

FACULTY OF LAW

General Office

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Associate Dean(s): Jennifer L. Schulz (J.D. Program); Donn Short (Research and Graduate Studies)

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Academic Staff: Please refer to the Faculty website at [umanitoba.ca/faculties/law](https://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/law) (<https://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/law>)

Law Admissions Inquiries website: lawadmissions@umanitoba.ca

Degree Programs Offered

The Master of Laws is a thesis-based program designed for completion in one year after the completion of a three year J.D. program. The program consists of participation in the Graduate Legal Theory Seminar, two additional courses and completion of a substantial thesis. Further details are available through the LL.M. website (<https://www.umanitoba.ca/explore/programs-of-study/master-laws-llm/>). Applicants should also consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/>).

Equivalent academic courses completed at recognized universities elsewhere will be considered. For all admission requirements please refer to the first year information (<https://www.umanitoba.ca/student-resources/admissions/admission-to-first-year-j-d-program/>) on the website.

Juris Doctor-J.D.

Robson Hall, Faculty of Law, offers a three year J.D. program that starts with the fundamental doctrinal courses that allow students to acquire a solid foundation in law. From the foundational courses, students can move into legal specialties of their choice, or choose to pursue a J.D. concentrating on Indigenous law, business law, human rights, or Access to Justice in French. Clinical legal education has been a part of the J.D. program since the early 1970s and students develop lawyering skills under faculty guidance, expanding their perspectives and ethical understanding of the role of practicing lawyers. Scholarship and research is built into the J.D. program so students have an opportunity to develop a critical understanding of law and its development.

The Profession and the Faculty of Law

The Study of Law

Legal education in Canada is divided into two phases: the academic study of law at one of the university law schools and practical training under the auspices of a provincial law society for those who wish to be admitted to practice and called to a Bar. As there is a reciprocal recognition of university law degrees between the common law provinces (all provinces except Quebec), the academic study can be taken in any one of these provinces.

A sound education in law provides a good foundation for a great variety of careers. In the past most law graduates have entered the private practice of law to concentrate on various types of legal work including: real estate transactions, commercial contracts, company law, family law, taxation. While the tendency to specialize in the practice of law

is becoming more prevalent, most lawyers continue to be general practitioners prepared to perform most types of legal work according to the needs of their clients.

Besides the private practice of law, law graduates can join the legal departments of corporations as in-house counsel, or various government agencies that maintain legal departments. Law graduates also find careers in non-profit organizations, business, law enforcement, social work, and journalism.

Clinical Learning

The curriculum invites critical assessment of the role of law in society as well as the development of skills relevant to the practice of law. In addition to lectures and seminars, students are given an opportunity to develop, under supervision, some of the research, writing and oral advocacy skills which will prove useful in the practice of law. In first year, students are acquainted with the various paper and electronic resource materials available in a law library, and they follow a program designed to develop legal research and writing techniques. In second and third years, students participate in negotiation exercises, mock trials and appeals and moot court competitions. Students may choose from a range of clinical Courses, including clerkships with various levels of court internships and externships. Throughout their legal studies students have many opportunities to serve actual legal clients both by taking internship and externship courses and through Volunteering with organizations such as the University Community Law Centre, Pro Bono Students Canada and The Legal Help Centre. This clinical training is just one element of the program at Robson Hall that contributes to the excellent reputation of our graduates.

Research and Publications

Research and scholarly writing are integral elements of the mission of the University and the law school. Professors research, write and consult with the larger legal community in their particular area of expertise and students have similar opportunities. Each year students must take a writing requirement which provides an opportunity to explore a particular area of law in depth. Students have the opportunity to work on a number of scholarly publications including: *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law*, *Canadian Journal of Human Rights*, *Manitoba Law Journal*, *Robson Crim and Underneath the Golden Boy*.

Faculty of Law Centres of Excellence

Robson Hall is home to two named research chairs. In 1999, the Faculty of Law established the Asper Chair of International Business and Trade Law. The Asper Chair sponsors a variety of research including bi-annual academic conferences in international business and trade law. An internship program allows up to four students a year to work with the Asper Chair and creates opportunities for students to advance their education, while gaining skills necessary to pursue careers in law or business with an international focus. Additionally, students involved in the Asper program have the opportunity to participate in international commercial dispute resolution competitions.

The Marcel Desautels Chair in Private Enterprise and the Law has a mandate to conduct research and provide education on issues of specific interest to the privately held or family owned businesses. The Desautel Centre's focus is on the needs of closely held businesses.

Student Organizations

All Law students are members of the Manitoba Law Students' Association (MLSA), the student government. Student participation in faculty governance takes place through the representation of elected

members of the MLSA. In addition to the Manitoba Law Students Association there exists a diversity of student groups at Robson Hall. No matter what your interests, joining a student group can greatly enhance your law school experience by providing you with greater opportunities throughout the year to interact with the community and other students.

Degree/Diploma	Years to Completion	Total Credit Hours	Has Co-op Option
Juris Doctor, J.D. (https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/undergraduate-studies/law/juris-doctor-jd/)	3 (plus 2 years or 60 credit hours University degree level courses)	92	

This includes two years (60 credit hours) of study in an undergraduate program.

Faculty Academic Regulations

Admission to the Faculty of Law

Course Requirements for Admission to J.D. Program

Robson Hall, Faculty of Law offers three First Year Admission categories:

- Index Score (Regular) Category (50% GPA and 50% LSAT score)
- Individual Consideration Category
- Canadian Indigenous Category

The minimum academic requirement to apply is two (2) full-years of university degree level courses (equivalent to 60 credit hours). Included in the 60 credit hours should be a course to fulfill the University's mathematics requirement. Completion of the JD program fulfills the University's Written English requirement. For additional information about the University's Mathematics and Written English requirements, see the General Academic Regulations (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/undergraduate-studies/general-academic-regulations/#Residence-Written-English>) of this calendar.

All applicants must write the Law School Admission Test (<https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/>) (LSAT).

Please visit the Robson Hall website (<http://law.robsonhall.com/student-resources/admissions/>).

Academic Regulations

All students are asked to note that some academic policies and regulations are under review and are subject to change. Please refer to the Governance website (<https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents/>) for updated information.

Limited Access will not affect registration for the current Academic Year, which includes Fall, Winter, and Summer terms. See University Policy and Procedures – Repeat Course Policy – Section 2.5 (a) Limited Access (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/undergraduate-studies/policies-procedures/repeated-course-policy/>).

The provisions of the General Academic Regulations (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/undergraduate-studies/general-academic-regulations/>), and the University Policies and Procedures (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/undergraduate-studies/policies-procedures/>) apply to all students. In addition, the Faculty of Law has regulations and requirements, published below, that apply specifically to its students.

Please see the MLSA website (<https://robsonmlsa.ca/>) for a complete list.

Programs

Residence requirements for the Juris Doctor Degree

To obtain the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of Manitoba, ordinarily a student must successfully complete two of the three years of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) program at the University of Manitoba. The remaining year may be completed at another law school as approved by the Admissions Committee or the Dean's office.

Licence to Practise Law

Graduates who wish to practise must apply to the Law Society of the province in which they wish to practice. Law societies generally require applicants to complete a bar admission course. The Law Society must be satisfied as to the good character and repute of its applicants, as well as their academic competence and qualifications. Inquiries with regard to the Province of Manitoba should be made to the Law Society of Manitoba (<https://lawsociety.mb.ca/>).

Regulations of the Faculty of Law

Regulations of the Faculty of Law, as amended from time to time governing attendance, evaluation, prizes, and progression may be consulted at the Faculty's website (<https://law.robsonhall.com/student-resources/exam-information/>).

Miscellaneous Registration Matters

The Associate Dean's office shall, subject to appeal to the Academic Affairs Committee, consider and determine all applications from students admitted to the faculty for permission:

1. to take part of their law studies at another university under a letter of permission with conditions;
2. to defer their law studies for a period of one or more academic years after successfully completing first or second year, and to permit such students to re-register following such an absence with conditions;
3. to withdraw before completing the academic year for which they are registered and to permit, in the case of a student who withdraws from first year under exceptional circumstances, that student to re-register for a subsequent academic year as a supernumerary student, and in the case of a second or third year student, to permit such student to re-register for a subsequent academic year; in all cases with or without conditions;
4. to switch from the full-time program to the half-time program and vice versa.

Registration

All students will need to register themselves through Aurora. Please check the Faculty of Law (<http://law.robsonhall.com/current-students1/registration/>) website for detailed information.