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**Application Categories**

There are 4 application categories:

* [General](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Adetail_subject%3ApageHelp200#general)
* [Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility (EDIA)](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Adetail_subject%3ApageHelp200#equity)
* [Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis)](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Adetail_subject%3ApageHelp200#indigenous)
* [Mature](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Adetail_subject%3ApageHelp200#mature)

General Category

Use this category to apply, unless you feel that you qualify to apply in the EDIA, Indigenous or Mature categories.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility Category (EDIA)

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law encourages applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences, including equity-deserving groups. This category is designed to identify outstanding applicants whose skills, abilities and experiences may not be fully recognized in the General category.

We acknowledge that traditional approaches to assess suitability for law school may not consider systemic and personal barriers an applicant may face. We invite applicants to apply under this category who have faced obstacles and inequities that may have affected their academic history, including, but not limited to, socio-economic factors, mental and/or physical disability, culture, creed, race, sexuality, family status and gender, among others.

Although all applicants are considered holistically, special attention will be given to this category to review files through an anti-racism and decolonizing lens, being especially attentive to unconscious biases. Applicants should explain why they are exceptional candidates for the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and how their experiences and/or barriers have impacted them. This can be done through the Personal Statement or by attaching an additional Statement.

If possible, provide supporting documentation to support your statement. We understand that documentation may be difficult or impossible to obtain, depending on the circumstances. We ask applicants to exercise their best judgment when deciding what documentation is appropriate and important for the Admissions Committee to consider. We do not require confidential and private medical records to confirm a disability or medical condition; the documentation need only confirm the functional limitations, as it relates to the candidate's application.

Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) Category

We strongly encourage Indigenous applicants from across Canada to apply to our program. We are committed to improving Indigenous representation in the Canadian legal community.

To apply under the Indigenous category, you must be of Indigenous ancestry: First Nation, Inuit or Métis.

Applicants in this category are required to submit evidence of Indigenous identity, such as a copy of a status card or letter of support from an Indigenous organization, such as a band council or Métis community council.

You are also asked to outline in your Personal Statement your relationship to your community, including how you have contributed to, are connected to, and identify with, your community.

You must have a minimum of 3 years of university and must also take the LSAT exam.

Applications are reviewed holistically, as are all applications to the JD program.

Mature Category

We encourage applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences. You may be considered under the Mature applicant category if:

* you do not have a completed undergraduate degree or a university track record of academic performance that is normally competitive for law school admission.
* you have 10 or more years of relevant work or non-academic experience since completing high school, which demonstrates that you have a strong potential to succeed in the program, despite not meeting the academic requirements of the General Applicant Category.

As with all applicants, your file will be reviewed holistically, taking into consideration your capacity for academic success and contribution to the law school and broader community.

As a mature applicant, you must submit an up-to-date resumé along with your Personal Statement. You are required to submit 2 letters of reference, preferably at least 1 from an academic source. If you are unable to obtain an academic letter of reference, choose a reference that can speak to your abilities as they relate to law school, such as conducting research, writing, critical thinking, ability to work with others and time management.

Mature applicants must complete the LSAT exam and ensure that OLSAS receives all postsecondary transcripts.

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**Bora Laskin Faculty of Law (Lakehead University)**

Quick Links

* [Application Categories](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpLAKEH#categories)
* [Personal Statement](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpLAKEH#statement)

Do not cut and paste your responses into the application from a word processing program (e.g., Microsoft Word).

Doing so may result in formatting and/or punctuation errors in your submissions. Type directly into the application to avoid this issue.

Application Categories

There are 4 application categories:

* General
* Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility (EDIA)
* Indigenous
* Mature

General Category

Use this category to apply, unless you feel that you qualify to apply in the EDIA, Indigenous or Mature categories.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility Category (EDIA)

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We acknowledge that traditional approaches to assess suitability for law school may not consider systemic and personal barriers an applicant may face. We invite applicants to apply under this category who have faced obstacles and inequities that may have affected their academic history, including, but not limited to, socio-economic factors, mental and/or physical disability, culture, creed, race, sexuality, family status and gender, among others.

Although all applicants are considered holistically, special attention will be given to this category to review files through an anti-racism and decolonizing lens, being especially attentive to unconscious biases. Applicants should explain why they are exceptional candidates for the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and how their experiences and/or barriers have impacted them. This can be done through the Personal Statement or by attaching an additional Statement.

If possible, provide supporting documentation to support your statement. We understand that documentation may be difficult or impossible to obtain, depending on the circumstances. We ask applicants to exercise their best judgment when deciding what documentation is appropriate and important for the Admissions Committee to consider. We do not require confidential and private medical records to confirm a disability or medical condition; the documentation need only confirm the functional limitations, as it relates to the candidate's application.

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You are also asked to outline in your Personal Statement your relationship to your community, including how you have contributed to, are connected to and identify with your community.

You must have a minimum of 3 years of university and must also take the LSAT exam.

Applications are reviewed holistically, as are all applications to the JD program.

Mature Category

We encourage applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences. You may be considered under the Mature applicant category if:

* you do not have a completed undergraduate degree or a university track record of academic performance that is normally competitive for law school admission.
* you have 10 or more years of relevant work or non-academic experience since completing high school, which demonstrates that you have a strong potential to succeed in the program, despite not meeting the academic requirements of the General Application Category.

As with all applicants, your file will be reviewed holistically, taking into consideration your capacity for academic success and contribution to the law school and broader community.

As a mature applicant, you must submit an up-to-date resumé along with your Personal Statement. You are required to submit 2 letters of reference, preferably at least 1 from an academic source. If you are unable to obtain an academic letter of reference, choose a reference that can speak to your abilities as they relate to law school, such as conducting research, writing, critical thinking, ability to work with others and time management.

Mature applicants must complete the LSAT exam and ensure that OLSAS receives all postsecondary transcripts.

Personal Statement

You must complete the Personal Statement within your OLSAS application.

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is committed to the following 3 mandate areas:

1. Aboriginal and Indigenous Law,
2. Environmental Law and Natural Resource Law and
3. Sole Practitioner/Small Town Law practice, including the IPC.

Discuss how any or all our mandate areas fit in with your goals as a future lawyer. If applicable, also discuss any connection or previous experience you have with any or all our mandate areas.

We recognize that it may be more difficult for Black and racialized applicants to situate their connections to the mandate areas given the long history of conceiving settler-Indigenous relations as a relationship between Indigenous people and white people.

In light of this history, we want to clarify that we invite reflections on Indigenous-Black relations and the role of racialized people in reconciliation and decolonization. We welcome the thoughts of applicants on the historical exclusion of Black and racialized communities from environmental protection and natural resource development. We also welcome applicants' thoughts on the challenges and contributions of Black and racialized communities in small town practice or as sole practitioners.

The Personal Statement also provides you with the opportunity to discuss your strengths, capabilities and achievements that distinguish you as a desirable applicant. You may wish to include information about what led you to apply to study law, your preparedness for the study of law and your interest in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

You may also wish to include information about any anomalies within your academic performance, highlight non-academic achievements and note any special circumstances that have contributed to, or adversely affected, your academic and non-academic success.

Your Personal Statement will be considered in the context of the rest of your application. It must be authored entirely by you and must not exceed 8,000 characters in length.