



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM
LAW SCHOOL

A CANADIAN'S GUIDE TO LAW AT BIRMINGHAM



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF BIRMINGHAM LAW SCHOOL

Birmingham is one of the most popular law schools in the UK for Canadian students. We have almost 90 Canadian students currently studying one of our LLB, LLM or research degree programmes.



Law has been taught at the University of Birmingham since 1904, and our links with the Canadian legal profession stretch back for decades. We have welcomed well over 1,000 Canadian students into Law and we are constantly developing and innovating within our curricula to develop the most intellectually challenging and rewarding legal education in the UK.

Birmingham has academic members of staff from Canada and we have also introduced a course in Canadian Constitutional Law specifically for our Canadian cohort. Canadian students also benefit from a fantastic student experience, from a Canadian society to bespoke careers support. You can find out more information about this as you read on.

We wish you the best of luck with your decision to study law in the UK and we hope you consider us here at Birmingham Law School.



Professor Lisa Webbley, Head of Birmingham Law School

PROGRAMMES

We offer a range of degree programmes here at Birmingham. In particular, our LLB and LLB for Graduates programmes are very popular with Canadian students – the LLB for Graduates allowing students already holding an undergraduate degree to qualify in two years. All of our degrees are Qualifying Law Degrees.

Many Canadian students find studying in the UK a time and cost effective way to gain a Law degree that contributes towards the accreditation process upon returning to Canada to practice.

All of our LLB degrees contain the seven core subjects: Land Law, Legal Foundations of the EU, Public Law, Criminal Law, Contract Law, Law of Torts and Equity, Trusts, Wills & Formalities.

These are complemented by a range of courses to develop expertise and skills in the relevant topics including Legal Skills and Methods, Decolonising Legal Concepts and Legal Solutions. In the final year, students have an opportunity to choose from over 30 optional courses led by experts in their field.

Our undergraduate LLB programmes include:

- Law
- LLB for Graduates
- Law with Business Studies
- Law with Criminology
- International Law and Globalisation
- Law with French Law
- Law with German Law



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM IS
RANKED AS THE
SECOND MOST
TARGETED UNIVERSITY
IN ENGLAND BY TOP
EMPLOYERS IN 2019/20***

**High Fliers, 2020*



CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Birmingham Law School has a comprehensive Careers and Employability programme to support our Canadian students, whether they wish to qualify as lawyers in Canada, the UK, or elsewhere. We work closely with a number of law firms which are well-known in Canada.

The Employability programme includes weekly careers events, an annual Law Fair with over 60 law firms in attendance, a mentoring scheme, and placement opportunities. With our Canadian students in mind, we currently offer:

- An annual Canadian Careers Conference, featuring speakers on themes including career opportunities in Canada, further study in Canada (including LLMs and NCAs) and current developments in the Canadian legal market
- An annual International Careers Week, offering perspectives on how students can use their Birmingham Law degree internationally, whether in Canada or elsewhere
- A wide range of placement opportunities, enabling students to gain valuable international work experience – we offer over 100 funded internships to our students with a variety of legal employers including the Crown Prosecution Service, international corporate law firms such as Gowling WLG, in-house legal departments, and smaller law firms working in areas such as Criminal and Family Law
- A Legal Assistant Programme with Gowling WLG in Birmingham, whereby selected final year students have an opportunity to attend a training day at the firm, following successful completion of which they are eligible to undertake paid Legal Assistant work at the firm



Feedback from Canadian alumni and employers has shown the importance of students who study in the UK being well-connected to the Canadian legal market, and to support this, some of the events we have ran include:

- Sessions with Canadian alumni sharing their experiences of qualifying in Canada following their Birmingham Law degree
- A presentation on Legal Tech developments in Canada
- Talks on further study for Canadian students including NCAs, Osgoode Hall LLM, University of Toronto LLM, University of Alberta LLM and Ryerson University Law Practice Program

Qualifying in Canada

Some of our Canadian graduates choose to stay in the UK after graduating from an LLB, however the majority return to Canada.

Canadian LLB students are required to sit a number of challenge exams when returning to Canada to prove their competency in various legal areas. The number of exams students need to complete depends on a variety of factors, but usually it is at least five and not usually more than seven.

At Birmingham, we offer support to students undertaking this path, with speakers from the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) and alumni who have been through the process themselves advising our students on the steps they should take in their final year and after graduation.



KEY LAWYER SKILLS

We find that most of our Canadian students are very focused on a legal career, having committed to studying at Birmingham. To further support our students' employability, we offer a range of courses and activities to support the development of students' key lawyer skills which may be relevant to working in the Canadian legal market:

- Our Canadian Constitutional Law course supports students' understanding of the Canadian legal system, as well as assisting with completion of NCAs
- Courses such as Real Estate and Employment Law offer students the opportunity to develop skills in writing letters, reports and drafting legal documents
- For students who are interested in a career as an advocate, we offer a final year optional Advocacy course, as well as the chance to participate in numerous competitions based on Advocacy, Mooting, Interviewing and Debating

The Moot Room

The Moot Room is a dedicated facility for the practice of extra-curricular mooting activities, which helps ensure mooting is central to the legal education which Birmingham Law School provides. We have recently introduced an optional Advocacy course into the final year of the LLB programme providing our students with an opportunity to gain university credits for their mooting activities.

Pro Bono

Our Canadian students are very active in the various Pro Bono Projects that we run at Birmingham, with the Pro Bono Society currently being chaired by a Canadian student. Our Pro Bono projects provide free legal advice to those in need within the local community, and provide our Canadian students with invaluable legal work experience and skills development, as well as the chance to make a difference!

TONIA MAGDA, LLB LAW



Birmingham Law School works hard to provide an abundance of opportunities for its students to network and prepare for a career in law. There's always someone to turn to if you need help. The University and Law School staff are equipped with friendly faces and the knowledge needed to guide you.



MEET OUR ALUMNI

DANIEL LO

LLB FOR GRADUATES, 2009




I am currently in Singapore and am an associate in the investment funds and corporate group at Walkers, an international offshore law firm. I am called to the bar in the provinces of Ontario and Alberta in Canada, England and Wales, and the British Virgin Islands. Prior to Singapore, I was in-house counsel for a private equity firm in Hong Kong, and previous to that I completed my articling training (similar to a training contract) and practiced as an associate at Dentons in Canada.

'The University of Birmingham has had a rich history and was the starting point for many notable international alumni that have gone on to do great things. The university's reputation and legacy are the reasons that I eventually chose the University of Birmingham, and am now proud to call it my alma mater.



'The welcoming campus and diverse mix of international students inspired me. I never once felt out of place, and was encouraged to take part in clubs and sports right away. Sitting in the beautiful Great Hall for the first time in an exam was also inspiring as I imagined the many other law students before me, and now doing great things with their careers.

'The value of doing this degree in the UK is the international cultural exposure. Take advantage and start building your international network, you never know how you will connect with these friends later on in your career. 



SARAH JIWA
LLB LAW, 2015




I am currently drafting and negotiating contracts for cancer research at University Health Network, a medical research organisation that is the largest of its kind in North America.

'Attending Law School at the University of Birmingham helped provide me with a key understanding of basic legal issues and first sparked my interest in Contract Law. I started negotiating research contracts at the University of Birmingham after completing my degree.

'I selected the University of Birmingham as it had a great reputation for law with support for Canadian students, offering modules

such as Canadian Constitutional Law. Upon visiting on an open day I fell in love with the green campus and was impressed by how connected it was to the city with its own train station. Everyone was very friendly and the campus was diverse and dynamic. I felt like it was the right fit for me.

'My number one tip would be to immerse yourself in the British culture and make the most of living in the UK. It may be tempting to go back home frequently during the breaks, but instead travel and try to gain work experience. These experiences are valuable and it's a great opportunity living in such a vibrant city. 

MARCO GASPAR

LLB FOR GRADUATES, 2019



I currently work as an Evening Legal Assistant at Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP in Toronto in addition to studying to complete my NCA conversion exams. Despite being the first University of Birmingham graduate to work for TGF, I was surprised to learn that they already held the University in high regard, being aware of its status as a founding member of the Russell Group.

'Researching the University and reading all about its extracurricular activities and how much effort they put in to ensuring your employability really helped to set it apart from others. Throw in the airport which is only 20 minutes away from campus by train and I was sold.

'One of my biggest inspirations while at Birmingham was all my fellow students. Each one of us worked hard to get into Birmingham and many of us came from entirely different backgrounds and walks of life. It was absolutely fascinating getting to know so many of them and hearing their stories, and their drive to succeed helped fuel my own.



'My favourite memory of my time at the University of Birmingham would have to be the pub crawl organized by the Holdsworth Club during my first year. The pub crawl was a great way to begin law school and allowed me to meet a significant portion of my fellow students in a relaxed environment, many of whom I'm still great friends with today.'

Canadian Society

We have an active Canadian Society, which organises a range of events and activities for Canadian students who are studying in all subject areas at the University. This provides a great opportunity for Law students to meet students studying other programs and to widen their network.



Find us on Facebook by searching for 'University of Birmingham Canadian Society'



APPLICATIONS AND FUNDING

Entry Requirements

Exact entry requirements will depend on the institution you have studied at, and the grading scale your institution uses. Our standard entry requirements for our LLB for Graduates would be an overall B+ average, or a GPA of 3.0/4 and above. We do not require completion of the LSAT or LNAT.

For our three-year LLB programmes, we would require an overall average of 85% or above in the Grade 12 Secondary School Diploma from most provinces.

Financing your study

Our latest tuition fee information can be found on our website.

Birmingham Law School offers scholarships for international students, worth up to £3,000 per year for LLB and £9,000 for LLM students. You may also be eligible for student loans from the Government of Canada or your provincial government.

Applying

To apply for our LLB programmes, students should apply through the University and Colleges Admissions Service, UCAS. This is the route to applying for all undergraduate degrees in the UK. The LLB for Graduates programme is classed as an undergraduate programme.

We also work closely with our partners, Canada Law from Abroad and SI-UK, who are our local representation in Canada. You can get in touch with them for advice on applying to the UK, and for support in preparing your application for law school.



Contact Us

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 www.birmingham.ac.uk/law

 www.canadalawfromabroad.com

 www.studyin-uk.ca



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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (February 2020).

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