



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

Faculty of Law

*This email is from the co-organizers of the Bilingual Program at Robson Hall. Please direct your inquiries to the email addresses provided below.*

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Dear Robson Hall Class of 2022,

Law school starts in two weeks and we are very excited to meet you all. Nous souhaitons vous donner des mises à jour au sujet de notre nouveau programme bilingue passionnant. Quite a few of you have already indicated an interest in participating in the bilingual program starting in September, and it is not too late if you haven't yet let us know of your interest.

Many of you may not have used your French in an academic context for a few years, and so you may feel unsure about participating in the bilingual program. To support your participation, our partners at L'Université de Saint-Boniface have formulated a language assessment to determine what supports you might need to be successful, including French tutors (at no cost), who will be available year-round to help with assignments or to answer any French language questions that you may have. The assessment consists of a written and oral component. You can choose to do the written component on August 26<sup>th</sup> or September 11<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. The oral evaluation can be scheduled on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup>, according to your individual availability. Nous communiquerons les détails uniquement à ceux qui nous auront exprimé leur intérêt au programme bilingue. The assessment is optional but we encourage you to make use of this opportunity for feedback and support that will allow you to build strong skills for your future as a bilingual lawyer.

The Government of Canada has recently announced a new fund to provide bursaries to Anglophone students studying in French in post-secondary studies. Bien que les détails ne sont pas encore finalisés, nous sommes confiants que les étudiants dans notre programme bilingue seront admissibles pour ces bourses renouvelables qui les aideront à défrayer le coût de leurs études de droit. We are thrilled by the recognition of the importance of fostering effective bilingualism and will provide updates as soon as possible. Vous pouvez visionner l'annonce de la Ministre Joly au sujet des fonds ici :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaHO0DTVWuY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1LT-SQYKwrOVaUdmTXGOMBX3AR0ZsXKwhqZiisg1Msov0bZTAkQ5Eo6c4>

En plus des tests et les tuteurs, nous offrirons un « Bilingual Buddy Program » dans lequel vous serez jumelés avec un étudiant bilingue en deuxième ou troisième année qui aura déjà suivi un cours de droit en français dans le passé. Your “buddy” will be able to provide guidance to you throughout your studies and answer any questions you may have regarding bilingual courses, the French language moots, and more. We encourage you to

take advantage of this resource as it provides a valuable opportunity for you to get acquainted with your bilingual peers in the legal profession.

Last but not least, we are offering a new course called “Passeport du droit en français”. Scheduled once every two weeks after your Legal Methods class, Passeport will bring together first and upper year students taking bilingual course offerings to attend seminars on themes relating to the bilingual practice of law in Western Canada and the access to justice needs of francophone communities. Vous développerez progressivement votre compréhension de la langue française et vos compétences en communication tout en créant des liens avec vos collègues bilingues qui vous seront très utiles lorsque vous commencerez la pratique du droit. You’ll also be glad to know that because Passeport is a 3-credit course spanned over the three years of your JD but counted in your third year, you will have one less 3-credit course to worry about in your final year of law school compared to colleagues taking all their courses in English!

Our new website is up and running. To learn more about this exciting opportunity please go to: <http://law.robsonhall.com/programs/jd/bilingual-course-offerings/>. If you have further questions, please email [FrancaisJuridique@umanitoba.ca](mailto:FrancaisJuridique@umanitoba.ca). Please also feel free to email Meghan at [leungm3@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:leungm3@myumanitoba.ca) to gain a student perspective. Finally, please get in touch to let us know of your interest by August 28<sup>rd</sup> to help us plan a warm welcome to the bilingual program.

Au plaisir,

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