Right from the start, you'll find the Ottawa office welcoming.

Big firm prestige. Boutique firm culture. BLG Ottawa offers you both. Our students enjoy all the advantages of a nationally recognized bilingual firm. They also benefit from the hands-on training, practical experience and community spirit valued in smaller firms.

Right from the start, you'll dive in. We'll show you how to make meaningful contributions every day: providing analysis and insight, drafting court documents and interacting with clients. You'll represent BLG, using your unique skills and interests to give back to the community.

Summer Program

BLG Ottawa's second-year summer students spend three months gaining in-depth experience in litigation and business law. We also offer first- and second-year students an intensive program in intellectual property (IP) law.

In our general summer program, you'll do rotations with our business and litigation groups.

In the summer IP program, you'll be immersed in trademark, copyright and patent work, and IP litigation.

Your summer starts with orientation, where you'll learn about BLG and our resources. You'll meet your mentor. You'll also attend weekly seminars throughout the summer to learn about the many types of law we practise.

You'll get hands-on experience doing work similar to that of our articling students, including:

- handling Small Claims Court matters
- drafting contracts
- pleadings

Our accomplished lawyers will introduce you to all aspects of legal practice, including meetings, discoveries and court appearances.

Articling Program

When you're ready to take the next step in your legal career, our Ottawa office is a great place to learn from the best.

As an articling student, you'll get extensive hands-on experience in litigation, business law and IP law–work similar to that done by our junior associates.

The general articling program includes rotations in both litigation and business law, with an optional rotation in IP law.

Our intensive IP articling program includes work in trademark, copyright and patent law, and IP litigation. It also includes optional rotations in litigation or business law.

Comprehensive Training

Your articling experience begins with in-depth orientation, where you'll learn all about BLG and our resources. You'll also attend weekly seminars on topics including:

- motions and discoveries
- mediations and settlements
- practice management
- preparing for trial
- pleadings

Articling students can also participate in firm-wide training programs offered throughout the year to all our lawyers.

Mentoring

You'll be assigned a principal and a mentor to support you throughout your articling experience. Your mentor will answer your questions, provide feedback and guide you through professional events.

Hands-on Experience

Articling students handle the same kind of work as our junior associates. While shadowing lawyers on major matters, you will:

- manage your own Small Claims Court matters
- attend hearings, discoveries and mediations
- draft memoranda, contracts and legal opinions
- conduct due diligence and research
- work on *pro bono* projects and cases

Frequently Asked Questions

How many lawyers are with BLG?

With more than 750 lawyers, BLG is one of Canada's largest firms, serving diverse clients in many practice areas. Approximately 95 lawyers work in our Ottawa office.

How many students do you normally hire?

We typically hire eight summer and articling students for our litigation and business groups and four summer and two articling students for our IP group.

How does the interview process work?

After the OCI, selected candidates will participate in an interview at our office, where you'll meet with the Manager, Professional Recruting and two practising lawyers.

At that time, you'll have an opportunity to tour the firm, speak with our lawyers and current students, and get a feel for the office culture.

Finalists will be invited to a social event, such as a lunch or dinner, where you'll meet a larger group of associates and partners.

BLG provides unconscious bias training to everyone involved in recruitment.

Is it important to have an existing connection to Ottawa?

We recruit from law schools across Canada, with the goal of building our firm over the long term. Regardless of where you grew up or went to school, if you want to establish your law career in Ottawa, we want to hear from you.

What type of compensation package does BLG Ottawa offer students?

Our students receive salary and benefits competitive with large Ottawa firms.

When do summer and articling students start work?

Summer students generally start before the Victoria Day weekend in May and stay for 13 weeks. Articling students start the day after the Civic Holiday in August for 44 weeks, and receive 10 vacation days.

What do you look for in candidates?

We want students who:

- have the potential to grow into associates and then partners
- have solid leadership and entrepreneurial skills in addition to strong academic achievements
- possess sound judgment and excellent oral and written communication skills (bilingualism is an asset, but not required)
- have exciting, fulfilling interests outside their career ambitions

In short, we look for exceptional people.

Does BLG Ottawa have a formal mentorship program?

Yes. Each summer and articling student is assigned a mentor. Every articling student is also assigned a principal responsible for signing off on your articles. Many students also develop rewarding mentor relationships with other legal professionals in the firm.

What kind of training will I receive at BLG?

In your first week, you'll learn about the firm and become familiar with its systems during orientation. As a summer student, you'll attend weekly seminars led by lawyers in a variety of practice areas.

Articling students attend regular professional development training sessions to increase knowledge on topics such as preparing for trial, mediations and settlements, and to improve important practice-related skills (i.e., drafting, business development and practice management).

What type of work will I do as a student?

We offer a summer program designed to provide students with direct and in-depth involvement in the Business/Litigation and Intellectual Property departments.

How is student work allocated?

You'll receive assignments in two ways: through email and directly from lawyers as you develop relationships and specific interests within the firm.

Do students take part in pro bono work?

Yes. Our professionals volunteer regularly as *pro bono* counsel for people who could not otherwise access legal services. You'll have the opportunity to work on *pro bono* projects and cases in a variety of practice areas.

How do students receive feedback?

Summer students receive one formal evaluation; articling students get two. You can also ask your mentor and other lawyers for informal feedback at any time during an assignment.

What supports and resources are available to students?

Summer students can always rely on their mentors for guidance and support. Articling students can turn to both their mentors and principals.

The Manager, Professional Recruiting meets with all students regularly, both one-on-one and in groups, to check in, answer questions and monitor work allocation.

We provide all the resources of a large national law firm: IT services, corporate and library services, a copy centre and facilities support.

What types of social events does BLG Ottawa host?

You'll be invited to a wide variety of social events, some specifically for law students and their mentors and principals, and others celebrated firm-wide, such as department socials and the annual holiday gala.

What types of diversity initiatives does BLG participate in?

Our workforce and clientele reflect Ottawa's multicultural community. We have established:

- a National Diversity and Inclusion Council
- diversity-related training sessions
- name pronunciation resources, including audio clips attached to BLG bios
- affinity groups to foster mutual support for religious, cultural and social communities within BLG
- monthly diversity bulletins for sharing information
- a diversity calendar highlighting cultural and religious observances
- programs to retain and advance our women professionals
- the gathering and review of statistics on retention, leadership and advancement of our professionals
- seminars and social events for our women professionals

We also support initiatives and organizations such as:

- the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers
- the Black Law Students' Association of Canada
- Pride at Work events

We are also signatories of:

- the Catalyst Accord
- the Justicia Projects of regional law societies of Québec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia
- the Canadian Law Firm Diversity and Inclusion Network