



## University Summer Student Research Fellowship Position

**Posting date:** February 19, 2026

**Closing date:** February 26, 2026

The Faculty of Law, Queen's University, requests applications from suitably qualified JD students interested in a supervised University Summer Student Research Fellowship (USSRF) position working with Professor Cherie Metcalf. Please note, the USSRF program is open ONLY to JD students.

### **Description**

Professor Metcalf is looking for a JD student with a strong interest in research to work full time as a USSRF student under her guidance for 35 hours per week for a total of 16 weeks during the Summer 2026 term. This is a new position. The USSRF program is intended to provide students with "meaningful opportunities to engage in discovery-based learning and to develop research and presentation skills."

The USSRF student will conduct research related to Professor Metcalf's SSHRC IDG funded project on the use of private enforcement (e.g. citizen suits) in public regulation. The work involves using machine learning approaches to study the structure of public regulation in Canada. The USSRF student will work with Professor Metcalf, her collaborator, and his team at Stanford to replicate his study of the use of private enforcement at the state level in US law. The research will involve direct participation in use of machine learning tools and LLMs to study the structure of the law, as well as research on background literature on what drives legal forms and comparison across countries (Canada vs US). The project will provide the opportunity to learn about how to use these tools to undertake comparative research on the structure of the law at scale, the strengths and limits of the approach, and how the methods might be applied to other legal issues. The USSRF student will have the opportunity to write their own independent research paper related to the project, which can be submitted to the Inquiry@ Queen's Student Research Conference, or other presentation and publication opportunities. The USSRF student may also participate in research on a related comparative survey project on how the presence of private rights of action matters to public's view of new legislation for dealing with AI deepfakes and PFAS ("forever") chemicals (Canada-US).

If you have any questions about the work involved, please contact Professor Metcalf by email at [metcalfc@queensu.ca](mailto:metcalfc@queensu.ca).

### **Qualifications**

Applicants should have strong legal research and writing skills and an interest in the research area. A willingness to work with LLMs and participate in empirical work is needed, but no specific empirical skills are required. Research will draw on secondary literature from related fields, such as economics, psychology and politics; experience and interest in these fields may be helpful but is not necessary.

The work can be done remotely, but the successful applicant must have flexibility to meet with Professor Metcalf and other members of the research team as required. RAs must have access to high-speed internet and a computer that meets minimum requirements. All work can be completed during the regular 9-5 work week, but candidates may work outside of that time frame if they prefer.

### **Employment Details**

- Length of contract: 16 weeks
- Proposed start date: May 1, 2026
- Hours per week: 35 hours per week
- Hourly Rate: \$20 /hour plus 4% vacation pay

### **Employment Equity and Accessibility Statement**

Queen's is strongly committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and encourages applications from Black, racialized/visible minority and Indigenous people, women, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ persons. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority, including any qualified individuals who have a valid legal work status in Canada.

The University will provide support in its recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant's accessibility needs. If you require accommodation during the application process, please contact Diana Turner-Oke, Human Resources and Staffing Officer, Faculty of Law at [lawpositions@queensu.ca](mailto:lawpositions@queensu.ca).

### **Application Procedure**

To be considered for this opportunity, interested applicants are invited to submit the following materials:

- a brief statement (1-2 paragraphs) indicating your interests and experience related to the research, and availability from May 1, 2026.
- a resume



- an informal transcript from Queen's Law. Applicants can include undergraduate transcripts if relevant to the research, but this is not required. Transcripts can be unofficial (e.g. SOLUS pdf, etc.)
- any other material the applicant deems relevant (e.g. if you wish, you can include the name of a reference).

Professor Metcalf will follow-up with selected candidates directly.

Please submit your application package prior to the application deadline via Interfolio at the following link:

<https://apply.ca1.interfolio.com/123961>

As part of the application process at Queen's University, our recruitment process uses Artificial Intelligence (AI), as defined under the Ontario *Employment Standards Act*, to ask job-related questions and assess suitability for hire. All final hiring decisions are made using non-AI related processes.

For additional details and information on the position, please contact:

Diana Turner-Oke, Human Resources and Staffing Officer, Faculty of Law  
Faculty of Law  
128 Union Street  
Kingston ON K7L 3N6  
[lawpositions@queensu.ca](mailto:lawpositions@queensu.ca)