



Student Society
of UBC Vancouver



ALLARD LAW
STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Submission to the UBC Board of Governors Regarding the Change of Admissions Fees for the Juris Doctorate Program October 5th, 2017

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver and the Allard Law Students' Society in response to the request for feedback from the Vice President Students Office sent on September 6th, 2017 on the change of Admission Fees for the Juris Doctorate Program.

The proposed change would increase the current \$300.00 domestic and \$500.00 international non-refundable tuition deposits to \$600.00 domestic and \$1,000.00 international tuition deposits. This change does not increase tuition and, for perspective, is in line with the current non-refundable deposit required by UBC for undergraduate degrees of \$500.00 domestic and \$1,000.00 international.

Allard Law Admissions has assured us that exceptions are granted for students who are having financial difficulty when paying the initial deposit. We hope that these assurances can be formalized in writing. Without flexibility to make exceptions for students of lower financial means, we are concerned that this increase could mean a student will either go to another law school with a lower deposit, put themselves in a precarious financial position, or will choose not to attend Allard at all.

Increasing the deposit will encourage applicants to make timely decisions and allow Allard Law to make offers to waitlisted students when space is available. This change will allow students who have to stay on the waitlist too long see a spot open up for them in Allard Law. The AMS and ALSS support this change in the hope that it will allow Allard Law to make more timely offers to waitlisted students.

Although the ALSS and AMS support the current changes, we would like to reiterate that any future increases in the deposit or tuition will disproportionately affect applicants from historically underrepresented socioeconomic backgrounds, and will have the effect of discouraging applications broadly. Any future increase would be against Allard Law's Strategic plan which states the need to "promote legal education as an achievable and appealing goal for a diverse range of students, particularly, students from historically underrepresented socioeconomic groups including Indigenous communities."

The AMS and ALSS support the changes in their current form and are grateful to the University and Allard Law School for including student input in this process.

Sincerely,

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