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

A law school experience for non-legal professionals.

osgoodepd.ca/foundations-pt
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

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 exclusively through interactive online learning.

- **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.

Learn More
osgoodepd.ca/foundations-pt
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.

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 Relations 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. osgoepd.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 2023 diploma program is $9,900 CAD for domestic students and $18,711 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

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Application Open</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>October 1 (current year)</td>
<td>May 1 (next year)</td>
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Get Started
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