



Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources & Governments

Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers) January - April 2010

Application Process:

- 1. Who can apply for the program?**

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students are eligible, but normally half of the students accepted will be Aboriginal. One course relating to Aboriginal law is a pre-requisite. Students interested in an environmental law placement should have taken at least one environmental or planning course as well. Other recommended courses are listed on the application form. Because of the challenging nature of the placements, the program is designed for students in the last term of their third year of law school. The program is not recommended for students who have experienced academic difficulty.
- 2. When and how do I apply?**

Applications are due in late spring for the winter term. Applications are available at the website. (go to www.osgoode.yorku.ca, go to "Quick Links" and click on "Aboriginal Intensive").
- 3. When do I find out if I am accepted?**

A few weeks after the application deadline, interviews with prospective students will take place. Those living outside Toronto will be contacted by telephone. In addition to academic ability, students will be required to have good judgment, flexibility, integrity and the ability to work with people from different cultures. Decisions about admission will be made within a few weeks after interviews are finished, at the latest by early May.
- 4. Can I apply after the deadline?**

Applications submitted after March 16, 2009 will be considered on a case by case basis.
- 5. Can I talk with someone to decide whether the program is good for me?**

The program is not like anything else in the conventional law school curriculum. It can be very exciting and challenging. However, it is not suitable for everyone. We encourage applicants to talk to, or e-mail, students who have graduated from the program. We can provide you with names of students to contact. You are also free to talk to the director directly.

Course information:

- 6. Does participation in the program affect the awarding of my law degree?**

You receive 15 credits for the term, so there is no delay in your graduation. Students from a university other than York participate in the program on a Letter of Permission from their primary law school. The term at Osgoode Hall Law School merely stands in, then, for what would have been a regular term of study. Each student's law degree is unaffected, and is issued by the student's primary law school.

7. What are the exact dates for the program?

The 2010 program will run from January 4 to April 1. The schedule will likely be as follows:

January 4 – 8	Reading Week - Preparation of memos and research
January 11 – 22	Classroom preparation at Osgoode Hall Law School
January 25 – March 12	Seven week field placement -daily journal & weekly email
March 15 – 19	Study Week - preparation of papers
March 22 – April 1	Seminars at Osgoode Hall Law School: -First paper and seminar presentation -Daily journal due
April 19	Final research paper due

Attendance at classes in Toronto is compulsory for the two weeks starting January 11, and the two weeks starting March 22. The remainder of the time can be at the home institution. The seven week placement can be anywhere, subject to the availability of a suitable placement, and availability of funding. This means that a student from Manitoba, for example, could come to Toronto for the classroom components of the program, but return to a location near the student's home for the seven week placement. (Dates may be adjusted if necessary)

8. Who arranges the placements?

The director of the program works with each student to make every effort to facilitate placement in a setting matching the interests and skills of the student. For an idea of the placements, go to the website and see "2008 Placement Summaries".

The director carries out the detailed arrangement of the placement itself, but students often make their own contacts. Some students come into the program with very definite ideas about what they would like to be exposed to in their placement, while others only have very general notions about what might be educational and worthwhile. The availability of the placements may be constrained by the funding available. The director makes final decisions on placements. Where an appropriate placement cannot be found, a student may not be able to continue in the program.

9. How are my marks decided? What goes on my transcripts?

Two assignments - the two hour seminar and the final research paper - are worth three credits each, and are graded. The remaining nine credits will be awarded on a pass/fail basis. A written assessment of your work and accomplishments within the program will be permanently attached to your transcript.

10. Does anyone fail the program? What about non-academic problems with the placement?

Occasionally students have run into academic problems in the program, but these problems have been by and large the result of inappropriate attitudes on the part of the student. For example, a student who does not attend classes, makes racist remarks or has not completed assignments may not be permitted to continue. On rare occasions, there may be non-academic problems in the field. The placements are meant to provide an educational experience for the student, but in a work setting. Students are expected to be energetic, willing to assist in projects in concert with their supervisors, and hard-working. On those rare occasions in which there is a major problem with the placement itself this must be brought to the attention of the director immediately, and every effort will be made to resolve the difficulty.

Costs:

11. What fees will I have to pay to Osgoode Hall Law School?

Students pay the one term fee at the Osgoode Hall Law School rate. The one term fee is paid in lieu of fees, which would normally be paid to the student's primary law school for that term. Students are not 'double-billed'. Please contact the law school for updated fees.

12. What about additional costs?

The program makes every attempt to ensure that participation in the program incurs no major costs beyond what would be expected if the student were to remain for their final term at their primary law school. Transportation to and from Toronto, and to and from the placement (if required) is provided. Accommodation is considered while in Toronto and on the placement. Most students from outside of Toronto have been able to stay with friends or relatives. We will try to assist in arranging for billeted accommodation for those not able to find a place. The program requests that students do all they can to keep costs low, assisting if at all possible in arranging reasonable transportation and accommodations. In some years, depending on funding and placement locations, students may be asked to contribute to placement costs outside of Toronto.

Contacts:

Director, Shin Imai
Administrative Co-ordinator, Natia Tucci

simai@osgoode.yorku.ca 416-736-5274
ntucci@osgoode.yorku.ca 416-736-5973