

Statement of Purpose

Please provide a statement of purpose of no more than 4000 characters. This should explain (a) why you are particularly well-placed to do the research you propose and (b) why you wish to undertake your project at QMUL. You may wish to structure your statement around the following questions:

- What knowledge, skills, and training would you bring to the proposed research? Would you benefit from training in new or more advanced skills?
- Why do you want to undertake this research at QMUL's School of Law?
- How does the proposed research relate to your career goals?

Please could you also confirm, at the top of this document:

- a) Whether you have, prior to submitting your application, attempted to contact any academic staff to request that they agree to act as your doctoral supervisor
- b) Whether you have received agreement to supervise from any staff member you have contacted

Advice and guidance

The statement of purpose enables the admissions team to assess your capacity and motivation to carry out your proposed PhD research and to see whether QMUL would be a good fit for your project. The statement must be specific, and you should try to give examples and evidence. Avoid woolly and unsupported generalisations about, for instance, how much you enjoy reading or your strong commitment to justice.

Knowledge, skills and training: Consider (a) any instances of independent research you have undertaken during your studies or professional life; (b) experience of producing longer pieces of writing, such as dissertations; (c) any research methods training you have received or academic modules on relevant conceptual or theoretical approaches you have studied; (d) any legal or academic vocational experience relevant to the area of your proposed research; and (e) specific attributes relevant to the research (e.g. languages, professional networks).

If you have a degree in another discipline (i.e., not an LLB or an LLM) you should say how your disciplinary background or subsequent professional experience relates to your proposed research project. For instance, an MA in English Literature would be an excellent qualification for a Law & Literature project; an internship at the International Criminal Court would be relevant to an International Criminal Law project, and so on.

If your proposed research draws on methods or conceptual debates in which you lack specific experience, then you should say what training or work you propose to undertake.

Why QMUL's School of Law? Explain why QMUL makes the ideal home for your research project. Are there particular [research centres](#) that are particularly relevant to your project? Most importantly, have you identified and contacted any potential supervisors? The supervision relationship is central to the PhD, so it is really important to think about whether there are

academics at QMUL who are able to support you. Spend time browsing the [list of academic staff](#) at the School of Law to see whether any of them has relevant research interests.

Career goals and motivation: Explain why you want to do a PhD. Are you interested in pursuing an academic career? Do you intend to work for an international organisation or think tank? Are you being sponsored to undertake the research by a government department or firm of solicitors? This section will help the admissions team assess your commitment to PhD study.