

UBC Law students may participate in a one term or two term (full year) exchange in second or third year. Transfer students may participate in a one term exchange. Students should review the following academic and career information when considering whether and when to participate in an exchange. For questions about JD program requirements, please consult the Assistant Dean, Students, Kaila Mikkelsen mikkelsen@law.ubc.ca (until Dec 2, 2011,) or Pamela Cyr cyr@law.ubc.ca (after December 2).

Academic Considerations

Complete UBC Course Requirements at UBC

- **You should complete all the quasi-compulsory graduation course requirements at UBC Law prior to departing on your exchange.** This means if you intend to complete a full year exchange in third year, you must complete all required UBC courses in second year.

Take 15 UBC LAW Credits on Exchange

- **You must complete the equivalent of 15 UBC Law credits per semester at your exchange university (even if you require less credits to graduate).** The GoGlobal website contains information on calculating credit equivalency at your exchange university. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can take the correct number of credits at your exchange university to receive 15 UBC Law credits/semester. This is especially important if you are considering attending a school where English is not the primary language of instruction.
- **You must enroll in Law courses while on exchange and you must ensure that the Law courses are different than those you took at UBC Law.**
- **You must enroll in Law courses which the partner university's Law students may take for credit towards their degree.** You may not receive credit for Law courses which are targeted towards non-law or exchange students.
- **If you have any questions** about whether you will receive credit for an exchange course, **please contact the Assistant Dean, Students prior to enrolling** and provide her with a detailed course description or syllabus.
- With prior approval, **you may enroll in non-law courses while on exchange, however, you will not receive UBC credit** for those courses, and they do not count towards the 15 UBC Law credits/semester you must complete while on exchange. For further clarification, you will not receive credit for language courses completed on exchange.

Third Year Full Year and Term 2 Exchange Students Graduate in November

- **It is your responsibility to carefully consider the term dates of your potential partner university.** If you choose to attend in the fall semester, ensure that you will back at UBC for the beginning of UBC's January semester. If you choose to attend in

term 2, consider the impact the partner university's end date may have on your post-graduation or second-year summer employment plans.

- Due to different term end dates at partner universities, **students who complete their exchange abroad during their final semester of law school will graduate in November** rather than May.
- **You must arrange to have a transcript sent from your exchange university to GoGlobal.** GoGlobal will keep a copy and send the original to Susan Morin, Director of Student Academic Services, in the Faculty of Law, and she will prepare a letter for the requisite law society stating that you have completed all the requirements to graduate in November so that you may start your articles or bar course prior to November graduation. Once your UBC Law degree is posted on your UBC transcript, you must arrange for an original UBC transcript to be sent to the law society.
 - **Note: Some partner universities (especially those in southern Europe) take weeks or months to issue a transcript.** If you are a third year student intending to commence articles immediately on completion of your exchange, you may wish to consider a school with a short transcript issuance time. Susan Morin can advise on the general timeframe for when she receives transcripts from partner universities.

Career Considerations

Students should consult with Career Services prior to application to ensure that they have considered the ramifications, if any, that an exchange may have on their summer and/or articling employment. Some general information is set out below.

Exchanges in Second-Year

- Depending on the jurisdiction, interviews for second-year summer positions occur throughout second year. Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary employers interview and hire students September to November.
- Clerking applications and interviews occur from November through March.
- Articling interviews can begin as early as May of your second year.
- Employers will generally require an in-person interview, although employers are showing an increased willingness to conduct interviews by Skype.

Exchanges in Third-Year

- If you have not secured an articling position prior to commencing an exchange, you should meet with Career Services to develop a strategy to find articles.
- Articling interviews at the downtown employers (larger firms and the DOJ) commence in the summer prior to third year and you will want to be available to attend interview weeks in the relevant city.
- If you do not secure an articling position in the summer prior to third year, the majority of articling postings at smaller firms will arise in the second semester of third year. You should ensure you are available to attend interviews during this time.
- Many UBC law students secure their articles at smaller firms through networking, informational interviewing, and cold calling. Since these positions are not posted, the job search may take up to a year or slightly longer.
- You should consider whether the term dates of your exchange university will affect whether you are able to commence your articles and bar course.