



CANADA LAW
FROM ABROAD

HOW TO BECOME A LEGAL EXPERT IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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WHY HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights is a field of law that is intellectually rewarding and a leading influencer of the policy making process. To work in this field, advocates need to clearly articulate the reasons behind a position to provide the correct context for a legal analysis on sensitive and complicated issues.

Many human rights oriented careers are in areas that are in the health, education, social enterprise fields. For example, think of all the Canadian media coverage around sex education, sexual harassment, etc.

The primary professional qualifications of the major players is education/social worker with expertise in human rights. A similar much publicized issue is health services with health professionals with primary professional qualifications in health and social advocacy who raise human rights issues. This includes the almost daily coverage in Canadian media about how policing and social services constitute discrimination and human rights violations against disadvantaged and Indigenous populations.

In effect, professional qualifications related to social enterprise and health and safe community development along with expertise in human rights are valuable in the Canadian work force.



WORKING AS A LEGAL EXPERT IN HUMAN RIGHTS:

A career in human rights is exciting and there are various routes you can take. In Canada, this is especially true as the country is globally known as a strong advocate and defender of human rights. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom (1982) is a part of Canada's constitution and pledges fundamental freedoms deemed necessary in a free and democratic society including freedom of expression, religion, thought, belief and conscience. As a result, Canada is a fantastic place to work with such a strong background in human rights and also due to its numerous links with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Amnesty International Canada, Equitas and Care Canada.

3 CAREERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS:

1. Policy Analyst in Human Rights

The role of a policy analyst is to research, evaluate and influence policies. Generally, policy analysts focus on one area of policy (i.e. immigration) and work in the non-profit sector such as a think tank or a government agency. Individuals should have knowledge of economics and up to date with politics to make the right recommendations and should also have strong writing skills. Since policy analysts require specific knowledge about a policy area, a LLM in human rights where you study a human rights topic in depth and write a dissertation on a particular issue would satisfy this requirement.

2. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Specialist:

CSR specialists are tasked with assisting companies with observing human rights, environmental standards, labour laws by creating plans and links and developing programs to focus on these areas. They must possess knowledge of the social, economic, political and environmental policies in addition to company policies to help the company abide by all the standards, particularly with regards to human rights/labour rights and the company's impact on the environment. CSR Specialists must possess at minimum an undergraduate degree although most companies will require advanced degrees, particularly in areas such as business, human rights and ethics.

3. Human Rights Consultant:

Consultants working for human rights organizations possess special expertise in an area (i.e. asylum/refugee seekers). They provide analysis, experience and training the organization to use in their projects which may target different regions of the world. Consultant positions require a Master's degree, strong communication, research and analytical skills.





HOW CANADA LAW FROM ABROAD CAN HELP YOU:

Canada Law From Abroad knows where the opportunities markets are for LL.M degree holders. An LL.M is recognized internationally as a specialist designation of law niches and law related professional services. We will help you identify a career and utilize your knowledge base to find a pathway into a career. First, we will look at your interests and how that could correspond to a niche area and identify opportunities in that area. Then we will match your background and qualifications to the best fit programme at one of our partner schools and assist you with the application itself, all free of charge.

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