

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN Legal Studies



The Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University is home to Canada's premier Legal Studies programs. Our location in Ottawa, at the centre of Canada's national legal, political and cultural institutions, offers exciting opportunities to engage with both formal and informal aspects of law and the ways it shapes our society and our lives.

The interdisciplinary MA program is designed for students interested in developing a rigorous and critical understanding of how law works; the different ways individuals encounter and challenge law; the changing means by which regulation takes place; and the relationship between law, nation, citizenship and belonging. A specialization in African Studies is also available.

“The Phd program provided me with the supportive academic environment I needed, including engaged, passionate, and generous faculty members who mentored me throughout.”

— Safiyah Rochelle, PhD
Legal Studies, 2020

The MA program offers three streams: the **coursework-only option**, as well as a **combination of coursework and thesis or research essay**. Students develop the theoretical background and research skills that are required for critical engagement with law and legal relations.

The PhD program takes an interdisciplinary approach that makes it one of the most unique graduate programs in Canada. It is designed for students with advanced research interests in the interdisciplinary study of law and is ideal for students who want to pursue academic careers or high-level policy work both within and outside government.

A specialization in Political Economy is also available at the doctoral level.

Faculty members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, communications, criminology, english, history, law, political science, philosophy, public policy, sexuality studies and human rights.

Degrees Offered

MA, PhD

Career Options

Alumni are pursuing successful careers as researchers and advisors in various levels of governmental departments and NGOs, as well as careers in academia.

Application Deadline

January 15, in order to be considered for funding. Further application deadline information is available online.

Admission Requirements

MASTER'S: An honours bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in a relevant field of study with at least a B+ standing.

PhD: A master's degree, or equivalent, from a wide range of academic disciplines with at least an A- average.

carleton.ca/law

Contact Info

613-520-3690
gradlegalstudies@carleton.ca