STATEMENT OF MOTIVATION

At the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta, we ask that you provide a “Statement of Motivation” as part of your application for admission to the course-based LL.M., the thesis-based LL.M., or the Ph.D. in Law program. The “Statement of Motivation” is your opportunity to advise the Graduate Studies Committee about:

- Your reasons for applying to pursue graduate studies in law
- Your specific area, or areas, of academic interest, and your views on how the programs offered at the University of Alberta may meet these areas of interest
- Your past education, and other co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences, and how these experiences have prepared you to be successful in the graduate program
- Your employment experience in law, where relevant, and whether you have done work in your area, or areas, of academic interest
- Your preparation for undertaking advanced work in legal research and writing, making reference to any academic publications that you may have, or presentations that you have given, or academic conferences that you have taken part in
- Your career plans and what you hope to achieve in the graduate program

A “Statement of Motivation” should take the form of a short essay. It should be 1-2 pages in length. A strong “Statement of Motivation” is one that connects your areas of interest and career goals, as well as your past education and work experience, with the programs offered and the work being done at the University of Alberta. Details on the experience and interest areas of the current members of the Faculty of Law can be found on the Faculty’s website at: http://www.law.ualberta.ca/facultystaff/staffdirectory.php

A strong “Statement of Motivation” will also provide the adjudicating committee with evidence of your writing abilities, as well as your English language skills, and your statement should be written using language to demonstrate your potential for academic legal scholarship.