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Law Personal Statement

The Greek philosopher, Socrates, famously asserted that the unexamined life is not one worth living. I endeavor to live by these words. My path to a career in law has been anything but straightforward; however, my dedication to the learning process as a student and a professional is the defining theme in my story. I have developed the skills, habits, maturity and motivation to excel as a lawyer. Schulich represents the opportunity to refine my strengths and give back to the community.

I have been a teacher for most of my professional life. Throughout university, I supported myself working as a swimming instructor and lifeguard. This enabled me to build upon my strengths in public speaking and performing. Working as a lifeguard and swimming instructor required leadership and communication skills, vital for a career in law.

In my second year of university, I found my first true passion. I decided to join my Russian class for a semester in Pushkin, a short distance from central St. Petersburg. Everything about Russia enchanted me. I strived to be fluent in the language and learn about the country's political system, history and culture. I returned home with an unprecedented energy for studying. My grades improved dramatically and my outlook matured.

The experience significantly influenced the way I conceptualized my place in the world. The connections I built with people in Russia made me contemplate the importance of cooperation and inclusion between very different societies. International relations fascinated me. I began to critically examine world events from a less nationalist and more global perspective. In March, I will be featured on Memorial University's webpage as alumni of the month, wherein I speak about the experience in depth.

I resolved to minor in Political Science and take a second semester abroad. From our campus in Harlow, England we visited sites ranging from the headquarters of NATO and the European Parliament to the battlegrounds at Vimy Ridge and Beaumont Hamel. Bearing witness to the accomplishments of political cooperation alongside the sites of unspeakable human suffering, I began to assess how I could become a positive force in an interconnected world. I subsequently visited the United Nations, and I have become interested in cooperative humanitarian efforts, an area in which Canada has made positive contributions.

Upon graduation, I moved to Seoul, South Korea to teach English and learn a third language. Adapting to the corporate culture in Korea has been challenging but also rewarding. Today, I am head teacher at a medium sized and fast growing English language academy in Seoul. Our top students participate in my news and debate class where I teach critical examination of world events and train students to write persuasive essays. I lecture on science, history and literature. I have interviewed, trained and managed many bright new native English teachers at our seven locations around Seoul. Our company owner has described my performance as "legendary" and guaranteed my position for life. Working in Korea has made me highly independent, sharpened my initiative and advanced a variety of practical skill sets.

Living overseas has brought me valuable perspective. My experiences deepened my understanding not only of the Asian continent, but also the diverse cultures and dynamic relationships between nations. Moreover, my appreciation for Canada has been enriched in interesting and unexpected ways. While no society is free from injustice, I believe in Canada's legal system. I am drawn to law for the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the legal and ethical framework of our society and our relationship with the global community. The need for cooperation between individuals, groups, and across local, provincial and national boundaries is indispensable. Through a career in law, I aspire to a positive and informed role in society.

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