



**Faculty of Law**  
**Winter Session 2023-24**  
**Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability (CELS)**  
**Information and Application Form**

*Last updated: November 21, 2023*

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## **Description**

The Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability (CELS) provides students with the opportunity to take more courses in environmental law and sustainability, and to use their legal knowledge in the direct service of real clients pursuing a range of interests aimed at environmental protection.

Students who complete the eight required courses and electives will be recognized as having spent a significant portion of their law program immersing themselves in environmental law and sustainability by providing a notation on their transcripts to that effect.

## **Admission Requirements and Procedures**

The CELS is open to all UVic JD and JD/JID students with an average of 65% or better in their previous year of legal studies. This includes students who have transferred from other Canadian law schools who completed first year law at a different institution. BCL/JD students are ineligible for the CELS due to the course and unit requirements they must meet under the terms of that degree program.

Interested students can apply for admission to the CELS by submitting the attached Application Form to the law school's front office in the Fraser Building. The Associate Dean will review applications to determine whether students qualify for the CELS.

## **Concentration Requirements**

Students accepted into the concentration must fulfill the requirements of the CELS and the JD or JD/JID Program. That is, they must register in at least 14.5 units in each of their second, third (and fourth if JD/JID) years of law, they must achieve standing in each year and they must complete all compulsory courses and fulfil the major paper requirement.

Students must obtain a grade of 65% or higher in the eight required courses and electives that qualify towards the CELS.

Students who successfully complete the CELS and the JD or JD/JID will receive a notation on their transcript. Students are responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements.

**NB. Regular guidelines around course registration priorities apply. Students in the CELS will not be given priority to specific courses.** The 2022-23 Course Offering Patterns posted on the law registration webpage may assist with course planning for the CELS.

## Required Courses

Students must complete **all of these four courses** with a grade of 65% or higher in each.

- LAW 301 The Administrative Law Process (usually offered every term) or LAW 301I Transsystemic Administrative Law (offered in spring 2023 for 2L JD/JID students only)
- LAW 309 The Law of Evidence (usually offered every term)
- LAW 329 Environmental Law (offered in fall 2022)
- LAW 353 Environmental Law Clinic (usually offered every term)

## Elective Courses

Students must complete **at least 4 courses** from the following list, with a grade of 65% or higher in each:

- LAW 328 Green Legal Theory (cross-listed with ES 419)
- LAW 340 Indigenous Lands, Rights and Governance
- LAW 353A Environmental Law Centre Clinic Intensive
- LAW 376 International Environmental Law
- LAW 376A International Law, Governance and Climate Change
- LAW 381 Animals, Culture and the Law
- LAW 383 Municipal Law and Sustainability
- LAW 384 Field Course in Reconciliation, Ecology and Place-based Law (cross-listed with ES 403)
- LAW 392 Water Law
- LAW 393 Contaminated Sites and Environmental Remediation
- LAW 394 Environmental Law and Science
- Other approved electives as noted in the attached appendix on page 4
- Other elective courses approved in writing by the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations, in advance of students enrolling in the course

## Other Courses

New courses in environmental law and sustainability may be developed as permitted by available resources. See the Appendix on page 4, of a list of additional approved electives.

The Faculty of Law academic regulation governing credit for courses outside the Faculty applies to the Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability. Students must obtain the

permission of the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations to have the course count as an elective towards the CELS **and** JD or JD/JID before enrolling in the course.

### **Application Deadline**

Students should submit the Application Form to the law school's front office by no later than the formal deadline to apply to graduate. The deadlines are December 15 for spring graduation or July 15 for fall graduation. Students must also apply to graduate through the standard University process. Earlier submission of the CELS application to the front office may result in the notation being added to the academic transcript at an earlier date.

***See page 4 for the Appendix with the further list of approved electives.***

***See page 5 for the Application Form.***

## Appendix: Additional Approved Electives

The following LAW 343 courses are approved electives for the Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability. See page 2 of this document for the regular list of elective courses.

### **LAW 343 Sustainable Development Law and Governance**

- Offered Fall 2023, Instructor Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger

### **LAW 343 Climate Litigation Workshop**

- Offered Spring 2024, Instructor Chris Tollefson
- Offered Spring 2023, Instructor Chris Tollefson

### **LAW 343 Indigenous Legal Orders and Ecological Governance**

- Offered Spring 2024, Instructor Darcy Lindberg
- Offered Summer 2023, Instructor Darcy Lindberg
- Offered Summer 2022, Instructors Darcy Lindberg and Lindsay Borrows

### **LAW 343 International Law, Governance and Climate Change**

**(LAW 376A is now the approved course number)**

- Offered Summer 2023 (as LAW 376A), Instructor Marie-Claire Cordonier-Setter
- Offered Summer 2021, Instructors Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger and Markus Gehring
- Offered Summer 2020, Instructor Marie-Claire Cordonier-Segger

### **LAW 343 Natural Resources Law**

- Offered Spring 2019, Instructor Chris Tollefson
- Offered Spring 2018, Instructor Chris Tollefson
- Offered Spring 2017, Instructor Chris Tollefson

### **LAW 343 Energy Law and Regulation**

- Offered Fall 2017, Instructor Chris Jones
- Offered Fall 2015, instructor Chris Jones

### **LAW 386A ELC Intensive: Legal Skills and Sustainability**

**(This course is no longer offered, and has been replaced by LAW 353A)**

- Offered in Fall 2017, Instructor Deborah Curran
- Offered in Spring 2017, Instructor Deborah Curran
- Offered in Fall 2015, Instructor Mark Haddock

### **LAW 386B ELC Intensive: Problem Solving**

**(This course is no longer offered, and has been replaced by LAW 353A)**

- Offered in Spring 2016, Instructor Deborah Curran

***The Application Form is on the next page.***

*Updated 21 November 2023*

# Application Form

## Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability

### Suggested Application Deadlines:

Anticipated May Graduation: Submit this form by December 15 of previous year or earlier

Anticipate October Graduation: Submit this form by July 15 of the same year or earlier

Please submit your form to Law Student Services at [law.studentservices@uvic.ca](mailto:law.studentservices@uvic.ca)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: V00 \_\_\_\_\_

### Please complete the following questions:

1. I am currently in my \_\_\_\_\_ term of \_\_\_\_\_ year (E.g. My first term of third year)

2. Select one:

I am a JD student

I am a JD/JID student

3. Select one:

I am a co-op student

I am not a co-op student

4. Below, please map your course plan for the CELS requirements. List the courses and when you plan to take them. This does not guarantee you access to courses, it is for planning purposes. Courses must be approved by the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations.

### Required CELS Courses:

LAW 301 Administrative Law or

LAW 301I Transsystemic Administrative Law Term: \_\_\_\_\_

LAW 309 Law of Evidence

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

LAW 329 Environmental Law

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

LAW 353 Environmental Law Clinic

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

### Elective CELS Courses:

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that I meet the requirements of the CELS.*

Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_