Now
ualberta.ca/law
\$150 application fee



CALENDAR

2026	
December 1	Application Deadline
2027	
January	Last LSAT to apply for admission for 2027
February 1	Documentation Deadline
March	Dean's Welcome for Admitted Students
March 31	Acceptance deadline for first-round offers
April - May	Second-round offers go out
September	Law school begins!

Waitlist

Applicants placed on the waitlist will be notified in order of placement as spots become available. We cannot offer seats to the waitlist until they become available. This can occur right up until September.



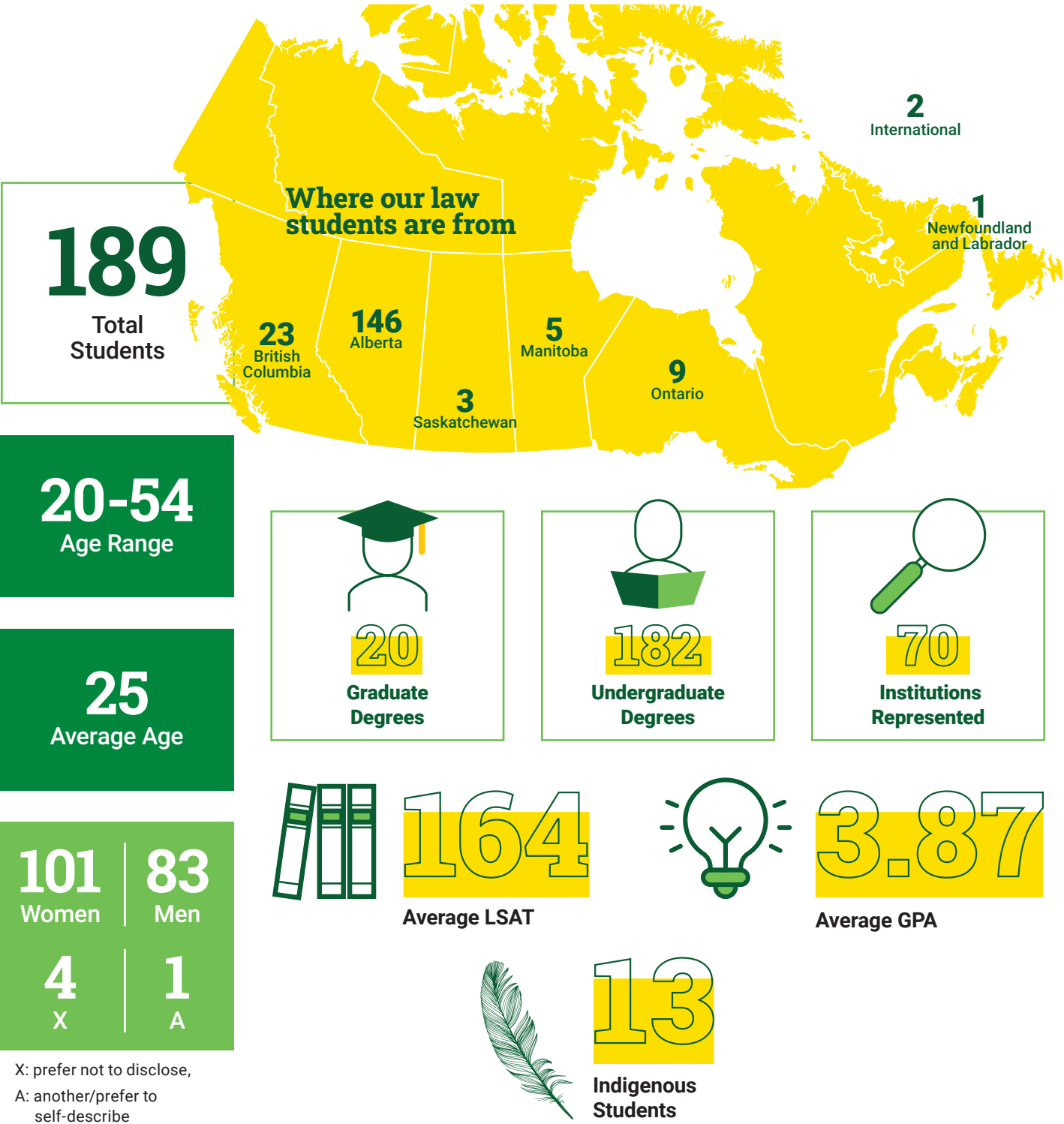
JD/MBA Dual Degree

In partnership with the Alberta School of Business, the Faculty of Law offers a four-year JD/MBA dual-degree program. The combined degree delivers the skills to improve the effectiveness of managers, policymakers and legal advisers by providing students with strong management skills and in-depth specialization in law.



Admissions 2025/26

For law school admission, there are no pre-requisites for the type of undergraduate degree or career experience. Our JD students come from a wide range of academic, employment and life experiences.



Curriculum

Our curriculum is a long-recognized strength of the Faculty and is greatly enriched by our engagement with the Alberta Bar and judiciary.

We teach the foundations of the law while encouraging new and innovative approaches to legal education. Our curriculum anticipates, captures and reflects changes in the legal landscape while responding to student needs.



MENTORS FOR STUDENTS

Each first-year student is provided two mentors — one faculty member and one upper-year student. The mentorship program helps students successfully navigate the transition into law school.

First Year

Your first year lays the groundwork for your legal education and professional development. You will learn to think like a lawyer as you are introduced to the core principles of law. Here's a look at your first year:

Orientation:

Your law school journey starts here.

Foundations to Law:

This two-week intensive course introduces you to the Canadian legal system.

Legal Research and Writing:

Learn the fundamentals of legal research, analysis and communication.

COMPULSORY COURSES

- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Property Law
- Torts

Upper Years

Delve deeper into specialized areas and choose a path that aligns with your career goals and interests. Compulsory courses provide students with a comprehensive understanding of foundational legal principles and essential areas of law.

- Administrative Law
- Corporations
- Civil Procedure
- Evidence
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Jurisprudence or Legal History
- One course in Indigenous and Aboriginal Law

Whether your passion lies in environmental law, human rights or family law, our Faculty offers a wide array of courses to meet your needs. Here are just a few of our optional courses:

- Musicians and the Law
- Health Care Ethics and the Law
- Water Law
- Law and Social Media
- Prison Law

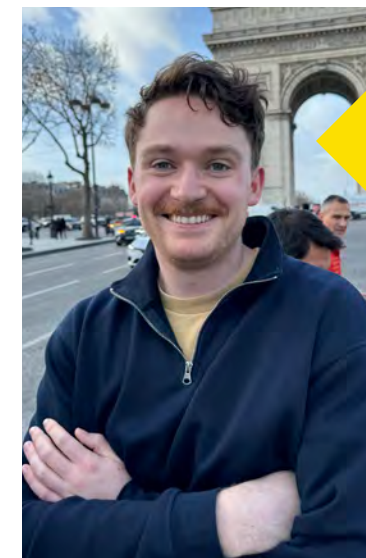
For more information on curriculum, visit ualberta.ca/law/curriculum



Sadia Masud, '24 JD
Co-founder of the
Muslim Law Students'
Association

International Exchange Opportunities

Enhance your academic and personal experience with our global exchange program. Our law students have studied all over the world while earning credits toward their JD degree. There are extensive scholarship opportunities to fund studies abroad. Students pay U of A fees, and studies are in English.



"Studying in Paris taught me how to think differently about law and culture. The experience connected me with courses, professors and other students I never would've met otherwise. Students in the EU wanted to learn about my perspectives as a Canadian law student, and I gained deep insights into the legal systems of other countries. Going abroad showed me the diversity of methods that we can learn and understand the law. It was as much a cultural experience as it was an academic one, and I know I'll carry the connections I made and knowledge I earned with me into my future career."

Jack Kelly, '25 JD

Experiential Learning

From the Classroom to the Courtroom to the Community.

Applying legal theory to legal practice is one of the challenges of law school. The University of Alberta Faculty of Law prepares students for life beyond the classroom through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, including clinics, land-based learning, externships and embedded practical tasks.

Legal Clinics

Year-long clinic based courses provide opportunities for students to apply foundational understandings of law and legislation to real cases in real time, providing much needed service to the community and greater access to justice. In the second semester, students bring their knowledge to the clinical context, working directly with clients and applying the law to real cases in real time.

Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic provides legal support to business owners for a range of legal issues. The Clinic's files vary from term to term, but under the supervision of mentoring lawyers, students might draft legal information memoranda or transactional legal documents for early-stage, traditional start-ups or social enterprises. Files also often include matters related to entity formation, employment and hiring, intellectual property, consumer privacy, non-profits and charities regulations and compliance, business regulations, website and platform regulation, and commercial transactions and other matters common to the operations of for-profit, non-profit, and hybrid start-ups.

Low Income Individuals and the Law

Since 2008, Low-Income Individuals and the Law has equipped law students with the skills they need to assist low-income and marginalized people with some of their biggest legal challenges. Common issues include assisting low-income people with housing and homelessness, intimate partner violence, public space use, social benefits, immigration and human rights complaints.

Students take on clinical placements with one of our four partner organizations: the Edmonton Community Legal Centre, Legal Aid Alberta, the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta or the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Mental Health and the Law

Mental Health and the Law students explore the intersection between the rights of mental health patients, the historical developments in mental health law, and key concepts such as mental disability, mental illness, insanity, and competency.

Under the supervision and direction of Legal Aid Alberta staff lawyers, students attend Edmonton's Mental Health Court to observe proceedings and provide assistance to people accessing the court.

Land based learning

Oceans Law & Policy

Trade in your suit and briefcase for a wetsuit! After learning about international law of the sea that governs our many uses of the ocean, students spend a week on Vancouver Island, B.C. at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Canada's premiere marine biology research station and oceanside campus. See and experience the coastline you are learning about in person during activities such as a temperate rain forest ecology walk, viewing species at risk, and learning basic marine science in this one-of-a-kind course.



Wahkohtowin intensive

In this four-day course, which takes place in Aseniwuche Winewak territory near Grande Cache, students learn about the Cree concepts of wahkohtowin and miyo-wicêhtowin — legal principles that translate roughly as “interrelatedness” and “building good relations.” Co-developed and co-taught by Cree Elders and a community-based team, this course asks students to engage with these principles through on the land activities such as storytelling, and identifying and using edible plants. The central activity of the project sees students take part in a traditional “home-tanning” of a moose hide.

“Mooting is an avenue for students to dive deeply into today’s pressing legal questions, while receiving mentorship and guidance from experienced practicing legal professionals. The University of Alberta has rightfully developed a reputation as one of the strongest mooting schools in the country.”

**Chris Samuels, Director,
Legal Research and Writing Program**

Mooting

Each year, students participate in approximately 20 provincial, national and international moot competitions, against other law schools sharpening their advocacy skills and building their confidence with the support of one-on-one coaching and mentorship from the legal community. Moots cover a variety of subject areas including health law, Indigenous law, constitutional law, and more.

Mooting starts in the first year of Law School at the U of A. A capstone experience for first year students is the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin Moot. Embedded within the mandatory Legal Research and Writing course, the moot gives students the opportunity to work with upper year students to draft a factum and participate in oral argument.



“Mooting builds a skillset that is useful whether or not you become a litigator. When I started, I wasn’t sure if I was going to like it and it ended up being the most important part of my law school career. Mooting gave me confidence that I didn’t know I had, and showed me what I was capable of.”

Emma Stirling, '24 JD



Student Legal Services

Student Legal Services operates adjacent to the Law Centre, giving law students the opportunity to volunteer and provide free legal information and assist with criminal, civil and family matters in provincial court. Students work directly with clients while being supervised by volunteer lawyers. Students also provide legal education to the public through community outreach and legal presentations, and research areas of law that can be reformed to better serve low-income communities.

Externships

Office of the Judge Advocate General Internship

Under the supervision of personnel at the Office of the Judge Advocate General (OJAG) at the Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, students in this first-of-its-kind Canadian internship gain experience in criminal procedure, evidence issues, administrative law, international law, case law and writing legal opinions. Interns assist the OJAG mandate of delivering legal advice to the Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence in all areas of military law, including military justice, administrative law, and operational law.

Courts Clerkship

This full-year course allows students to intern at either the Alberta Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal of Alberta for six to eight hours a week, giving them the opportunity to gain experience in litigation from a judicial perspective. Students are assigned to a judge and tasks include performing research, preparing memoranda, meeting regularly with their supervising judge and shadowing supervising judges.

“One major reason why I love Edmonton and the U of A is that it’s easy to get involved. There are a lot of young people around the city who are committed to seeing their communities improve.”

Stephen Raitz, '24 JD



Fund Your Degree

We strongly believe finances should never be a barrier to a legal education. Our dedicated team works closely with students to explore ways to alleviate financial burdens. There are plenty of opportunities to help fund your degree at the Faculty of Law.



Award Statistics

409

individual awards were given out by the Faculty of Law to JD students in 2023.

\$1.4M

awarded to our JD class of 550 students annually.

Almost half of the 1L class received one or more awards.

\$2,727

The average Faculty of Law Bursary for JD students.

Scholarships and Awards info

The Faculty of Law provides more than \$1.4 million to students each year through scholarships and awards. We are committed to making law school accessible and ensuring that the cost of a legal education is not a barrier to entry.

Every student who is offered admission to the Juris Doctor program is automatically considered for a scholarship.

Here are just a couple of our award recipients:



FURYAL HUSSAIN, '25 JD

"As a woman of colour, I've always had to work hard to make space for myself and accomplish my goals. This award gives me the opportunity to thrive in my legal education and career, and pave the way for other women of colour."

Recipient of the 2022 Scotiabank Program for Law Students' Scholarship



MEGAN RETI, '24 JD

"This funding helps me keep my student loans and line of credit at a more manageable level, allowing me to worry less about finances and more about my exams and papers."

An inaugural recipient of the University of Alberta Opportunities Award in Law, presented to students who identify as members of equity-deserving groups. Nineteen awards were distributed in fall 2022.

Leading with Purpose.



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