

**Juris Doctor (JD) and Professional LLM, Graduate, Osgoode Hall Law School**

**Cyclical Program Review – 2007 - 2012**

**Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan\_Executive Summary**

**Reported to Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance: April 15, 2015**

**Program description:**

Established by The Law Society of Upper Canada in 1889, and the only accredited law school in Ontario until 1957, Osgoode Hall Law School is the oldest law school in the province, and one of the largest common-law law schools in Canada. Affiliated with York University since 1968, Osgoode remains at the forefront of legal education and innovation, offering the most diverse curriculum and experiential programming in the country. Students graduate with a Juris Doctor (JD), formerly known as the LLB.

In 1996, Osgoode Professional Development (OPD), a division of Osgoode Hall Law School, was created to satisfy the demand lifelong learning and specialized legal education. The Osgoode Professional LLM encompasses more than 15 different specializations. Osgoode Hall Law School also offers a research stream LLM which will undergo a review in 2013-2014.

Program	Accepts 2013	Enrolment FTES 2013	Degrees Awarded 2013
Professional LLM	257	148	158
Juris Doctor	306	967	320

**Reviewers appointed by Vice Provost Academic:**

Ian Holloway, QC, Professor and Dean of Law, University of Calgary

Geneviève Saumier, Professeur agrégé / Associate Professor, Faculté de droit / Faculty of Law, McGill University

Markus Biehl, Associate Dean (Academic), and Associate Professor, Management and Information Science, Schulich School of Business, York University

**Site Visit:** February 23-25, 2014

The reviewers met with key administrative personnel, including senior academic leadership in the University and in Osgoode Hall Law School. In addition the reviewers met with faculty members and groups of students in both the JD program at the Keele campus of York University and the at the Osgoode Professional Development site in downtown Toronto.

**Outcome:** The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations. The Dean of Osgoode Law School is responsible for implementing recommendations as per the Decanal Implementation Plan. Follow-up report due October 2016.

**Summary**

Osgoode Law School is highly regarded for its excellence in the JD and LLM (Professional) programs. Recent renovations have enhanced the quality of space for



staff, faculty and students, and the School has undertaken innovative approaches to revising its curriculum in light of its own and York University's values and a changing landscape for legal education. In particular, new JD requirements emphasize experiential learning with the clear objective to provide relevant professional preparation for a range of areas of practice, and emerging professional development needs of practicing lawyers are identified and acted upon with ongoing programmatic changes and delivery flexibility provided by the use of technology. Student concerns about assessment and the Career Development Office as well as questions about the effectiveness of counseling and advising services are addressed in the dean's implementation plan that identifies approaches, responsible participants and timelines. A recommendation to develop a distinct degree designation for the LLM (Professional) to differentiate its more clearly from the LLM (Research) will be taken up in the cyclical program review of the LLM (Research) and PhD programs that is underway.

Alice J Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic  
April 2015

