



University  
of Victoria

# FACULTY OF LAW

# The Edge of UVic Law

UVic Law is one of Canada's leading law schools, known for its combination of first-class academics and commitment to the law in action. It is a unique school, with the largest number of clinical placements per student in the country, strengths across a wide range of areas, long-term partnerships with Indigenous peoples and a deeply-held ethic of social contribution.



## Dynamic learning

### EDUCATION AT THE LEADING EDGE

- UVic Law is academically rigorous, animated by a spirit of inquiry and committed to the law in action.
- The Faculty has special strengths in Indigenous law, environmental law, constitutional law, international law, criminal law, legal theory, and economic regulation.
- Our research units explore the foundation of law: the Indigenous Law Research Unit, Environmental Law Centre, Consortium on Democratic Constitutionalism, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development and Access to Justice Centre for Excellence.

### CLINICS AND CO-OP: ENGAGED WITH COMMUNITIES, ENGAGED WITH THE LAW IN ACTION

- Our clinical programs are the most extensive in the country:
  - The Law Centre (est. 1977), serves almost 2000 clients annually in criminal law, family law, administrative law and human rights.
  - The Environmental Law Clinic (est. 1993), acts for grassroots community organizations, First Nations and NGOs throughout BC and beyond.
  - The Business Law Clinic (est. 1998), serves small businesses, start-ups, charities and non-profits.
- We offer the only Common Law Co-op Program in Canada outside of Quebec.
  - More than half our students gain professional experience in paid placements across Canada and internationally in law firms, governments, NGOs, private companies and administrative tribunals.

## Extraordinary academic environment

### A DESTINATION LAW SCHOOL

- UVic Law is one of the best law schools in the country, attracting JD and graduate students from across Canada and around the world.
- 35% of JD students come from Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, 35% from out of province. They go on to careers in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and cities and towns worldwide.

### INSPIRING STUDENTS

- The heart of any law school is its students. Ours are amazing, and they continually inspire us.
- We have diverse, engaged, and critical students. They are intellectually vibrant and bring with them an extraordinary breadth of experience. Student life here is exciting!
- Our grad students have gone on to many things, including teaching in some of the world's best law schools: Otago, Wellington, Osgoode Hall, UBC, many others—and UVic!
- Our graduates are changing the world: [uvic.ca/law/livesofcontribution](http://uvic.ca/law/livesofcontribution).

### CLASS OF 2014 – 2015 LOCATION OF RESIDENCE



### DEDICATED FACULTY AND STAFF

- Our professors are leaders in their fields, stimulating scholars, critically engaged; setting the agenda for the law of the future: [uvic.ca/law/facultystaff](http://uvic.ca/law/facultystaff).
- Faculty and staff provide strong student support. The groundbreaking "Amicus" program combines academic, cultural, and counselling assistance—a model for programs across the country.
- We are, in short, dedicated to each student's success. That dedication, together with our collaborative and community-engaged learning environment, sets us apart.

## Vital impact

### ACCESSIBLE LAW

- All of our work—from faculty members' research, to our graduate programs, to the training of JD students—is shaped by our belief that the law must speak to all members of society, including those in marginalized communities.
- Through our research, teaching and clinical programs we're changing the legal landscape to advance equality and diversity in our communities, in Canada and abroad.
- We seek diverse participation in our programs. Our JD students benefit from one of the best financial aid programs and some of the lowest tuition rates in the country.

### INTERNATIONAL REACH

- We are global in scope, with strong links to transnational institutions, Asian legal systems, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand and Indigenous peoples worldwide.
- We are a constituent partner in the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, which undertakes conferences, workshops, and research initiatives on Asian law, organizes student internships, and maintains close links with leading Asian law schools.
- We have active exchange programs with leading law schools worldwide.





**Indigenous Law**  
**Sarah Morales**

Sarah Morales (JD '04, PhD '15) is a professor of Law at University of Ottawa. She is a member of

the Cowichan Tribes, has her JD and PhD from UVic, and her research focuses on Indigenous law. Many of our alumni now teach in post-secondary institutions in Canada and around the world and many of UVic's Indigenous alumni have served or now serve as leaders of their peoples.



**Leader of the Profession**  
**Herman Van Ommen**

Herman Van Ommen ('84) is a leading litigator and

arbitrator, and was Regional Managing Partner of the national law firm, McCarthy Tétrault, until 2016. In 2017, he will become President of the Law Society of British Columbia. In 2016, UVic alumni constituted 9 of 25 elected Benchers of the Law Society of British Columbia.



**Public Interest Law**  
**Kasari Govender**

Kasari Govender ('04) is the Executive Director of West Coast LEAF

(Legal Education and Action Fund). West Coast LEAF uses litigation, law reform and education to advance women's equality and legal rights. Kasari is one of many UVic Law graduates practicing public interest law and working to ensure equal access to justice.

# Lives of contribution



**Public Service**  
**Andrew Petter**

Andrew Petter ('81) is President of Simon Fraser University and a former Dean of UVic Law. He was

a member of the BC government from 1991 to 2000, serving in ten portfolios, including Aboriginal Affairs, Forests, Intergovernmental Relations, and Attorney General. He is one of five UVic Law alumni, of all parties, who have served as ministers in the BC and federal governments.



**Administration of Justice**  
**Freya Kristjanson**

Freya Kristjanson ('87) is a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. She

was appointed in 2016 after an exemplary 25 year career as one of Canada's best administrative lawyers. She joins more than 35 UVic Law alumni appointed to judicial office in Canada, including Justice Russell Brown of the Supreme Court of Canada and Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree of the BC Provincial Court.



**Humane Professionalism**  
**Roshan Danesh**

Roshan Danesh ('96) is a lawyer and consultant who works across First

Nations and governments on peace-building, nation-building, complex negotiations, and dispute resolution. He has a doctorate from Harvard and writes on religion and law.

For more lives of contribution, check [uvic.ca/law/livesofcontribution](http://uvic.ca/law/livesofcontribution).

At UVic Law, we admit a relatively small first year class to the JD program each fall. To ensure that our student body reflects the diversity found in Canadian society, we offer three admission categories: Regular, Discretionary and Indigenous.

The number of applications that we receive each year far exceeds the number of spaces available. For this reason, successful applicants in the Regular category have outstanding academic records and LSAT scores.

## When to apply

Online applications open September 1 and close January 15. You are encouraged to submit your application as early as possible, as offers are made on an ongoing basis beginning early in the fall.

## Admission requirements

Admission to the first year program is based primarily on:

- your academic record (GPA) – 50%
- your Law School Admission Test (LSAT) – 50%
- personal statements may also be taken into account through a holistic review

All first year applicants must:

- write or have registered for the LSAT
- complete an online application
- submit a personal statement no longer than 750 words
- submit transcripts
- pay the application fee

Applicants in the Indigenous category must also submit:

- one academic letter of reference
- one reference letter describing your connection to your Indigenous community
- evidence supporting your eligibility to apply in the Indigenous category
- a copy of your status card (if applicable)
- a personal statement regarding your connection to your Indigenous community

Applicants in the Discretionary category must also submit:

- Discretionary category supplementary form
- two letters of reference
- evidence supporting your eligibility to apply in the Discretionary category



## The first year

First year begins with a two-week program called Legal Process where you will be given a framework for your legal studies and begin developing the skills that you will need to be a successful law student. The small-group, team-taught format allows you to get to know both your professors and your fellow students. You will emerge from this course with a clear sense of what law school is about, what you need to do to succeed, what support systems exist to help you, how you can respect and support other students, what you might do with your legal education and insight into critical and challenging aspects of how law operates in society.

Following Legal Process is the first year foundational course curriculum, which includes constitutional, criminal, contract, property and tort law, with other key components focused on statutory interpretation and legal research and writing.

As a first-year student, you can also draw on the experience of your upper-year colleagues through the Law Buddy Program. This program helps you adjust to the rigors of legal study by matching you with second-year and third-year students who provide advice and support.

## Upper years

Our upper-year curriculum continues to build a strong base of legal knowledge while allowing you to shape your own programs of study to suit your individual interests and career aspirations.

Lecture courses and advanced seminars provide an opportunity for upper-year students to explore topics in greater detail. Some of these courses and seminars introduce specialized areas of law (business law, family law, taxation, Indigenous law, labour law, advanced human rights law, etc.), while others focus on critical and theoretical explorations of law, interdisciplinary legal studies, or legal history. As an upper-year student, you will also be able to explore classes that introduce advanced practical skills, such as oral advocacy and dispute resolution.

In addition to a block of foundational courses, you are also encouraged to pursue specialized interests, under the direction of professors, through group projects and independent study.



Experiential learning is an integral part of the UVic Law program, and has been from the very beginning. With the longest running clinical law program in Canada, our graduates have always been well prepared to start their legal careers.

## Law clinics

**The Law Centre**, UVic's law clinic operating out of the Victoria courthouse, has been training law students for over 40 years. During their clinical term, students become familiar with criminal law and procedure, civil procedure as it relates to small claims, family and divorce matters, evidence, family law, corrections law, consumer law and social welfare legislation including , CPP, social assistance payments, landlord and tenant issues and human rights law. Students also appear before the BC Provincial Court and administrative tribunals. [thelawcentre.ca](http://thelawcentre.ca)

**The Environmental Law Clinic** (ELC) is Canada's first hands-on program in public interest environmental law and attracts Canada's best aspiring environmental lawyers. Operating under the supervision of a senior environmental lawyer, the ELC provides legal representation and legal assistance to community/conservation groups and First Nations; produces citizen handbooks and other public legal education materials; and advocates on a wide range of environmental law reform issues. [elc.uvic.ca/clinic](http://elc.uvic.ca/clinic)

**The Business Law Clinic** (BLC) has been in operation since 1998. It is staffed by upper-year law students who provide legal information to small businesses, charities, NGOs and non-profits on matters such as incorporation, financing, charitable registration, intellectual property protection, shareholder agreements, franchise agreements, partnership agreements, contracts, business liability, employment law, government regulation, and taxation. [uvic.ca/law/jd/lawclinics/businessclinic](http://uvic.ca/law/jd/lawclinics/businessclinic)

**The Criminal Law term** provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the criminal process from its inception through the trial process and the corrections system. It is an intensive immersion program that includes a focus on criminal procedure, sentencing and corrections, substantive criminal law, trial process, and the law of evidence. Students participate in mock trials and have weekly placements with judges and lawyers. Through a flexible program, students will consider all of the major issues confronting the administration of criminal law. [uvic.ca/law/jd/lawclinics/criminallawterm](http://uvic.ca/law/jd/lawclinics/criminallawterm)

## Co-op

UVic Law has Canada's only comprehensive common law co-operative education program. Law co-op students alternate study terms with full-time paid legal work in Canada and overseas, obtaining a wide range of practical experience. It's a great opportunity for students to explore different career options while working alongside legal professionals and graduate with a strong repertoire of practical legal skills and knowledge, a valuable network of contacts, and an enviable résumé. [uvic.ca/law/jd/lawcoop](http://uvic.ca/law/jd/lawcoop)

## Moots

UVic Law participates in a wide range of moots and competitions throughout Canada, with several teams successfully advancing to the international level in recent years. These challenging events allow students to practice their burgeoning legal skills in judged competitions against other law schools in exciting and instructive forums. Academic credit is awarded for participation in some of these moots and competitions. The competitive moot program gives upper-year law students the unique opportunity to work in collaboration with other students and under the supervision of a faculty member or a practicing lawyer to build their written and oral legal advocacy skills. [uvic.ca/law/jd/mooting](http://uvic.ca/law/jd/mooting)