



Start your journey

Join us at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law
Viewbook 2024-2025



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF LAW



UCalgary Law

“Each student enters UCalgary Law with a sense of purpose. These students graduate with a greater sense of the human experience and are voluntarily assuming the roles as guardians of the rule of law.”

The Hon. Catherine Fraser
Former Chief Justice of Alberta

2023-2024 VIEWBOOK CONTENTS

UCalgary Law at a glance	3
Why UCalgary Law?	4
Student life	8
Student services	9
Financing your law degree	10
Applying to UCalgary Law	12
Contact us	13

[READY TO APPLY?](#)
[LEARN ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS](#) 

UCalgary Law at a glance

130
Students admitted/year

84
Average LSAT percentile[†]

164
Average LSAT[†]

3.70
Average GPA[†]

26
Average age[†]

27%
From outside Alberta[†]

18%
First generation Canadians[†]

89%
First in family to attend law school[†]

33
Full time faculty[‡]

32
Undergraduate areas
of study[†]

99%
Articling
placement rate*

* (5-year average) | [†] (2023) | [‡] (2024)



TOP 5 REASONS STUDENTS CHOOSE UCALGARY LAW

- 1 Our holistic admissions process
- 2 The Calgary Curriculum
- 3 Our location — one hour from the Rocky Mountains
- 4 Competitive tuition
- 5 Our articling placement rates and career development services



Why UCalgary Law?

“The challenges facing Canada today — globalization, the information revolution, reconciliation, climate change, multiculturalism, the ever-present tensions associated with Canadian federalism — represent legal challenges as well as social and political ones. And each is challenging not only the way in which we think about the law, but also the way in which we at UCalgary Law are thinking about legal education.”

Dr. Ian Holloway, PC KC
Former Dean, UCalgary Law

WE ARE CANADA'S MOST INNOVATIVE LAW SCHOOL

Think Calgary is just about oil and gas? It's time to remove that thinking from your brain. Calgary is home to a thriving innovation ecosystem, becoming the preferred place for start-ups and tech giants alike, from financial institutions to green energy solution providers. In fact, in 2022, Calgary companies captured \$647 million in venture capital funding through 64 deals, and the start-up community is expected to triple the size of the tech sector in the city and create 30,000 new jobs by 2031.

Our city also has the highest head office concentration per capita in Canada. And do you know what all those organizations need? Lawyers. UCalgary Law will prepare you for the legal marketplace of the future, whether that's in the evolving energy industry, environmental law and sustainability, family law, Indigenous law, or any other area you want to practice.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CALGARY'S
TECH STARTUP ECOSYSTEM [↗](#)

\$647M
VENTURE
CAPITAL
FUNDING
CAPTURED
BY CALGARY
COMPANIES
IN 2022

THE CALGARY CURRICULUM

The legal profession, in Canada and worldwide, has entered a period of tremendous change. Lawyers in today's markets need a more comprehensive range of skills and knowledge than lawyers from the past. We are committed to an innovative teaching approach to give our graduates the best education for the legal marketplace of tomorrow.

Our ground-breaking Calgary Curriculum gives you the competence you need to understand the concepts, methods, analysis, reasoning, and critical perspectives to excel in the practice of law. Our innovative teaching practices also help you translate that knowledge into action.

UCalgary Law has unique course offerings to fully prepare you for the legal profession, no matter what area of law you choose to practice. These courses include:

- » [E-Litigation](#)
- » [Marketing & Client Development](#)
- » [Reconciliation & Lawyers](#)
- » [Leadership for Lawyers](#)
- » [Corporate & In-House Counsel](#)

Annual intensive block courses will amplify your learning experience. Starting with Foundations in Law & Justice I and II in your first year, you'll learn legal methods, case analysis, legal research and writing, oral advocacy, and client management. Negotiations takes place in your second year, where you will learn to apply ethical reasoning skills, improve cultural sensitivity, navigate the complexities of multiparty contexts, and put everything into practice in multi-day mock negotiations. The final semester of your third year kicks off with our Advocacy course, where you will engage with fundamental trial skills in the context of a complex civil or criminal case.

In recent years, we have added a number of exciting and unique upper-year courses, including:

- » [Law, Science & the Regulatory State](#)
- » [Money Laundering](#)
- » The Dynamics of Law Making: Lawyers Politics and Government
- » Law & Critical Race Theory
- » Indigenous Economic Development

[TAKE A LOOK AT OUR CURRENT COURSE OFFERINGS](#) 



JOINT PROGRAMS & CONCENTRATIONS

Combined JD/MPP

(Master of Public Policy) (3.5 years)

Offered with [The School of Public Policy](#), the JD/MPP (Master of Public Policy) combines the study of law and public policy across a wide variety of areas, including resources and the environment, economic and social issues, international policy, as well as taxation, regulation and public finance.

Combined JD/MBA

(Master of Business Administration) (4 years)

The joint JD/MBA program, offered in partnership by the Faculty of Law and the [Haskayne School of Business](#), is designed to develop skilled, knowledgeable leaders ready to stand out in the highly competitive global market.

**International Energy Lawyers Program
(JD/JD, 4 years)**

The International Energy Lawyers Program (IELP) is a joint JD program with the University of Houston Law Center that allows you to earn both Canadian and American law degrees in four years and apply for admission to the bars in Canada and the US. You will develop highly marketable skills for the energy and resources industry across North America.

Certification in Common Law in French

Offered in partnership with the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, the CCLF allows students with competencies in French to gain skills in French legal writing and advocacy and a deep understanding of the critical issues surrounding language rights in Canada. Students who earn the CCLF will help to increase access to justice for French-speaking clients in Alberta and across Canada, a group that is commonly underserved in the legal system due to language barriers.

Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law

As part of the Faculty’s developing responses to the gaps identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report and Calls to Action and the University of Calgary’s Indigenous Strategy, we are proud to be the first law school in the Prairies where students can focus their studies on these legal perspectives. The Concentration will be noted on graduating students’ official transcripts, and is aimed at equipping students with advanced skills, knowledge, and perspectives to engage meaningfully and respectfully in these areas of the law, and in the broader reconciliation efforts across the legal profession.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR JOINT PROGRAMS](#) 

MOOTING AND DEBATING

Our Mooting and Debating program gives you real experience in some of the necessary negotiation, advocacy, and debate techniques required to succeed in legal practice. Participate in local, national, and international events and earn course credit while you’re at it!

Current credit moot opportunities include:

- » [Adam F. Fanaki Competition Law Moot](#)
- » [Alberta Court of Appeal Moot](#)
- » [Bennett Jones Health Law Moot](#)
- » [Davies Corporate/Securities Law Moot](#)
- » [Donald G. Bowman National Tax Moot](#)
- » [Harold G Fox \(Canadian Intellectual Property Law\) Moot](#)
- » [Phillip C. Jessup Moot](#)
- » [Julius Alexander Isaac Moot](#)
- » [Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Circle](#)
- » [The Laskin Moot](#)
- » [Morrison LLP Family Law Moot](#)
- » [Western Canada Family Law Negotiation](#)
- » [Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot](#)
- » [Willms & Shier Environmental Law Moot](#)

[GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
MOOTING AND DEBATING](#) 

3
GRADUATES OF THE
CERTIFICATION IN
COMMON LAW IN
FRENCH HAVE SECURED
CLERKSHIPS WITH THE
SUPREME COURT OF
CANADA SINCE 2019

CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning has been at the core of our teaching philosophy for more than 40 years. Our clinical programs provide for-credit learning opportunities to develop practical skills and theoretical knowledge in areas that interest you the most.

- » Student Legal Assistance: represent real clients on various matters, including criminal law offences, family law matters, residential tenancy issues, small claims disputes, and traffic offences.
- » Public Interest Law Clinic: gain real-world litigation and law reform experience in relation to a wide variety of public interest issues.
- » Business Venture Clinic: help entrepreneurs and start-ups navigate their unique legal needs.
- » Provincial Court Clerkships: earn litigation experience, from the judicial perspective, on rotations through the Criminal, Family and Youth, and Civil Divisions of the Court.
- » Family Law Clinical: gain insight into ‘real life’ family law practice by drafting court documents and developing skills through role-played interviews and advocacy.
- » Market Surveillance Administrator Clinical: learn about the interpretation and enforcement of *Alberta’s Electric Utilities Act*, the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*, and other legislation and regulations.
- » Alberta Utilities Commission Clinical: gain a practical understanding of public and administrative law principles as applied in proceedings before the Commission.



INTERNATIONAL AND OUT-OF-CLASSROOM LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Practicing law doesn’t happen in a bubble, nor should your legal education. International legal studies are increasingly important in our interconnected world, and UCalgary Law students have various opportunities to participate in legal education across the globe.

London Corporate Law Summer Institute

London (along with New York) is the financial capital of the world, and a common place for Canadian companies and lawyers to find themselves operating. The Institute will ground students in the legal and business considerations that drive corporate legal structures in the United Kingdom and the United States, focusing on capital raising transactions.

Modern Treaties and the Law

Modern Treaties and the Law is an intensive two-week course that takes University of Calgary law students to Whitehorse, Yukon, and surrounding communities to focus on the law of modern treaties and Indigenous self-government.

International Exchange

Spend a semester abroad in one of our approved programs around the globe, including South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, and Mexico, to name a few.

Student life

LIVING IN CALGARY

On-Campus Housing

If you're looking for an easy commute to class, UCalgary offers several residence offerings, including one- and two-bedroom apartments in [Crowsnest Hall](#).

For families, [Varsity Courts](#) features one-, two-, and three-bedroom townhomes with heat, water, and electricity included.

Off-Campus Living

A short walk from campus, the [University District](#) combines residential, retail, and office spaces, shopping, dining, and entertainment, with inspiring parks and breathtaking natural scenery. Or search for [off-campus housing](#) with the Students' Union and Places4Students Inc., which provides a listing of numerous high-quality off-campus housing options.

[CONNECT WITH THE SOCIETY OF LAW STUDENTS \(SLS\)](#) 

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Whether you love to write, play sports, or participate in community advocacy, there is a club for you at UCalgary Law. We also boast chapters of national groups, including the Black Law Students Association, Pro Bono Students Canada, Association of Women Lawyers, Legal Education Action Fund, and the Runnymede Society.

Other clubs include:

- » **OUTLaw:** offers a safe forum for our LGBTQ+ community to interact, provide mutual support, and foster inclusive and positive attitudes toward sexual orientation and gender identity.
- » **Indigenous Law Students Association:** aims to support Indigenous law students and promote awareness of Indigenous issues amongst peers at UCalgary.
- » **Diversity & Law Society:** promotes diversity and multiculturalism in the study and practice of law.
- » **Gender Equity in Law Association:** works to engage, educate, and inspire law students to fight gender inequity in the law.

Each year, students plan and participate in the Law Show, a fun-filled talent show, and the Law Formal, which gives students a chance to unwind and celebrate with friends before fall exams. In the spring, graduating students and their families head to Banff or Lake Louise for a graduation banquet and dance against the backdrop of the stunning Rocky Mountains.

LIFE IN CALGARY

1st
MOST
LIVABLE
CITY IN
NORTH
AMERICA

*Economist Intelligence
Unit (2024)*

5th
MOST
LIVABLE
CITY IN
THE WORLD

*Economist Intelligence
Unit (2024)*

165+
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

333
DAYS OF
SUNSHINE
A YEAR

3RD
MOST
DIVERSE
CITY IN
CANADA

37.2
MEDIAN AGE

55%
ALBERTA
HAS THE
SECOND
HIGHEST
VOLUNTEER
RATE AT 55%

Statistics from [Calgary Economic Development](#)





Student services

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Our grads get jobs. Want proof? Over the past five years, our average articling placement rate has been 99%. We also earn more than 50% of the first-year summer jobs in Calgary each year. Our competitors don't even come close to matching that number.

Our success in getting UCalgary Law students jobs comes from the exceptional work done by our Career & Professional Development Office (CPDO). Our career advisors have deep connections with law firms — big and small — throughout Alberta and across Canada. If you want to be a lawyer, no matter what area of law you want to practice, our team will help you achieve that goal.

“This internship has been a great addition to my legal education. It has enlightened me on how big of a role legal innovation plays in solving the access to justice problem. This knowledge has informed my philosophy about practicing law.”

Naomi Austin

JD'23

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our CPDO team can also work with you to secure employment opportunities with organizations like the United Nations and the Centre for Law and Democracy, and international corporations.

Our Innovation Internship Program connects current law students with forward-thinking employers in the legal profession to help companies and law firms address and overcome critical business challenges. The program allows students to gain hands-on experience in the methodologies used for identifying, developing, and implementing solutions to industry issues, including process mapping, stakeholder needs identification, project management, and communication. Students also develop a broad understanding of data analytics and legal technology solutions and how they can support solutions for the industry.

STUDENT & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Our Assistant Dean of Student Services supports our students' well-being and overall success by providing personalized support and academic advice to all students in the JD program. Our partnership with the Alberta Lawyers' Assistance Society (ASSIST) gives students access to mental health and well-being supports and educational programs.

99%
AVERAGE
ARTICLING
PLACEMENT
RATE OVER
THE PAST
FIVE YEARS



Financing your law degree

Tuition at UCalgary Law Is highly competitive with law schools across Canada. Choosing us for your legal education can save you tens of thousands of dollars across three years of study all without sacrificing excellence and innovation in your legal education and exceptional opportunities in the Canadian legal market upon graduation.

Tuition fees are assessed on a per-course basis:

Canadian students
\$1,352.85
per 3-unit course

International students
\$4,908.48 per 3-unit course
(includes visa differential)

- » Full-time, first-year JD students will take 18 units per semester.
- » Full-time second- and third-year students will take a minimum of 12 units per term, to a maximum of 18, and at least 31 units per year, to a maximum of 36.

FIND THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
ON TUITION PER 3-UNIT COURSE [↗](#)

FINANCIAL AID

Student loans are available to Canadian citizens or permanent residents studying full- or part-time in a degree-granting program.

Alberta students

Alberta residents who require financial assistance to pursue post-secondary education may obtain student loans by applying online through [Student Aid Alberta](#). Students submit one loan application and may be eligible to receive any combination of federal or provincial loans and grants.

» [Information about Alberta Student Loans](#)

Out-of-Province Students

Students who reside in a province other than Alberta are eligible for government student loan funding and can apply through their home province or territory of residence. Students submit one loan application and may be eligible to receive any combination of Federal or provincial loans and grants.

Students with questions about loan eligibility and the application process can contact their provincial/territorial loan office directly. Additional information can be found on the [CanLearn website](#).

» [Loan information for Out-of-Province Students](#)

» [Loan information for US Students](#)

ENTRANCE AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

Entrance Awards

UCalgary Law Entrance Awards are offered annually to students considered by the faculty who best reflect excellence in their undergraduate achievements, LSAT performance, extra-curricular endeavors, and work experience. Entrance awards include:

- » Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP Entrance Scholarship
- » Harold W. Lemieux Memorial Law Scholarship
- » Chief Justice Fraser Scholarship
- » F. Murray Fraser QC Scholarship
- » Faculty of Law Undergraduate Awards of Excellence
- » Faculty of Law Undergraduate Award of Excellence for Indigenous and Black Students

Entrance awards are awarded no later than March 31. All applicants who have received an offer up to March 1 are automatically considered for these awards.

» [Learn more about our Entrance Awards](#)

Scholarships awarded by the University of Calgary

The University of Calgary offers many scholarships, awards, and bursaries for law students outside of those listed above. **You must apply for these awards** by completing the Faculty of Law Awards application. The deadline to apply is May 1. We strongly encourage all applicants to apply for scholarships, awards, and bursaries.

Awards of note include the Inter Pipeline Awards for Black and Indigenous students, the Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP Award for BIPOC law students, and the Murray and Anne Fraser Entrance Award.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT UCALGARY AWARDS](#) 

A photograph of two women in a modern, brightly lit interior. One woman, with long dark hair and glasses, is wearing a black top and a colorful patterned scarf. She is looking towards the other woman. The second woman, partially visible on the left, has long light-colored hair and is wearing a white sweater. They appear to be in a professional or academic setting, possibly a law school event.

Applying to UCalgary Law

(FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☑ Completion of a minimum of 60 units/credits towards a bachelor's degree. There is no preferred undergraduate areas of study to enter law school.
 - » UCalgary Law calculates your GPA based on your last 60 units/credits, including graduate courses (if applicable).
 - » Courses towards a diploma, certificate or associate's degree are not recognized towards meeting the minimum unit qualification unless they have been recognized towards an undergraduate degree program from an accredited post-secondary institution and appear as such on a student's transcript.
 - » Fewer than 2% of applicants are admitted without completing a bachelor's degree before starting law school. Typically, those within this 2% are mature applicants with strong career and lived experience.
- ☑ Write the LSAT before January 31. When considering your application, the Admissions Committee will use the **highest** attained LSAT score on your LSAT Report.
- ☑ Write a 900-word (maximum) Statement of Purpose and Perspective, made up of three essays of 300 words each.
- ☑ Upload transcripts from every post-secondary institution you have attended, including graduate studies.
- ☑ Provide evidence of English language proficiency, if required, as set out in the [University of Calgary Calendar](#).

Black applicants

If you self-identify as Black in your online application, you will have the opportunity to complete an optional personal essay of up to 450 words. The personal essay will be considered as part of your overall file review within our comprehensive admissions process.

» [Learn more about the BSEAP](#)

Indigenous applicants

If you self-identify as Indigenous on your application, you will have the opportunity to complete an optional essay of up to 450 words addressing lived experience as First Nations, Inuit or Métis peoples in Canada, including connections to their own Indigenous community and history. Applicants are invited to outline their connection to their Indigenous culture (or loss of it, and why) and anything else that may have contributed to their interest in the legal field and the study of law.

» [Learn more about the Indigenous admission process](#)

Upper-year applicants

Application information for upper-year applicants (transfer students, Letter of Permission students, IELP and international exchange students) can be [found online](#). Note: UCalgary Law does not have a “mature student” category.

Application fee

\$125 (CAD) for Canadian applicants

\$145 (CAD) for international applicants

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1
Applications open

December 1
Deadline to apply

January 31
Final LSAT score accepted for Fall admissions
(in the year in which you are applying)

February 15
Supporting documents due
(transcripts, LSAT writing sample)

Contact us

UCALGARY LAW STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Connect with current students to learn about life at UCalgary Law to help you make an informed decision about applying to, or accepting an offer from, UCalgary Law.

What can you ask them?

- » What is law school really like?
- » Can I work while I'm in law school?
- » What clubs should I join?
- » What is your favorite class?
- » Can I do an international exchange?
- » What's law school like as a mature student?
- » Where should I live?
- » Can I have a tour of the law school?

Email

Contact law.ambassadors@ucalgary.ca with your questions.

Want a tour? Include "TOUR" in the subject line.

ADMISSIONS

Have questions about applying? Contact our Admissions Team!

Phone

+1.403.220.4155

Email

law@ucalgary.ca

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