

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 as a professional is the defining theme in my story. In this way 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 respectfully request the admissions committee to consider my application to study law at your university.

I have been a teacher for most of my professional life. Throughout university I supported myself working in two pools as a swimming instructor and lifeguard. This enabled me to build upon my strengths as a high school student. I enjoy public speaking and performing. I twice represented my high school in the annual Ravenscourt public speaking competition. I took several theatrical lead roles including a Romeo and a Prince Charming. I've written and recorded music, and performed as a singer and musician. I am also an avid swimmer, making my first real job a logical choice. Working as a lifeguard and swimming instructor required leadership and communication skills, vital for a career in law.

I graduated high school with distinction, although I did not yet achieve my full academic potential. I was well rounded but overextended by non-academic pursuits. In my second year of university I reached a philosophical turning point. 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. I can't overstate the change I experienced. Everything about Russia enchanted me. I strived to be fluent in the language, and learn everything I could about the country's political system, history and culture. I returned home with an unprecedented energy for studying. My grades dramatically improved. My outlook matured.

Significantly, the experience 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. I am fascinated by international relations. 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've become interested in cooperative humanitarian efforts, an area that Canada has contributed positively towards.

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 quickly 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've 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 the diverse cultures and dynamic relationships between nations. Of equal importance my appreciation for Canada has been enriched in interesting and unexpected ways. While no society is free from injustice, Canada has a legal system that I believe in. 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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