SHAPE YOUR FUTURE BASED ON YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Our flexible MA and new PhD programs in Legal Studies focus on critical, challenging questions about 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.

What makes our programs unique in Canada is their interdisciplinary approach. Our students and faculty come from many different backgrounds — law, history, sociology, anthropology, communications and political science.

The Department of Law and Legal Studies is a rich research environment. Our students work with faculty pursuing research in: crime, governance and security; globalization, international law and trade; citizenship, human rights and political economy; gender, sexuality and identity; law, history, culture and humanities; and conflict resolution.

Some of our ongoing research projects are investigating issues such as:

- political trials and the administration of national security measures in Canada
- Business Improvement Areas in local governance and policing
- the experience of women in drug treatment courts in Canada
- the role of identity (race, ethnicity, gender) in international war crimes prosecutions
- sexual violence and armed conflict, particularly in Africa
- the constitution of Canada as a ‘moral’ nation through high profile legal cases

A collaborative specialization in African Studies is also available at the master’s level.

CAPITAL ADVANTAGE

With a location in the nation’s capital, Carleton is in close proximity to Parliament, the Supreme Court of Canada and various government departments directly and indirectly involved with law. In addition, offices of many interest groups and social movements concerned with legal and social change provide Carleton with unrivalled resources for research and policy studies in law and governance.

Our MA program is designed to accommodate both students looking for rigorous academic training before continuing with professional work and students preparing for doctoral study or other research-intensive work. Our PhD program is ideal for students who want to pursue academic careers or high-level policy work both within and outside government.

Our alumni are pursuing successful careers as university professors in Canada and abroad, and as researchers and advisers in various federal government departments including Justice, Correctional Services, Public Safety, National Defence and Health Canada.

Many of our MA students go on to pursue PhDs in law, political science, sociology, geography and history at various universities in Canada and internationally.

"In the MA Legal Studies program at Carleton, I was surrounded by professors whose interests were similar to mine and who were instrumental in helping me apply for and get accepted to an internationally-renowned PhD program (the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies’ School of Law), as well as helping me win various scholarships including a SSHRC Fellowship to pursue my studies abroad."

— Racha Al Abdullah, MA/11
ADMISSION DEADLINES

Space in our programs is limited and all applicants are encouraged to apply by January 15. Applications received by June 1 will be considered, space permitting, but funding considerations after January 15 cannot be guaranteed.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding is available in the form of teaching/research assistantships and scholarships based on academic excellence. We encourage students to compete for scholarships from the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), or Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). In order to be eligible for funding, you must apply by January 15. For additional information on scholarships visit: graduate.carleton.ca/financial-assistance.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For admission into Carleton’s graduate programs, you will need to demonstrate that your knowledge and use of English are strong enough for graduate studies at an English-language university. For a listing of our minimum English-language requirements, please visit our website at: graduate.carleton.ca/international.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

More information about our programs is available at: calendar.carleton.ca/grad.

You can also check our website: carleton.ca/law.

Details about how to apply are available here: graduate.carleton.ca/apply-online.

You can apply now by going to carleton.ca/graduate/applynow.