

# OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

Information for  
Indigenous Applicants



# SHE:KON BOOZHOO TANSI GREETINGS TUNNGASUGIT

Osgoode Hall Law School has made it a priority to engage the Indigenous community and increase Indigenous voices within the Law School.

This commitment, which is reflected in our academic programs, faculty and student life, is perhaps most evident in our admissions process. Through a distinct admissions category, Indigenous applicants are given special consideration with the goal of increasing the number of Indigenous law students in our JD program. The Admissions Committee's decision to admit a candidate ultimately depends on its judgment of the candidate's ability to successfully complete law school.

For information about applying in the Indigenous category and life at Law School contact:

**Lori Mishibinijima,**  
Program Manager & Special Advisor,  
Indigenous & Reconciliation Initiatives  
(416) 736-2100 x 22333  
lmishibinijima@osgoode.yorku.ca

For general admissions information contact:

**Vicky Faclaris,**  
Recruitment & Admissions Coordinator  
(416) 736-5712  
vfaclaris@osgoode.yorku.ca



## COURSES AND PROGRAMS

Osgoode is taking a leading role amongst Canadian law schools in providing an Indigenous perspective within the curriculum. The Law School has also introduced a requirement that students complete a qualifying course in the area of Indigenous and Aboriginal Law as part of their degree program. Osgoode offers a diverse array of specialized courses and programs related to Indigenous Law, including

- Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Law
- Comparative Law: Indigenous Legal Traditions
- Rights and Reconciliation: Indigenous Peoples and The Law
- Indigenous Perspectives and Realities
- Natural Resources Law
- Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot

The **Intensive Program in Indigenous Lands, Resources and Governments** is one of our flagship experiential programs. The program began in 1993 after a group of Osgoode students profoundly affected by the Oka crisis challenged the Law School to do more to support Indigenous peoples. Osgoode did — it created one of the best Indigenous law programs in North America. The program offers a unique opportunity for students to learn how the law operates in the context of dynamic working environments by combining an in-class academic experience with a two-month field placement. Some students have chosen to stay close to home at law firms and clinics while others have travelled as far away as Aotearoa/New Zealand to work with the Maori.

## STUDENT LIFE

- In September 2014 Osgoode proudly hosted the first Anishinaabe Law Camp organized in collaboration with the Chippewas of Nawash Rama First Nation. The experience fosters a deeper engagement with Anishinaabe legal traditions, research methodologies and community-based teaching and learning.
- Lori Mishibinijima, Osgoode's full-time Program Manager & Special Advisor, Indigenous & Reconciliation Initiatives provides mentorship, support and advice to Indigenous JD students. She also serves as a liaison with Osgoode's Indigenous alumni, conducts outreach with Indigenous communities and works to promote Indigenous law within the Law School.
- The Director of Indigenous Outreach coordinates the Knowledge Keepers' Workshop Circle in the fall and the Wahkohtowin Tea and Bannock Lodge in the winter. Both events offer members of the Osgoode community an opportunity to engage with Indigenous laws.
- The Law School holds an honouring Ceremony to give recognition to Indigenous students and their families at Convocation.
- The Osgoode Indigenous Students' Association (OISA) is a supportive community base for Indigenous students. It fosters a culturally appropriate learning environment, promotes awareness of Indigenous legal issues and organizes events.
- The Aboriginal Students' Association at York University is a student-run service organization that supports Indigenous students and their interests.
- On-campus traditional Counsellors share Indigenous knowledge, teachings and wisdom through sharing circles and one-on-one counselling.
- Skennen'Ko:wa Gamig is a dedicated safe cultural space on campus for formal and informal use by Indigenous students, staff and faculty.

## FACULTY

- **Professor Amar Bhatia** — Co-director of the Indigenous Lands, Resources and Governments Intensive; interests include issues of status and authority of migrant workers and Indigenous peoples under Canadian immigration law, Aboriginal law, treaty relations and Indigenous legal traditions
- **Professor Andrée Boisselle** — interests include Indigenous law, comparative and constitutional law, pluralism and postcolonial legal theory
- **Professor Estair Van Wagner** — Co-director of Osgoode's Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic; teaches in the areas of land use planning, natural resource and property law
- **Professor Karen Drake** — member of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation; Associate Dean (Students); interests include intersection between liberalism, Aboriginal rights, Metis legal issues and the role of constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights and legal education in promoting reconciliation
- **Professor Deborah McGregor** — Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, Birch Island, Ontario; interests include Indigenous knowledge systems and their applications in diverse contexts
- **Professor Jeffrey Hewitt** — mixed descent Cree; co-director of the Indigenous Lands, Resources and Governments Intensive; interests include Indigenous legal orders and governance, constitutional law, human rights, legal education, business law, art+ law and visual legal studies