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**Personal Statement**

* Allows you to highlight your academic, personal, professional and extracurricular accomplishments.
* Allows you to highlight your interest in studying law at Queen's.
* Can be used to complement material included in your Autobiographical Sketch.
* Must be authored entirely by you.
* Must not exceed 6,000 characters in length, including spaces.

The Admissions Committee finds the Personal Statement to be helpful, along with letters of reference, the Autobiographical Sketch and verifiers, to identify scholarship prospects among applicants who are competitive on the basis of grades and LSAT scores.

In the Access category, use the secondary Personal Statement to address the basis of your category claim and provide corroboration of these circumstances through relevant supporting documentation.

Part-time studies applicants: Outline in the Personal Statement your reasons for wanting to study part-time.

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**Admission Philosophy, Academic Requirements and Category Definitions**

* Find the most current and detailed information about our [admission categories, standards and processes](https://law.queensu.ca/admissions/jd) on our website.
* Access forms for requesting [permission to apply late, a fee waiver or a deferral of admission](https://law.queensu.ca/admissions/jd/applicant-forms).

**Admission Philosophy and Criteria**

The Admissions Committee uses a holistic approach to applications that considers a number of factors in addition to grades and the LSAT results. Queen's Faculty of Law endorses the goal that the geographic, ethnic, cultural, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Canadian population should be reflected in the ranks of those granted access to legal education.

The academic rigour of the Juris Doctor (JD) degree program requires that students who are granted admission have a strong aptitude for legal reasoning, demonstrated academic ability and good potential for success in studies at this level. The Admissions Committee considers other attributes, such as intellectual curiosity, avid interest in law, social commitment, reasonable judgment and insight, leadership potential, teamwork skills, creative ability and innovative endeavours, self-discipline, time management skills and maturity. The Admissions Committee will review personal statements, letters of reference and the Autobiographical Sketch to obtain information about these attributes.

Our Faculty of Law is enriched by the skills, knowledge and experience of students who have been community leaders, excelled in extracurricular activities and enjoyed success in careers prior to the pursuit of a legal education as much as we benefit from students with inquiring minds who have excelled consistently in a broad range of academic disciplines. Such outstanding applicants are encouraged to apply, whether in the General, Indigenous, Black Applicant or Access admission categories.

**First-year Admission to the JD Degree Program**

Categories of Admission

There are 4 major categories of admission into first year: The General category, the Indigenous Peoples category, the Black Student Applicant category and the Access category.  
  
The first-year class consists of about 216 students. Most students are admitted in the General category. Recently, around 20% of students admitted to the first-year class have been from outside of the General category.

**Academic Requirements**

All applicants in the General category must have successfully completed a minimum of 3 full years of coursework in a degree program at a postsecondary institution that provides an academic environment and education that prepares students for potential success in advanced study at Queen's.  
  
Visit the [Senate Policy on the Basis of Admission for Advanced Study and the interpretation guidelines](https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/basis-admission-advanced-study).

Quality of Academic Performance

The Admissions Committee reviews the nature and content of the undergraduate and graduate programs undertaken. Enrollment at full course load, scholarships, awards and prizes received, the level of the degree obtained (i.e., honours vs. general), consistency and improvement in academic performance, and successful completion of graduate work are weighed positively.  
  
See information about the [first-year class profile](http://law.queensu.ca/jd-admissions/admission-information/class-profile/).

General Requirements for JD Admission

Your academic record and LSAT score are weighed most heavily in this category. The other Admissions Philosophy criteria are weighed carefully in making distinctions between applicants who are equally competitive on these bases. Competitive applicants should have at least an A- average (GPA 3.7) in the top 2 years of their undergraduate degree program at a full-course load along with an LSAT score of at least 157.

**Indigenous Peoples Category**

Our Faculty of Law is committed to increasing Indigenous representation within the legal profession and therefore welcomes applications from Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

We will consider applications based on your identification with your Indigenous community, a demonstrated commitment to an Indigenous community/communities, as well as other factors, such as academic performance, LSAT results, employment history, letters of reference and a Personal Statement. The Admissions Committee uses this material to judge whether an applicant can undertake the JD degree program successfully.

If there is strong evidence of academic ability in the application, an exception might be made to the academic standards.

Black Student Applicant Category

Queen's Faculty of Law is committed to increasing Black representation within the legal profession and supporting Black students who choose Queen's.

We will consider applications based on any personal or professional experiences that allow an applicant to contribute to the law school community and further the law school's goal of building a representative and diverse class cohort. We will also consider other factors, such as academic performance, LSAT results, employment history, letters of reference and a Personal Statement. The Admissions Committee uses this material to judge whether an applicant can undertake the JD degree program successfully.

To be competitive in the admissions process, you should have at least a B+ average (GPA of 3.5) in the top 2 years of your undergraduate degree program at a full course load, along with an LSAT score of at least 155. We may consider other evidence of academic ability in addition to these academic standards.

The Admissions Committee will endeavour to make decisions on completed applications early in the admission cycle for this category.

Access Category

Our Faculty of Law is committed to enhancing diversity in legal education and the legal profession. To this end, we encourage applications from candidates whose backgrounds, qualities or experiences allow them to make unique contributions to the law school community, the legal profession and society in general.

The Admissions Committee will consider these factors:

* Disability
* Educational and financial disadvantage
* Membership in a historically disadvantaged group
* Age
* Life experience
* Any other factor relating either to educational barriers you faced, or to your ability to enrich the diversity of the law school community and the legal profession.

You must demonstrate the following capabilities:

* That you have strong potential to complete the JD program.
* That you have the ability to reason and analyze.
* That you can express yourself effectively orally and in writing.
* That you possess the skills and attributes necessary to cope with the demands of law school.

Traditional measures of academic performance and LSAT scores may be given comparatively less weight in this category, while non-academic experience and personal factors confirming your special circumstances or unique qualities may be given comparatively more weight.

To be a competitive applicant, you should have at least a B+ average (GPA 3.5) in the top 2 years of your undergraduate degree program at a full course load along with an LSAT score of at least 155.

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**Queen's University**

Links

* [Admission Philosophy, Academic Requirements and Category Definitions](https://law.queensu.ca/admissions/jd/admissions-process/first-year/admission-categories)
* [First-year Admission to the JD Degree Program](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpQUEEN#first)
* [General Requirements for JD Admission](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpQUEEN#general)
* [Financial Aid: All JD Program Applicants](https://law.queensu.ca/programs/jd/student-support/costs-financial-assistance)
* [Queen's Faculty of Law website for Prospective Students](http://law.queensu.ca/jd-admissions)
* [Queen's Law Viewbook](http://law.queensu.ca/jd-admissions)
* [Personal Statement](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpQUEEN#statement)
* [Supplementary Documentation: First-year Applicants](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpQUEEN#supplementary)

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.

Admission Philosophy, Academic Requirements and Category Definitions

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**Academic Requirements**

All applicants in the General category must have successfully completed a minimum of 3 full years of coursework in a degree program at a postsecondary institution that provides an academic environment and education that prepares students for potential success in advanced study at Queen's.  
  
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Indigenous Peoples Category

Our Faculty of Law is committed to increasing Indigenous representation within the legal profession and therefore welcomes applications from Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

A panel consisting of representatives from the Admissions Committee and the Indigenous community will review the files of all candidates who wish to be considered by this alternate process and select candidates for interview.

We will consider applications based on factors including academic performance, LSAT results, employment history, letters of reference and a Personal Statement. The Admissions Committee uses this material to judge whether an applicant can undertake the JD degree program successfully.

If there is strong evidence of academic ability in the application, an exception might be made to the academic standards.

Black Student Applicant Category

Queen's Faculty of Law is committed to increasing Black representation within the legal profession and supporting Black students who choose Queen's.  
  
We will consider applications based on any personal or professional experiences that allow an applicant to contribute to the law school community and further the law school's goal of building a representative and diverse class cohort. We will also consider other factors such as academic performance, LSAT results, employment history, letters of reference and a Personal Statement. The Admissions Committee uses this material to judge whether an applicant can undertake the JD degree program successfully.  
  
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The Personal Statement:

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The Admissions Committee finds the Personal Statement to be helpful, along with letters of reference, the Autobiographical Sketch and verifiers, to identify scholarship prospects among applicants who are competitive on the basis of grades and LSAT scores.

If you apply to the Access category, you will be required to submit a secondary mandatory statement (1,500-character limit). The statement will appear in your OLSAS application after you choose the Access category of admission. Use this statement to address the basis of your sub-category claim and upload corroboration of these circumstances through relevant supporting documentation.

**Part-time studies applicants:** Outline in the Personal Statement your reasons for wanting to study part-time.

Supplementary Documentation: First-year Applicants

Once your application has been submitted, you can upload supporting documentation using Secure Applicant Messaging (SAM). Log in to your submitted application to access SAM, and follow the instructions provided.

Queen's Admissions Office Contact Information

Website: <http://law.queensu.ca/contact/jd-admissions-office>

Email: [jd@queensu.ca](mailto:jd@queensu.ca)  
Telephone: 613-533-2220