

Western Law

Exchange Program Fact Sheet 2014 - 2015

Top 5 Reasons to apply for a Western Law Exchange

Our exchange program is one of the most active in Canada. Each year we welcome 30-40 visiting students from our partner law schools around the world.

- 1. Academic excellence** Western Law is one of Canada's leading law schools and boasts a number of professors with international reputations. This excellence is displayed in our courses, conferences and faculty research.
- 2. Student experience** Western Law has a diverse and collegial atmosphere where students study and socialize together. Our many student legal and recreational associations contribute to the rich extra-curricular student life.
- 3. Innovative Programs** Our unique January Term courses are taught by visiting international scholars. During the Fall and Spring terms, visiting scholars-who are leaders in their field of study-teach special one week intensive courses. Our Community Legal Services clinic offers students an opportunity to gain valuable "hands-on" experience and exposure to a wide range of legal matters.
- 4. Location** London, Ontario is Canada's tenth largest city with close to 500,000 people in the metropolitan area. Located halfway between Toronto and Detroit, this thriving university town combines the affordability, charm and security of a mid-size community together with easy access to major urban centres such as Montreal, Chicago and New York.
- 5. Life in Canada** Canada is known for its open-mindedness, multiculturalism and dedication to human rights. Take advantage of our great Canadian wilderness and way of life. Hike and bike London's trails along the Thames River. Learn to ice skate and ski. Camp, canoe and backpack in numerous provincial parks. Enjoy the pristine sandy freshwater beaches of Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

Who We Are

The University of Western Ontario (also known as Western University), established in 1878, is one of the oldest and most beautiful campuses in Canada. Western prides itself on having a strong sense of community and offers exceptional amenities. The Faculty of Law, established in 1959, offers a unique blend of academic study, practical experience and extracurricular academic activities.

- Program: 3-year Juris Doctor - JD degree
- Number of Western Law students: 515 with 175 admitted annually
- Grade average on admission: 83% (3.7 GPA)
- Average LSAT score: 82%
- Total number of Western students: approximately 35,000 undergraduate and graduate

Application Requirements

- **Application deadline** for Full year or Fall term exchange participants is **April 15, 2014**.
- Applications for Winter term participants will be accepted until October 1, 2014.
However, course selection may be limited for applications received after July 1.

Program Dates 2014-2015

- **Fall 2014:** September 2 – December 12, 2014
- **Winter 2015:** The Winter term consists of an intensive one month term in January followed by the Spring term. Students participating in the winter must enroll in both January and Spring terms.
January Term: January 5 – January 30, 2015
Study Week is February 2 – 6, 2015; No classes are held during this week.
Spring Term: February 9 – April 30, 2015

Acceptance Information

- **May 2014:** Letters of acceptance will be mailed to partner schools for distribution to students. Additional pre-arrival information will be provided to students via email.

Course Selection

- **July 2014:** Course selection is completed by students via a web-based program. This includes choosing courses for the entire academic year (Fall, January & Spring Terms).

Course Offerings

- The Faculty of Law offers over 100 courses each year.
- Enrollment in compulsory courses (those required by our students to receive the JD degree) may not be available to visiting exchange students, due to demand from our students.
 - These courses are: Corporate Law, Civil Procedure and Administrative Law
- The course offerings vary each year and fall within the following broad subject areas:

Business and Private Law	Public Law	Advocacy, Procedural, Specialty and Legal Theory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Commercial & Insolvency▪ Common Law and Equity▪ Corporate▪ Insurance▪ Intellectual Property & Information Technology▪ International Business▪ Labour & Employment▪ Private International Law▪ Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Administrative▪ Constitutional & Human Rights▪ Criminal▪ Family▪ Public International Law▪ Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Alternative Dispute Resolution▪ Competition/Anti-trust▪ Ethics and Professionalism▪ Law, Language and Literature▪ Legal History▪ Legal Theory▪ Litigation/Advocacy▪ Research

Learning Expectations

- **Course Load Requirement:** 14 to 16 credit hours per term, 29 to 31 credit hours per year.
- **Class Participation:** expected in most courses, assessment varies by course and instructor.
- **Examinations:** a variety of formats including research papers, written final exams, and take-home exams.
- The exam schedule will be available in **July 2014** with the course selection materials.

Language Requirements

Proof of proficiency in English will be required prior to acceptance for all students whose home school instruction is not in English. **Required** acceptable test scores are listed below. Other recognized language proficiency tests may also be considered.

- TOEFL: 90 – 92 with no individual score below 20
- IELTS: minimum 6.5

Fees

Students will pay tuition to their home university. Some supplementary fees are required for visiting exchange students at Western Law.

The fees listed below are approximate and may vary slightly pending budget approval.

- \$201 – London Transit bus pass, including special late night bus service
- \$26 – Western ONE student card fee
- \$25 per term – Western Law student Legal Society fee

Health Insurance

While in Canada and registered at Western, all exchange students are **required** to be enrolled in the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). Enrollment will be completed upon arrival. For information about UHIP and what is included in the coverage, please visit: www.uhip.ca

The UHIP fees are not yet confirmed; for 2013-14 they were:

- \$228 for four month term / \$456 for eight month academic year

Please note that although this plan covers most doctor visits and hospital costs in Ontario, it does not include supplemental coverage for services such as prescription medications, dental care, eyeglasses nor for most out-of-country expenses. We encourage you to review the health insurance plan details on the UHIP website and **strongly recommend purchasing supplemental coverage** in addition to the UHIP plan.

Housing

- Information about on-campus residence arrangements may be viewed at: www.residenceatwestern.ca/exchange_students
NOTE: Exchange students attending for only one semester may receive a guaranteed offer or waiting list information, depending on availability.
- University residence accommodations include both traditional dormitory-style rooms and apartment-style suites, with most offering or requiring a meal plan.
- For the 2014-15 academic year, the London Hall Residence will be reserved for upper year students. Visiting law exchange students have enjoyed living in this suite-style residence, particularly as the location is close to the law school and the recreation centre. A meal plan is optional in this residence since cooking facilities are provided in each suite.
- Note that the other University residences are primarily occupied by first-year undergraduate students (that is, most residents are 18-19 years of age), and usually require the purchase of a mealplan. Upper year and exchange students are also welcome to live there.
- Western is located in a residential area with many housing options close to campus. Western's off-campus housing office provides a wide range of services including listings for off-campus housing rentals; average rental prices for various types of accommodations in London; and advice and translation of rental agreements, terms and conditions. Staff are also available to provide personal assistance via email or phone: offcampus.uwo.ca/exchange_students

Orientation

A **mandatory** orientation session is held at the beginning of each term for incoming exchange students and includes:

- welcome to Western Law,
- tour of the law school and university campus,
- academic integrity and computer orientation,
- introductory lectures on Canadian Law and legal citation,
- welcome reception and opportunity to meet your Western Law student “buddy”, and
- additional events during the term such as Western’s Homecoming football game or hockey game.

Computer Facilities - www.uwo.ca/its

- Western Law and the Western campus provide access to a high-speed wireless network.
- An “@uwo.ca” email address will be issued when application materials are complete.

Student Activities

- Western Law student clubs, trips, pubs, and formal events
www.law.uwo.ca/support_services/student_legal_society
- International Student activities and trips - www.sdc.uwo.ca/int
- Note that one formal outfit of clothing is recommended for some social events/ receptions and for court appearances (if enrolled in Litigation Practice or volunteering with Community Legal Services).

On-Campus Facilities

- University Community Centre - <http://westernusc.ca/ucc-mall/>
The facilities in Western’s student centre include the campus bookstore and computer store, cafeterias and pubs, Student Health Services, pharmacy, travel agency, movie theatre, grocery store, copy centre and banking machines.
- Western’s Student Recreation Centre - www.westernmustangs.ca
One of the largest university recreation centres in Canada, this facility includes a 50 metre swimming pool, five gymnasias, five squash courts, a large fitness centre as well as classrooms and locker rooms. The Rec Centre is adjacent to the Thompson ice arena.

Other helpful websites:

- Western University: www.uwo.ca
- Accessibility at Western: accessibility.uwo.ca
- Western’s International web portal: international.uwo.ca
- Government of Canada’s International Gateway: www.canadainternational.gc.ca
- City of London: www.london.ca

For more information, contact:

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www.law.uwo.ca/international

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