

The intent of this document is to provide a summary of the Q&A Session held on Thursday July 9, 2020. The information was accurate at the time of the session, and students are advised that information might change. The University of Manitoba has the health and safety of students, staff and faculty members as its top priority.

Course Related Questions:

1. What is the first year curriculum?

First year full time students register for the following seven courses, for both Fall and Winter Terms:

LAW 1102 - Contracts 5 credit hours

LAW 1140 - Criminal Law & Procedure 5 credit hours

LAW 1460 - Constitutional Law 5 credit hours

LAW 1480 - Torts & Compensation Systems 5 credit hours

LAW 1500 - Property 5 credit hours

LAW 1530 - Legal Systems 2 credit hours

LAW 1540 - Legal Methods 5 credit hours

TOTAL credit hours for Year 1: 32 credit hours

In consultation with the Associate Dean, half-time students register for four courses, for both Fall and Winter Terms.

Half-time students are to email Rosa.Muller@umanitoba.ca to set-up an appointment with the Associate Dean.

2. How will we meet and ask questions from our professors?

- i. Remote learning is different from distance education, where material is simply posted, and you have to go through it on your own and then write an exam.
- ii. Professors will have virtual office hours.
- iii. Classes will be structured so that you have the opportunity to interact with your Professors. Q & A Sessions and going over exercises.

3. How will Fall Term 2020 classes be structured? Will they be zoom (or similar platform) video conferences vs recorded lectures, will we still have opportunities for classroom participation?

- i. There will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous learning is where you and the Professor are interacting in real time, and asynchronous learning is where you are learning on our own schedule. Asynchronous learning will include reading.
- ii. In addition, there will be pre-recorded (asynchronous) lectures, posted on UM Learn, University of Manitoba's learning management system. For the synchronous learning, this will occur during class-time using video-conferencing software, likely either Zoom or Cisco Webex. There will also be the opportunity to interact with your professors on a one-on-one basis, remotely during virtual office hours and/or scheduled appointments.

4. Will exams be online in December? What platform will we use?

- i. Exams will be online in December. The platform used will be UM Learn. Professors and students will use UM Learn throughout the Term for course material and instruction. Use of UM Learn for exams will therefore be familiar to students.
- ii. The exam session in April 2020 quite successfully used UM Learn. Students, professors and administrative staff were all pleased with the functionality of the platform.

5. Will courses be assigned a letter grade or pass/fail?

Courses will be assigned a letter grade (with the exception of Legal Methods). Please keep in mind, in first year law the courses are spanned from September through April. A final grade in a course will be assigned at the end of Winter Term 2021. Upper Year courses (second and third year) are one-term courses.

6. Will we have physical library access in Fall Term 2020? If not, what can we do to work around this?

- i. The short answer is you will likely not have physical library access on campus.
- ii. The longer answer is that we are in the process of ensuring that you will have access to everything you need electronically.
- iii. Matt Renaud is our excellent Liaison Librarian. He is ensuring that 350 core legal texts for law students will be available digitally, either through the uManitoba collection, or on one of the Legal research databases you will have access to at no cost, such as WestLaw or Lexus-Nexis.

- iv. The E.K. Williams Law library in Robson Hall is able to provide students with access to entire texts for many texts via a digital platform called HathiTrust.
- v. Further, students will have the ability to request portions of books (or entire journal articles) be scanned by library staff.
- vi. There *may* be the opportunity for curbside pick-up. TBD as we move closer to Fall Term 2020.

7. What are the plans for Winter 2021 courses, will they be remote or in-person?

At the time of this Q&A session, the University of Manitoba is anticipating a return to the classroom for courses commencing in mid-January. This information may change as the pandemic situation in Winnipeg changes. We will follow the guidelines set out by the local health authorities, provincial guidelines and university administration. Our priority is the health and well-being of staff, students and faculty.

8. Will course lectures be recorded for later review?

- i. Yes, lectures will be recorded and available for review later on.
- ii. A word of caution: Plan to virtually attend the synchronous classes (during class time) You will be working on exercises, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions to your professors. This will be a very meaningful part of your education. Resist the urge to skip.

9. Will attendance be required for online classes just as in-person classes would have?

- i. Only some courses will have a mandatory attendance policy.
- ii. Some of the most meaningful learning will occur during class time. Professors expect you will be available to attend and participate virtually during class time. Note: time zones will come into play!

10. How will class participation work?

- i. Class participation will depend on a few factors. If the lecture is with the entire class (1L classes are typically 35 students), there are a number of ways to raise your hand (digitally).

- ii. Many professors will be dividing classes into smaller groups, which will meet during class time. For example, in a three-hour lecture, the class may be divided into groups of three, and your group might meet (virtually) with the professor for an hour. The professor will meet in sequence with each of the three groups, and cover the same exercise.
- iii. Generally, first year courses do not have a specific component of the grading scheme dedicated to participation marks.

11. What happens if I have technical difficulties and I am unable to attend the scheduled lecture?

Generally, “live” (synchronous) lectures will be recorded, so you can access them afterward if you have difficulties signing in while they are going on. If your internet connection or bandwidth is the problem, you can still participate by phone (You will be given a telephone number to use to call in).

12. Is there a minimum tech requirement I should consider for my computer?

Minimum recommended technology requirements can be found:

<https://centre.cc.umanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Student-Connectivity-Recommendations.pdf>

13. How will we purchase textbooks, if we are not in Winnipeg?

There are a number of ways to acquire textbooks:

- i. The uManitoba bookstore will enable students to physically pick up books at a pick-up table outside bookstore
- ii. Books can be ordered online from the uManitoba Bookstore (<http://umanitoba.ca/bookstore>), which can be shipped to the student (across Canada).
- iii. Students may consider ordering books directly from publisher or Amazon (for example).
- iv. In many cases, you can acquire electronic copies, either through the uManitoba Bookstore or through the publisher.
- v. In certain cases, you will not have to purchase a textbook at all. For example, if you are in Professor Curran’s LAW 1102- Contracts course, the textbook is available through library system, and he will be posting the casebook on the UM Learn site.

- vi. One other option you may want to consider (if possible) is checking out the Bookstore at your local university once you have the name, publisher and author of the textbook you are seeking.

Studying in French

14. The bilingual French program is a terrific opportunity to complete some of your JD courses in French.

- i. An email circulated on July 8, 2020 contains information as well as a FAQ attachment. You can also view this information on the Orientation Website
- ii. Contact email: FrancaisJuridique@umanitoba.ca

Student Activities

15. How will student activities be impacted?

- i. Unfortunately, COVID has and will likely continue to limit your ability to experience the Robson Hall in person for a while. The Manitoba Law Student Association (MLSA) are working hard with Robson Hall administration to make as many great student activities happen as possible.
- ii. An example of an event could be 'Dog Days' in Assiniboine Park (where people bring their dogs if they have one, or just come if they do not, and get to know each other), the possibility of off-campus meet and greet events.

16. Are there any structures in place for us to meet our peers (virtually or in person) since we will not be together until Winter Term 2021? (i.e. - students usually rely on study groups etc.)

- i. Absolutely. The MLSA Facebook page, as well as the Class of 2023 Facebook page (see Q#19) and (eventually) your section-specific ones, are a great place to start.
- ii. We hope that there will be formally organized in-person meetups if it is possible under university policy (fingers crossed). The various committees of the MLSA are hard at work planning things such as virtual study groups, hangouts, meet and greets, and the like.
- iii. Take the initiative and organize your own section-by-section or year-by-year Zoom hangouts, or whatever is allowed under policy, and you are comfortable with.

17. Will we be able to make up for any missed networking opportunities due to Covid-19?

- i. Employers are looking at all possibilities, but for now and the near future we really are operating under a wait and see policy.
- ii. For everyone involved, having patience, being flexible, and being prepared to network and interview remotely, will be required. Take this chance to brush-up on your (video) interview skills.

18. Will there be a Buddy System organized by the MLSA?

- i. Absolutely, and the Buddy System is going to be crucial this year. We highly encourage you to sign-up!
- ii. The Buddy System is a way of familiarizing and acquainting incoming 1Ls with Robson Hall by matching them with a 2L or 3L student to create an ongoing mentorship relationship. This includes sharing of helpful tips and advice, notes (called outlines at Robson), creating genuine friendship, and getting to know people in the legal community.
- iii. The information to sign up should be coming to you by email July 13-17. This is not required, but advisable as it is a major part of the Robson Hall experience, and will prove to be even more beneficial during COVID!

19. Is the Class of 2023 Facebook page created? What about other social media?

- i. It sure is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2636293576582220/>
- ii. MLSA Robson Hall <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386047631604428>
- iii. Instagram: @themlsa
- iv. MLSA website: www.robsonmlsa.com

20. Tell me about the Career Development Office (CDO).

- i. The CDO works with students and provides assistance with resume writing and cover letters, job search in addition to polishing their interviewing and networking skills. Lisa Griffin is the Career Development Coordinator. She works in conjunction with the

MLSA/Professional Development Committee to facilitate a variety of workshops, information sessions, panel discussions, wine and cheese networking receptions and on- campus interviews.

- ii. Many of these activities will have a different feel this year, as we are under the restrictions of provincial and health & safety guidelines. Discussions with the firms and employers about how they hope to approach their reception and networking events. Fingers crossed, there may be a chance for some off-campus, in-person events this Fall Term, however we all need to be prepared to network remotely. Stay tuned.
- iii. The PDC/CDO are planning a 1L information session in September with further details about things you should expect, and things you may want to begin thinking about. It is important to begin to *'get your ducks in a row'* so you may have the best experience possible during your time at Robson Hall. I strongly encourage you to attend these sessions. Keep your eyes on your email. You will be hearing from the CDO in the coming weeks/months.

21. If I have other questions:

- i. Registration, appointments with Associate Dean JD: Rosa.Muller@umanitoba.ca
- ii. Scholarships, Bursaries: Marie.Jivan@umanitoba.ca
- iii. Career Development: Lisa.Griffin@umanitoba.ca
- iv. MLSA President: Nick Noonan – noonann@myumanitoba.ca
- v. FAQ email sent after you paid your deposit
- vi. Orientation Week Website: <https://law.robsonhall.com/student-resources/orientation-week/>