

Law: School Submissions: University of Ottawa

Let's take a look at the University of Ottawa's application.

For Ottawa, the Personal Statement each candidate must prepare is a critical part of the application and should be thought of as an interview with the Admissions Committee. In addition to explaining why you are interested in law studies, and why you are specifically interested in the University of Ottawa, you should use the Personal Statement to outline your personal and professional achievements, interests, community work and any other factors you feel are relevant to your application. You have 8000 characters to do this.

Applicants in the Special Circumstances and Access categories should not use their Personal Statement to describe why they are applying in one of these categories. Specially-dedicated screens are provided for this purpose in the on-line application.

When thinking about why Ottawa specifically, check out the website to note their strengths in E-commerce, intellectual property, technology law, international law, environmental law, dispute resolution, advocacy, and legal ethics. They have a very strong focus on social justice. Also think about where this university is located and that you may have the potential to be exposed to the government, Supreme Court, etc.

In your statement, admissions is looking for your capacity for critical, creative & original thinking, your communication skills, including writing skills, evidence of your capacity to manage the workload and your time, your ability to make a meaningful contribution to the overall law school environment and to the profession and public it serves, and your commitment to upholding ethical standards and to treating all members of the university community with respect.

Think about including:

- your extracurricular activities and community involvement
- Career experiences and achievements
- Personal success in dealing with challenges
- Diverse social, economic, ethnic, or cultural experiences and perspectives and/or
- Specific career aspirations

Mature & Aboriginal category applicants also need to submit a resume.