



University
of Manitoba | Faculty of Law

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Dear Robson Hall Class of 2024,

Bienvenue à la Faculté de droit à l'Université du Manitoba! Law school starts in six weeks and we are very much looking forward to meeting you all. 2021 has been both a challenging and an exciting year! You are coming to law school and that is exciting enough, but there is also a global pandemic, and national and international conversations about systemic racism and discrimination. Law school provides a fantastic place to engage with your peers and professors about these important issues. Vu la situation extraordinaire que nous vivons toujours cette année, beaucoup de ces discussions passionnantes se feront à distance, du moins à la session d'automne. Mais sachez qu'à la Faculté de droit, vos professeurs se préparent à vous offrir une expérience d'apprentissage stimulante qui sera tout aussi enrichissante qu'en présentiel. COVID notwithstanding, and until we are able to resume some in-person classes, hopefully in the Winter term, the team at Robson Hall is gearing up to welcome you into our virtual classrooms and to provide a rich and high quality learning experience.

Nous souhaitons vous donner des mises à jour au sujet de notre programme bilingue novateur. 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 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. Information about the assessment can be found on the [Robson Hall website](#). 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. For the second year running, the Government of Canada is funding bursaries for Anglophone students studying in French in post-secondary studies. Nous avons jusqu'à dix bourses de \$3,000 pour les étudiants dans notre programme bilingue pour les aider à défrayer le coût de leurs études de droit. To be considered for a bursary, apply through the process set out under the "[JD Bursary Program](#)" drop-down menu (steps 1 to 3) and specify that you are applying for the bilingual program's bursary in the "Faculty of Law Supplemental Section" mentioned under step 2.

En plus des tests et des tuteurs, nous offrirons un « Bilingual Buddy Program » dans lequel vous serez jumelés avec un étudiant bilingue de 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 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 currently 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!

To learn more about this exciting opportunity please consult the [bilingual course offerings webpage](#). If you have further questions, please email FrancaisJuridique@umanitoba.ca. We would be happy to connect you with a buddy and answer your questions.

Finally, please get in touch to let us know of your interest by August 13th to help us plan a warm welcome to the bilingual program. This will also allow us to communicate with you in advance of the term to provide information about courses and Orientation activities focused on the students in our bilingual program.

Au plaisir,

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