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**Personal Statement**

Discuss any significant personal experiences, academic work experiences or career/life achievements you feel are relevant to your application (maximum 2,000 characters). Some topics you may wish to include:

1. Community leadership and involvement
2. Academic leadership and involvement
3. Advanced academic work
4. Athletic activities

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## Personal Statement

Discuss why you are interested in pursuing a legal education and how you see yourself using your law degree in the future. You may also wish to include why you wish to study at Osgoode and your contribution to the class and the Law School (maximum 2,000 characters).

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## Personal Statement

(Optional) Discuss 1 or more of the considerations listed as they relate to your own personal experience. If you are seeking consideration for circumstances that impacted your academic performance, corroboration is required to support your application. All information remains confidential (maximum 2,500 characters).

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**Osgoode - York University**

Quick Links

* [First-year Applicants](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#first)
  + [Supplemental Information](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#1supp)
  + [Specify your Category](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#1cat)
  + [Personal Statement](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#1ps)
* [Upper-year Applicants](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#upper)
  + [Supplemental Information](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#usupp)
  + [Specify Your Category](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#ucat)
  + [Personal Statement](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#ups)

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.

First-year Applicants

Your Previous History at This University (If Applicable)

If you previously applied to Osgoode Hall Law School or another program at York University, provide the York Student ID# you were issued or the year you applied.

Supplemental Information

Complete all applicable questions. If none of the questions apply to you, check "No" or "This does not apply to me".

Alternative to Academic Requirement

Osgoode welcomes applications from individuals who have demonstrated, through the length and quality of their non-academic experience, an ability to successfully complete the JD program.

If you have not attended university or have completed fewer than 3 years of university (as of June 1 of the admission year), you are eligible to apply if you meet the following conditions (as of September 1 of the admission year):

* you are at least 26 years of age and
* you have a minimum of 5 years of non-academic experience.

English-language Proficiency

You must provide proof of English-language proficiency if one of the following applies to you:

* English is not your first language or
* you have not completed at least 1 year of full-time study at an accredited postsecondary institution in a country (or institution) where English is the official language of instruction.

Specify Your Category

There are 2 categories of admission: The General category and the Indigenous category.

The minimum academic requirement for eligibility is 3 full years of study at a recognized university in a program leading to a degree (90 credit hours of study). If you have not attended university or have fewer than 3 years of university as of June 1 of the admission year, you are eligible to apply if:

* you are at least 26 years of age (as of September 1 of the admission year) and
* you have a minimum of 5 years of non-academic experience (as of September 1 of the admission year).

Admission decisions are made based on a holistic assessment of your entire file (in line with our admission policy objectives).

Successful applicants generally have a minimum A- average overall (all years of study) and a Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score in the 85th percentile, or better. Achieving these scores does not guarantee admission. Significantly stronger results on the LSAT or the cumulative grade point average (CGPA) may compensate for a less competitive LSAT or CGPA.

We make decisions on a rolling basis. We may make decisions before final transcripts are issued. In such cases, pending grades are assessed based on a projected grade of A for the course.

The General Category

Use the General category if you are applying to a first-year program (JD, JD/MBA, JD/MES, JD/MA Philosophy) unless you feel you qualify to apply in the Indigenous category.

Indigenous Category

We are committed to increasing Indigenous representation in the legal profession and strongly encourage applications from Indigenous candidates.

To have your file reviewed as an Indigenous candidate, you must provide documentation that corroborates your identification and connection with your Indigenous community. More specifically, we will strongly consider your service and involvement or leadership within your community, on Indigenous issues or within Indigenous circles. In our experience, those markers of solidarity and ability to be supportive of others within your community correlate with academic and extracurricular success in law school.

If the Admissions Committee determines that insufficient documentation has been provided, you may be reviewed as a General applicant.

Personal Statement

1. Discuss any significant personal, academic work experiences or career/life achievements you feel are relevant to your application (maximum 2,000 characters). Some topics you may wish to include:
   1. Community leadership and involvement
   2. Academic leadership and involvement
   3. Advanced academic work
   4. Athletic activities
2. Discuss why you are interested in pursuing a legal education and how you see yourself using your law degree in the future. You may also wish to include why you wish to study at Osgoode and your contribution to the class and the law school (maximum 2,000 characters).
3. (Optional) Discuss 1 or more of the considerations listed as they relate to your own personal experience, if applicable. If you are seeking consideration for circumstances that impacted your academic performance corroboration is required to support your application. All information remains confidential (maximum 2,500 characters).

**Equity**

Equity factors relate to systemic barriers to equal access to educational opportunities. Most often, the barriers that give rise to equity concerns take the form of substantial discrimination on grounds recognized in the Ontario Human Rights Code or Osgoode's Equality Resolution (race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, political orientation, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, family status or disability). Economic disadvantage is also an equity factor.  
  
Examples of candidate experiences include:

* living with physical, psychological, sensory or learning disabilities;
* growing up in family circumstances that are not conducive to educational achievement (e.g., family size, level of parental education, quality of support or other factors);
* growing up in a low-income community or household;
* overcoming substance abuse;
* working substantial hours in paid employment while a full-time student, as required by economic circumstances;
* facing discrimination or other barriers to higher education as a recent Canadian immigrant; and/or
* undertaking personal care-giving or other unpaid responsibilities, as required by family and/or economic circumstances.

**Work or Life Experience**  
For some applicants, work or life experience, rather than academic achievement, is the best indicator of their suitability and capacity for legal education.  
  
For example, this would apply if you:

* did not pursue any postsecondary education or
* have been out of an academic environment for several years. You may wish to highlight how your experiences demonstrate that you possess the skills necessary to succeed in law school.

**Performance Considerations**  
Special circumstances or non-academic commitments that negatively impacted a portion of your academic performance.  
  
Examples of candidate experiences may include:

* significant involvement in student government or high-level sports,
* significant health issues,
* lack of accommodation for a disability that impeded academic or LSAT performance and/or
* illness/death of a parent or close family member.

**Diversity**

We aspire to admit an entering class that is enriched by perspectives and experiences that fully reflect the diversity of the Canadian population. Diversity factors extend beyond equity factors to include considerations that may not be related to systemic barriers to equal access to education.

Particular attention is paid to exceptional personal characteristics or experiences that are under-represented in the Osgoode student body or in the legal profession.  
  
Examples of candidate experiences include:

* place of residence (e.g., where you lived as a child),
* languages understood and spoken,
* cultural background,
* religious or conscientious beliefs,
* age and/or
* other special skills, talents or experiences that have produced a distinct intellectual perspective.

[Top of Page](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/olsas/en_CA/help/index/currentController/pageHelp/key/prefix%3Ahelp_controller%3Asubmissions_action%3Aquestion_subject%3ApageHelpYORKU#top)

Upper-year Applicants

The number of openings in each upper-year category is dependent on internal attrition and is generally small.

The deadline to receive all supporting documentation is June 30, 2025. Transfer and Letter of Permission applicants should provide an interim transcript of grades followed by a final transcript. If you anticipate delays in reporting final grades, notify the Admissions Office at [admissions@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:admissions@osgoode.yorku.ca).

If you are applying in the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) category you must provide the NCA assessment and results of NCA Challenge exams no later than June 30, 2025.

**English-language Proficiency**

You must provide proof of English-language proficiency if one of the following applies to you:

* English is not your first language or
* you have not completed at least 1 year of full-time study at an accredited postsecondary institution in a country (or institution) where English is the official language of instruction.

**Your Previous History at This University (if Applicable)**

If you previously applied to Osgoode Hall Law School or another program at York University, provide the York Student ID# you were issued or the year you applied.

Supplemental Information

Complete the supplemental information as indicated.

Specify Your Upper-year Category

Transfer (Second-year JD Program)

Successfully completed a minimum of 1 year of a common law program that the Admissions Committee judges to be the substantial equivalent of Osgoode's first-year program (including courses in Canadian Criminal Law, Contract Law, Tort Law, Property Law, Canadian Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure, Legal Research and Writing, and Canadian Legal Ethics).  
  
If accepted to the second-year JD, and if you have not already done so during your first year of law school, you will also be required to complete the Indigenous and Aboriginal Law Requirement. Successful applicants are admitted to upper-year courses offered at Osgoode Hall Law School, subject to space availability.

Transfer applicants are required to submit a valid LSAT score (scores back to and including June 2020). If you have not written the LSAT you must write the LSAT no later than April in the same year you apply.

Letter of Permission (LOP)

If you are currently studying at another law school, you may apply to enroll in a maximum of 1 year at Osgoode Hall Law School on an LOP basis.

Although you would be studying at Osgoode, your work would be credited toward your law degree at your home law school. The law school giving the LOP would reserve the right to approve your program of study regarding course load and content.

If you are admitted on an LOP basis, you are not eligible to transfer into Osgoode's JD program.

National Committee on Accreditation (NCA)

Successful applicants are admitted to upper-year courses offered at the Law School, subject to space availability, to meet the Canadian JD equivalency requirement as set out in the NCA assessment report.

Preference is given to applicants:

* who are required to complete upper-year courses in which there is availability and
* who were unsuccessful in meeting such course requirements by way of NCA Challenge Examination.

Osgoode does not offer first-year courses to NCA students. Students admitted to satisfy the law course requirements set by the NCA do not receive the Osgoode JD degree.

Personal Statement

Transfer and LOP Categories

Discuss your reasons for wishing to attend Osgoode Hall Law School. If you are seeking admission based on compelling grounds, be sure to provide the committee with sufficient information about your circumstances (maximum 2,000 characters).

NCA Category

Discuss your reasons for wishing to attend Osgoode Hall Law School. The committee is particularly interested in knowing why you feel you need to complete the NCA requirements at a law school rather than by way of NCA Challenge Examinations (maximum 2,000 characters).