

**Faculty of Law
Personal Statement Cover Form**

Name of Applicant _____

OLSAS Reference Number _____



Instructions

- Each applicant must submit a personal statement with the OLSAS application to Queen's Law. Type or print your name and OLSAS reference number clearly at the top of each page and attach this cover page if you are submitting a paper application rather than an online application.
- **Each personal statement must be authored entirely by the applicant.**
- The personal statement should be typed in a font no smaller than 11 pts and should not be single-spaced. The personal statement should be a maximum of 8,000 **characters** in length. (three to five pages maximum in length)
- The Admissions Committee finds the personal statement to be helpful, along with the autobiographical sketch, verifiers, and letters of reference, to identify scholarship prospects among applicants who are competitive on the basis of grades and LSAT scores.
- Applicants in the Aboriginal category should explain their interest in and identification with their Aboriginal community.
- Applicants in the Access Category should use the personal statement to address the basis of their claim and provide corroboration of these circumstances through letters of references and supplemental documentation as appropriate. Mature applicants should submit a resumé as well. Disabled applicants should provide corroboration of the basis of claim through the submission of relevant medical documentation or a recent psycho-educational assessment as appropriate, in addition to stating the basis of claim in the personal statement. Disadvantaged applicants should provide corroborative documentation that supports the basis of claim to disadvantage in addition to addressing the basis of claim in their personal statement.
- Extended track (part-time) studies applicants should disclose the reasons for wanting to study on a part-time basis.

The academic rigour of the J.D. degree program requires that students granted admission have strong aptitude for legal reasoning, demonstrated academic ability and good potential for success in studies at this level. The Admissions Committee considers other attributes such as intellectual curiosity, avid interest in the law, social commitment, reasonable judgment and insight, leadership potential, teamwork skills, creative ability and innovative endeavours, self-discipline, time management skills and maturity. The Admissions Committee will review personal statements, the autobiographical sketch and letters of reference to obtain information about these attributes.

Special circumstances that may have impacted adversely on academic performance can be addressed. Such circumstances can include, but are not limited to, illness, involvement in varsity or professional sports, family obligations during periods of study, or personal tragedy. These circumstances are more time-limited without continuing adverse impact or less systemic impact than the sorts of factors supporting an Access category claim. The fact that an applicant has been able to overcome significant economic, physical, cultural or other disadvantage may provide evidence of the characteristics that show good potential for successful completion of legal studies.