

Faculty of Law  
Personal Statement Cover Form

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
OLSAS Reference Number \_\_\_\_\_



**Instructions:**

1. Each applicant must submit a personal statement with the OLSAS application to Queen's Law. If you are submitting an online application to OLSAS, please do not use this form. **This form is used for a paper application to OLSAS.** 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 to OLSAS.
2. **Each personal statement must be authored entirely by the applicant.** A personal statement is required for all applicants to first-year or upper-year JD and for applicants in the N.C.A. Category.
3. 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 6,000 **characters** in length. (three to five pages maximum in length)
4. 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.
5. **Aboriginal Category** applicants should explain your interest in, identification with, and connection to your Aboriginal communities.
6. **Access Category** applicants should use the personal statement to address the basis of your claim and provide corroboration of your circumstances through letters of references and supplemental documentation as appropriate.
  - a. **Mature** applicants should submit a résumé detailing your work or other experience, current position or status.
  - b. **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. The personal statement can be used to explain how the disability or medical condition has affected your academic record or LSAT score.

- c. **Disadvantaged** applicants should address the basis of claim to disadvantage in your personal statement. Disadvantage may be related to diversity, cultural and linguistic barriers and/or socio-economic grounds. Applicants should address how they have overcome significant economic, medical, physical, cultural, linguistic or other disadvantage so as to give rise to an inference of good potential for successful completion of legal studies. Applicants claiming disadvantage should also provide corroborative documentation of the basis of claim to disadvantage as additional supplementary documentation to support your claim.
7. Part-time study applicants should explain the reasons for wanting to study on a part-time basis.

### **Factors to Address in the Personal Statement**

The personal statement allows you to expand upon information provided in your law school application.

The academic rigour of the JD 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 your 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 usually more time-limited, without continuing adverse impact or less systemic impact, than the sorts of factors supporting an Access Category claim. You should also address your ability to overcome the adversity experienced.