

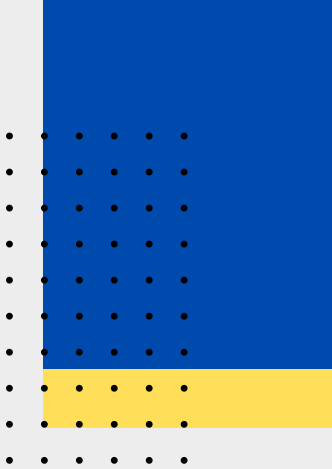
LAW SCHOOL GUIDEBOOK

LBSA Resource, Sponsored by the BCH





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WELCOME

ABOUT THE GUIDE

The LBSA Law School Guide Book is designed to provide Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) students with a comprehensive resource to help them navigate every stage of their law school journey.

The guide will combine practical advice, admissions information, and student resources into one accessible document. Information will be gathered from official law school admissions websites, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), LSAC, OzTREKK, Business Career Hub (BCH), current law students, alumni, and other reputable sources.

TIMELINE

1

Take the February LSAT
or continue studying

Tour law school
campuses

FEBRUARY

2

Formulate your law
school list

Start talking to
potential
recommendations

MARCH

3

View upcoming LSAT
dates and register for
the June LSAT if
needed

APRIL

4

Begin drafting your
personal statement

JUNE

5

View upcoming LSAT
dates and register for
the September LSAT if
needed

Check-in with your
recommenders

JULY

6

**First applications
open**

Finalize your resume
Request your transcript
to be sent to LSAC

AUGUST

7

All applications open

Begin drafting your
diversity statement and
supplemental essays
Urge your recommenders
to submit their letters by
end of month

SEPTEMBER

8

Continue sending
applications
Confirm that schools
have received your
completed
applications

NOVEMBER

LSAT OVERVIEW & PREPARATION

The **LSAT (Law School Admission Test)** is a standardized test used by law schools to measure your ability to reason logically, analyze arguments, and understand complex reading.

The LSAT includes:

Logical Reasoning (LR): Analyze arguments, assumptions, flaws, conclusions, etc.

Reading Comprehension (RC): Read difficult passages and understand their arguments, structure, and viewpoints.

Experimental section: An extra LR or RC section that isn't scored.

Argumentative Writing: Separate writing portion.

Score: 120–180, with 180 being the highest.

LSAT Study Plans

Start by taking a diagnostic LSAT. This means completing a free practice test on LawHub under timed conditions without studying beforehand. Your diagnostic gives you a starting score and helps identify your strengths and weaknesses. From there, you can build a study plan based on the areas and question types that need the most improvement.

LSAT Prep Resources

LawHub: Essential. Official LSAT practice tests and the actual test interface. Free practice tests and limited drills are available.

7Sage: Structured curriculum, video lessons, drilling, analytics, and practice tests.

LSAT Demon: Great for drilling questions, explanations, and identifying weak areas.

Example LSAT Study Plan for 3 Months

Month 1: Learn LSAT foundations from a prep book + drill individual LR question types + RC practice

Month 2: Continue drilling + introduce timed sections + focus on weak areas

Month 3: 2–3 full timed practice tests per week + review + targeted drilling

Example Weekly Schedule:

Monday–Thursday: 2–3 hours/day

Friday: Full practice test

Saturday: Review test + drill mistakes

PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDE

A Personal Statement is an opportunity for you to **highlight your community leadership and involvement, academic leadership and involvement, academic work and athletic activities.**

You are also encouraged to elaborate on your interest in legal studies and what you would pursue after obtaining your law degree.

The personal statement component of your application differs from your LSAT or GPA as it is a chance for law schools to see your personality, values, and writing ability.

A personal statement will likely have all or several of the following:

Strong writing skills

Tell a compelling story

Share personal growth

Editing Tips

A strong first draft is not a finished statement, the difference between an average and a memorable one is almost always in the revision, not the first pass. Do multiple distinct editing passes, not one general read-through:

DO	DON'T
• Cut the opening paragraph and see if the statement is stronger without it (often is) • Read it aloud before final submission • Let it sit for at least a day between drafts before making major cuts • Proofread as a separate, final step	• Let someone else substantially rewrite it, most schools require applicant authorship, and several

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL RESUME GUIDE

A law school resume should function as proof of your academic, professional, and leadership track record. Unlike the personal statement, which tells your story, the resume demonstrates your experience and accomplishments.

Recommended Sections:

- Header: Full name, city, professional email, phone number, and current LinkedIn.
- Education: school, program, expected graduation, and cGPA if it is strong. Include relevant coursework or awards only if there's room.
- Experience: internships, co-ops, part-time jobs, and research assistantships, newest first.
- Leadership & Volunteer Experience: course unions, clubs, community organizations, athletics (see Section 2).
- Skills & Interests: languages, software, certifications, and one or two genuine interests. Skip generic filler like "Microsoft Office" unless relevant.

Write Strong Bullet Points:

Follow the formula: Action + How + Result

- Start with a strong action verb.
- Describe specifically what you did and how you did it.
- Quantify results whenever possible: people led, dollars managed, percentages improved, hours contributed, etc.
- Highlight experiences demonstrating research, argumentation, judgment, leadership, responsibility, and problem-solving.
 - *Weak: Helped with events*
 - *Strong: Coordinated logistics for a 200-person conference across 3 venues*

Keep it to one page unless a school explicitly permits more. Use a clean, reverse-chronological format.

DO

- ✓ Use one consistent format for dates, fonts, and spacing throughout
- ✓ Quantify results wherever a real number exists
- ✓ Tailor which experiences you feature to what the school says it values
- ✓ Have the Business Career Hub or a mentor review before you submit
- ✓ Save and submit as a PDF so formatting can't shift

DON'T

- ✗ List job duties instead of accomplishments
- ✗ Use a template with graphics, headshots, or columns that ATS systems can't parse
- ✗ Include high school achievements unless truly exceptional
- ✗ Reuse a generic resume for every application without adjusting emphasis

REFERENCE LETTERS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Timeline

- 8+ weeks before the earliest deadline: ask referees directly, in person or by a personal email, never a mass email.
- As soon as they agree: register for CAS (for U.S. applications) or set up the relevant OUAC/portal request, and send the reference to the required form or link right away.
- 2–3 weeks before their letter is due: send a polite check-in if you haven't heard back, references are typically busy and appreciate the reminder.
- After the letter is submitted: send a thank-you note, and follow up later to let them know the outcome. References remember who did this.

What to Give Your Reference

A reference writes a stronger, more specific letter when the student makes it easy. Provide a short packet:

- An updated resume
- An unofficial transcript
- A brief note (a "brag sheet") reminding them of specific projects, grades, or moments they might reference
- A draft of the personal statement, if it's ready, it helps the reference reinforce the same themes rather than contradict them
- The exact submission method: LSAC LOR link, OUAC portal instructions, or a physical form, plus the deadline

DO

- ✓ Ask in person or via a personalized email, well before the deadline
- ✓ Give referees everything they need in one packet
- ✓ Confirm the submission method and deadline in writing
- ✓ Send a thank-you note regardless of the outcome

DON'T

- ✗ Ask by mass email or last-minute text
- ✗ Assume a referee remembers your resume or GPA without a reminder
- ✗ Wait until the week of the deadline to follow up
- ✗ Forget to mention which schools or portals the letter needs to go to

HOW TO APPLY

The **OLSAS (Ontario Law School Application Service)** portal is a centralized application service managed by the OUAC that processes applications for all Ontario law schools

The **LSAC (Law School Admission Council)** is the primary portal required for applying to United States (ABA-approved) law schools, and it heavily interfaces with Canadian application requirements (such as handling LSAT testing and score reporting).

The **Credential Assembly Service (CAS)** is a component of LSAC that centralizes all the documents and information needed for U.S. law school applications. For international students, CAS converts your academic grades into a standardized scale so admissions committees can evaluate applicants consistently. CAS is only required for most U.S. law schools. If you're applying to Canadian law schools, you do not need a CAS subscription.

Through CAS, your transcripts, LSAT scores, recommendation letters, payments, and other required materials are collected and organized into a single package. LSAC then uses this package to generate your official CAS Law School Report, which is sent to every school you apply to.

- CAS Subscription: \$219 USD
- Valid for five years
- A summarized version of your transcript
- Letter of recommendation processing
- Electronic application handling for ABA-approved schools and several other U.S. law schools
- CAS Law School Reports: \$45 USD per school you are applying to

Note: CAS fees are non-refundable.

Financial Assistance

If you need help covering costs, you can apply for an LSAC Fee Waiver, which may include:

- The CAS subscription fee
- Up to six CAS Law School Reports
- Additional support for LSAT-related fees

Processing Times

- Transcripts: approximately 2 weeks
- Paper recommendation letters: Up to 5 business days after LSAC receives them
- Electronic recommendation letters: Usually processed immediately

CANADIAN VS. LAW SCHOOLS ABROAD

Ontario Law Schools

University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Queen's University Faculty of Law, Western University Faculty of Law, University of Windsor Faculty of Law, and Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University.

Applications are generally submitted through OLSAS.

Canadian Law Schools

the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria Faculty of Law, University of Calgary Faculty of Law, University of Alberta Faculty of Law, University of Saskatchewan College of Law, Robson Hall Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba, McGill University Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law, and Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University.

Most applications are submitted directly to the individual university.

U.S. Law Schools

Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Stanford Law School, Columbia Law School, New York University School of Law, and Georgetown University Law Center.

Students should compare each school's academics, clinics, career opportunities, admissions standards, and location.

Major U.K. Law Schools

the University of Oxford Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge Faculty of Law, UCL Faculty of Laws, London School of Economics and Political Science Department of Law, The Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College London, and Durham Law School at Durham University.

Many undergraduate law applications are submitted through UCAS, and some schools also require the LNAT.

Australian Law Schools

Melbourne Law School at the University of Melbourne, Sydney Law School at the University of Sydney, UNSW Law & Justice at UNSW Sydney, Monash University Faculty of Law, and ANU College of Law at the Australian National University.

Australian universities offer both undergraduate LLB programs and graduate-entry JD programs.

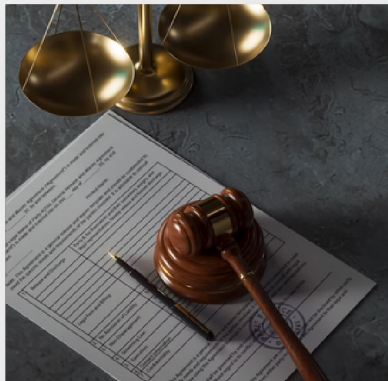
CAREERS WITH A JD

LEGAL PRACTICE

Private Practice: Working in law firms, ranging from solo practices to large organizations, specializing in areas like corporate law, family law, criminal defence, or intellectual property.

Government: Serving in various capacities such as prosecutors, public defenders, and legal advisors in different agencies.

Public Interest Law: Representing clients in cases involving civil rights, environmental protection, and other areas of public interest.



In-House Counsel: Serving as part of a company's internal legal department, advising on legal matters related to business operations.

Compliance Officer: Ensuring that a company complies with relevant laws and regulations.

Corporate Governance: Overseeing and guiding companies on corporate governance principles and practices.

CORPORATE SECTOR

ACADEMIA

Law Professor: Teaching at law schools and conducting legal research.

Legal Researcher: Working for think tanks, research institutions, or academic publications.



Judiciary

Alternative Dispute Resolution -
Mediator or Arbitrator

Legal Publishing and Journalism

Legal technology

Consulting

AND MORE



Scan for more info!

RESOURCES

The **Business Career Hub** is a resource at Ted Rogers School of Management that can help students with anything career-wise. The BCH helps students prepare for and build their careers. Some things that they can help with are:

- Career coaching - guidance for exploring career options
- Resume and cover letter support
- Interview preparation
- Employer events
- Industry exploration
- Co-op

RECOMMENDED COURSES

Kaplan is a long-standing test-prep provider offering structured LSAT preparation designed to accommodate diverse learning styles. Featuring experienced instructors, extensive practice material, and systematic strategy frameworks, students receive a fully guided curriculum tailored for test-day success.

Self-Paced Course: Access complete recorded video instruction, personalized study schedules, official LSAT practice questions, and performance analytics to study on your own schedule. A completely optimized asynchronous course, available 24/7

Live Online Course: Participate in interactive live classes led by expert instructors, with an additional teacher available in chat to answer real-time questions, plus access to targeted strategy streams.

Tutoring & Complete Prep: Receive customized 1-on-1 private tutoring paired with classroom instruction, full practice material access, and a higher-score guarantee with benefits like 52 hours of live instruction with exclusive lessons and personalized Study Calendar that includes a full study plan

The Princeton Review offers a variety of options tailored to different learning styles—all designed to maximize your LSAT score. For students who prefer a classic classroom setting, they provide live instruction paired with printed study materials.

For high achievers, the LSAT 170+ and Immersion 170+ courses include over 65 hours of live instruction backed by a guaranteed 170+ score. Other flexible choices include a Self-Paced course featuring 100+ hours of recorded lessons, personalized Private Tutoring tailored to your specific score goals, and a Fundamentals course that provides 30 hours of live instruction

Business
CAREERHUB



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Law and Business Student
Association (LBSA)



LET'S
CONNECT