

OSGOODE'S
PART-TIME
GRADUATE DIPLOMA
IN FOUNDATIONS OF
CANADIAN LAW



A law school experience
for non-legal professionals.

osgoodepd.ca/foundations-pt

OSGOODE
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

YORK 

Gain the knowledge to achieve your professional goals.

The part-time **Graduate Diploma in Foundations of Canadian Law** is designed to give working professionals without a legal background a foundational understanding of key Canadian legal concepts. Required courses cover Canada's legal history and structure as well as skills-focused topics, such as legal research and writing. A wide range of elective options give students the opportunity to dig deeper into specialized topics related to their interests.

“At OsgoodePD, our student body is diverse and interdisciplinary. We see the benefits of collaboration and debate among students from different academic and professional backgrounds. Providing opportunities for professionals to study law at a graduate level advances access to justice because it distributes legal knowledge and opportunities for advocacy and change more broadly, and it helps lawyers and other professionals work together more effectively.”

Meghan Thomas,
Director, Professional Graduate and
International Programs

Learn More

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Program Features



Designed for professionals without a legal background

Develop a solid understanding of public and private law in Canada.



Top-notch instructors

Gain access to some of the leading minds in Canadian law and leverage their experiences to help your growth.



Convenient and flexible

Designed for working professionals, course schedules allow you to minimize your time away from other commitments.



Accessible from anywhere

This program can be completed through interactive online learning. Refer to our website for attendance details for each course.



Build your network

Study and build relationships with professionals from across Canada. These are your future friends, clients and colleagues.



Diverse set of peers

Open to professionals with a university degree, superior academic record and work experience.



Program Format

The part-time diploma is designed to be completed in 16 months (four terms). Classes are seminar-style, delivered through live video conferencing. Students are required to complete 18 credits of course work, including 12 credits of required courses, followed by 6 credits of elective courses.

Required Courses

Canadian Legal Research and Analysis [3 credits]

This course is designed to familiarize students with core Canadian legal research and analytical skills. You will work extensively with the legal problem-solving skills required within a common law regime, becoming familiar with the research and reasoning skills that are required to conduct legislative, case law, and theoretical legal research and analysis. The primarily assignment-based nature of this part of the course requires a significant and “steady” time commitment.

Academic and Applied Legal Writing [3 credits]

This course is designed to familiarize students with core graduate-level legal academic writing skills. Students will learn the preferred style and organization of legal academic work products, as well as how to communicate legal analysis and critique in written form.

Introduction to Canadian Public Law [3 credits]

This course will introduce students to the Canadian legal system and Canadian public law. It is designed to provide a broad understanding of how the law operates in Canada and to present foundational concepts and doctrines that will enable students to pursue more detailed inquiries and studies into Canadian law. The course will enable students to understand and explain the general structure of the Canadian legal and political system, including the three branches of government and their relationship to one another; the role of constitutionalism in Canada; the three primary topics of Canadian constitutional law (federalism, civil liberties and Aboriginal and Indigenous rights); as well as the basic doctrines and applications of administrative law.

Introduction to Canadian Private Law [3 credits]

This course provides students with an introduction to private law in Canada, including Contracts, Torts, Property and Business Organizations. In addition to traditional style lectures, the course is designed for students to critically engage with the material through participation in class exercises.

Elective Courses

Students will take 6 credits in elective courses giving them the opportunity to study topics that are relevant to their academic and professional goals and interests.

Students have access to a broad range of electives on topics such as:

- Administrative Law
- Business Law
- Constitutional Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Infrastructure Law
- Financial Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Labour and Employment Law
- Privacy and Cybersecurity Law
- Securities Law
- Taxation Law

Attend an Information Session

Join an information session to have your questions answered by a member of our staff. osgoodepd.ca/foundations-pt-info

Instructors

Sherry Darvish

Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court of Ontario

Shelley M. Kierstead

Assistant Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School

Germán Morales Farah

International Business Counsel and Legal Advisor

David Tortell

Legal Counsel, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Toronto



Tuition and Fees

Tuition for the part-time, Fall 2024 diploma program is \$9,900 CAD for domestic students and \$19,646.56 CAD for international students, plus supplementary and additional fees.

Please visit the *Tuition and Fees* section on our website for up-to-date details on fees, including payment schedules.

Program Starts

Term	Application Open	Application Deadline
Fall 2024	October 1, 2023	May 1, 2024

Get Started

osgoodepd.ca/foundations-pt



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