

Change to Program/Graduate Diploma Academic Requirements Proposal Form

The following information is required for all proposals involving a minor modification to program/graduate diploma academic requirements. To facilitate the review/approval process, please use the headings below (and omit the italicized explanations below each heading).

1. Program/Graduate Diploma: Professional LLM in International Business Law

2. Effective Session of Proposed Change(s): Winter 2020

3. Proposed Change(s) and Rationale

a) A description of the proposed modification(s) and rationale, including alignment with academic plans.

We are proposing that the BLIS specialization of the Professional LLM adopt the same language proficiency requirements as all the other specializations (moving from 7.0 IELTS or equivalent to 7.5 IELTS or equivalent).

The BLIS specialization was the first full-time Professional LLM to be introduced at OsgoodePD, and it was initially comprised entirely of international students. In more recent years, three developments have led us to the conclusion that we should raise the language proficiency requirement for this specialization. First, the pool of applicants to the program has become larger and stronger, with the result that the admissions committee is rarely recommending admission for candidates who have a 7.0 IELTS or equivalent language proficiency. Second, we have increased interest from other Professional LLM students in taking electives from the BLIS offerings, meaning that it makes sense to admit students to BLIS whose language proficiency is equivalent to that of the other Professional LLM students. Third, we have co-developed an Intensive Advanced Legal English program, offered through the York University English Language Institute, which offers the opportunity for candidates at the 7.0 IELTS level to move up to a 7.5 equivalent by completing a four-month program.

b) An outline of the changes to requirements and the associated learning outcomes/objectives, including how the proposed requirements will support the achievement of program/graduate diploma learning objectives.

This change will have no impact on learning objectives or outcomes. The only effect will make it more likely that students in the program will perform well academically and achieve the learning outcomes. Students admitted at a lower language proficiency level often do less well in individual courses where the majority of students are at a higher level, so it serves both program and student interests to move the proficiency level to be at par with remaining specializations.

c) An overview of the consultation undertaken with relevant academic units and an assessment of the impact of the modifications on other programs/graduate diplomas.

Program changes of this nature are put before our Professional Stream Graduate Studies committee for review.

d) A summary of any resource implications and how they are being addressed.

This change will result in a net savings in resources as the International Business Law specialization will be aligned with all other full-time specializations of the Professional LLM.

e) A summary of how students currently enrolled in the program/graduate diploma will be accommodated.

Not applicable.

4. Calendar Copy

Using the following two-column format, provide a copy of the relevant program/graduate diploma requirements as they will appear in the FGS Calendar - <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/program-requirements/>.

Please note: Senate requires that FULL Calendar copy be provided. Please include the entire graduate program/diploma section, not just text that is being revised.

Please clearly and visibly indicate how graduate program/graduate diploma information has been changed using strikethrough (left column), bold, underlining, colours, etc. (right column).

Existing Program/Graduate Diploma Information (change from)	Proposed Program/Graduate Diploma Information (change to)
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW [does not include any information about language proficiency]	ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: ALL SPECIALIZATIONS Applicants whose first language is not English must produce proof of a score of 7.5 on the International English Language Testing System or any of the equivalent scores listed at http://www.osgoodepd.ca/graduate-programs-and-courses/admissions-requirements/#Language . Applicants who have completed at least ONE year of full time study at an accredited university where English is the ONLY official language of instruction at the institution level (not only the program level) are not required to provide a language test.

Please submit completed forms and required supporting documentation by email to the Coordinator, Faculty Governance– mmschiff@yorku.ca