

THE LAURIER- SUSSEX LAW TEN-YEAR REPORT

WILFRID LAURIER
UNIVERSITY
2026



Laurier/Sussex Alumni-Amanda Rivera & Andrew Tse, 2023

LAURIER 
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

US
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OF SUSSEX



Laurier/Sussex Ten-Year Celebration, 2024

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Laurier Student Social at the University of Sussex, 2019

Introduction

Over the past ten years, the Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Sussex joint BA+LLB partnership pathway has grown into a leading international collaboration. What began as an innovative law pathway that had students earning two degrees in six years, has evolved into a high-impact pathway that supports student success and alumni engagement.

The partnership demonstrates exceptional student retention and strong academic outcomes. The demand for the program has continued to intensify, marking the partnership as the gold standard pathway for students wishing to study law in the UK. The success of the partnership reinforces its value to students and both institutions and has become evident in the outcomes of our alumni. In this report, you will have the opportunity to read about the professional impact that our impressive alumni have made, both in Canada and beyond!

How it all Began

In 2015, Wilfrid Laurier formally announced its vision for our new partnership with the University of Sussex, with Heidi Northwood, then Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts stating:

“It seemed to us that when a student decides they want to pursue law, the question they should have in their mind, even if they don’t, is what sort of value added can be brought to the law degree depending on where they decide to study. For students who want to add an international perspective to their studies, the program provides an option to gain that experience along with the opportunity to travel and be immersed in a different culture.”

With the partnership being the first of its kind, Daniel Jutra, then-president of the Council of Canadian Law Deans responded to the partnership announcement by observing that “since programs like this don’t currently exist, it’s difficult to determine what kind of success they’ll have and what the size of the program will be”.

The truth is, we weren’t sure either, but what started as an ambitious idea has become a thriving, life-changing pathway—one that has supported hundreds of students in building rewarding careers, strong international reputations, and greater cultural understanding.

We’re thrilled to be able to share the success of what was once unknown with you!



Laurier/Sussex Graduation Celebration, 2022

Key Milestones

2016

LAURIER WELCOMES FIRST STUDENTS INTO THE PROGRAM

Laurier welcomes the first cohort of students into its original four pathways:

- Political Science (Waterloo Campus)
- Criminology (Brantford Campus)
- Law and Society (Brantford Campus)
- Human Rights (Brantford Campus)

To date, over 330 Laurier students across both campuses have gone to Sussex to complete their LLB.

2016-2022

SUSSEX INVESTS IN CANADIAN LAW ABROAD

To meet demand, Sussex invests in hiring two Canadian full-time faculty members to develop and teach Canadian Law Modules.

Students can now gain Canadian legal knowledge at Sussex by taking:

- Canadian Administrative Law
- Foundations of Canadian Law
- Aboriginal Law
- Canadian Constitutional Law

2020-2024

A GROWING PARTNERSHIP SETS THE GOLDEN STANDARD

Due to increasing popularity, Philosophy and Science join the partnership in 2020, followed by English and History in 2023 and 2024.

Together Laurier and Sussex have continued to develop a comprehensive and student-centered approach through a complex academic journey, creating the gold standard for law pathways between Canada and the UK.

2022

OUR FIRST LAURIER-SUSSEX COHORT GRADUATES

The 2016 cohort of students becomes the first to graduate from both institutions in just six years, with both their Honours BA+LLB.

In June 2022, Laurier and Sussex jointly celebrated the success of our trailblazers with a memorable graduation celebration. Overall, 33 students crossed the stage, with 18 graduating from the Waterloo campus and 15 graduating from the Brantford campus.

2025

TEN-YEAR SIGNING ANNIVERSARY

Laurier and Sussex jointly mark the tenth year of partnership with a celebration for its alumni at the Cambridge Mill in Ontario.

Both institutions renew their dedication to the pathway through additional scholarship commitments.

2026

THE LAURIER LAW COUNCIL IS CREATED

With over 180 alumni as of June 2026, Laurier continues to develop its student support model by launching the Laurier Law Council.

The Council is comprised of Canadian and foreign-trained lawyers who provide mentorship to students in law pathways at Laurier, including those who wish to study law in Canada.

Student Outcomes & Academic Success

ATTRACTING HIGH-CALIBER STUDENTS

- The popularity and success of the pathway have inspired strong high school applicants to join Laurier, many of whom enter Laurier as scholarship recipients.
- Students in the pathway are an integral part of clubs, communities, and competitions at both institutions making their mark and demonstrating their leadership in areas like mooting, clinics, and law-based competitions and societies.

STUDENT RETENTION

- Together, Laurier and Sussex are dedicated to assisting students in making informed decisions about studying law abroad. If a student decides that this pathway is not the right fit, they are fully supported in transitioning into a new program of interest at Laurier.
- 98% of students who do choose to go to the University of Sussex as part of the partnership stay and complete their full LLB.

EXCELLING IN LAW SCHOOL

- While at Sussex, Laurier students continue to consistently excel compared to others in their cohort, in large part due to their advanced academic preparation at Laurier.
- Through strategic preparation, those who wish to become accredited in Canada are well prepared for the National Committee on Accreditation exams and receive full accreditation with the NCA upon completion of the six-year program.

SUCCESS BEYOND GRADUATION

- Our 180 alumni are working across the legal field and beyond, making their mark in rewarding and fulfilling careers.
- We are inspired by the mentorship, connection and commitment of the Laurier Law Council, and are eager to see how this resource will aid both students and alumni in navigating their young professional careers.

The success of our partnership with the University of Sussex can be attributed to the ongoing collaboration between staff, faculty and leadership at both institutions and the dedicated supports put in place to ensure the success of the graduates. Dedicated staff roles have meant that students' transitions between institutions and their career success are part of the curriculum and co-curriculum.

Heidi Northwood, Provost & VP: Academic, Wilfrid Laurier University

Student Experience & Support

Students who enter this dual degree pathway spend their first two years at Laurier working toward their undergraduate degree, before transitioning to Sussex to obtain their law degree in years three, four and five. Students then complete their sixth and final year at Laurier while preparing for NCA accreditation through five structured preparatory courses.

Intentional Academic Advising

- Progression updates and registration checks performed after each semester ensure that students can move through their program requirements with clarity and purpose.
- Students are encouraged to pursue The Sussex Start Strong certificate, designed to connect them with campus services to aid in the transition from high school to post-secondary studies.

Informed Decision-Making: Do I Stay, or Do I Go?

- We know that completing this pathway is a big decision. To help students make informed choices about studying abroad, we offer over 25 predeparture sessions for students in first and second year.
- Students who decide not to pursue the pathway are supported through academic advising in their exploration of other programs at Laurier.

Creating a Sense of Community

- We host monthly student socials at Laurier for students in their first, second, and sixth years to network and connect with their peers.
- Laurier and Sussex Faculty and Staff frequently visit each other to provide continued support for students at all year levels of the pathway.



Sussex Student Social, 2025

Alumni Outcomes

The table below highlights where our alumni currently are in their pursuit of further education, accreditation, or professional careers based on data collected in fall 2025.



Laurier /Sussex Graduates, 2023-2026

Year of Entry Into Program	Year of Convocation	Total Alumni	Lawyers	Legal Field	Articling	Law Practice Program	Writing NCA Exams	Further Ed In UK	Further Ed in Ont.	Other Careers	Unknown
2016	2022	33	27	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
2017	2023	37	21	2	5	2	0	3	0	0	4
2018	2024	24	5	2	9	1	2	0	0	0	5
2019	2025	46	0	0	17	1	5	5	6	2	10
		140	53	4	32	4	7	9	6	3	22

Making our Mark

Our alumni are working across Ontario in all areas of law.

Cities		Areas of Law	Other Careers
Barrie	Mississauga	Assistant Crown Attorneys in	Court Clerk, BC
Brampton	Oshawa	Kitchener, London, Ottawa	Aboriginal Legal Services
Brantford	Ottawa	Full-Service Firms	OPP Risk Management - Civil Litigation &
Burlington	Pickering	Business Law	Coroner's Inquest
Calgary	Simcoe	Commercial Law	Human Rights Advocacy Professional
Cambridge	St Catherines	Criminal Law	Entrepreneur
Hamilton	Sudbury	Disability Law	Community Fundraising, Poverty [UK]
Hillsdale	Toronto	Employment Law	Professional Athlete - LA Cycling Team
King City	Vaughn	Family Law	
Kitchener	Waterloo	Immigration Law	
London	Woodstock	Insurance Law	
		Personal Injury Law	
		Real Estate Law	
		Wills and Estates Law	

Looking Ahead: What's Next?

The Laurier/Sussex program was the best decision of my life! I made life-long friends and put myself in a fantastic position for my future.

Morgan Ritchie, Alumni 26'



LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL LAW PATHWAYS

We continue to be dedicated to providing a strong cross-institutional student experience throughout the pathway.

CONTINUING TO ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS RETURNING TO CANADA

We are very excited to see where our Laurier Law Council takes us next!

FOSTERING A STRONG ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Our yearly law receptions continue to build strong connections among our alumni and current student population.

GROWING THE LAURIER-SUSSEX PARTNERSHIP BEYOND THE LAW PATHWAY

Since 2025, Laurier and Sussex have jointly created five 4+1 BA+MA pathways.

The impact this pathway has had on the lives of those who have experienced it has been truly extraordinary. Having the privilege of supporting Laurier–Sussex pathway students and alumni has been the most rewarding part of my career.

To our incredible alumni: I am immensely proud of each and every one of you. Your dedication, perseverance and achievements have shaped the success of this partnership and inspired future generations of students. This milestone is yours as much as it is ours, and we would not be celebrating this success today without you.

Cassandra Schmiedendorf, Manager, Academic Pathways & Partnerships, Wilfrid Laurier University

Hear it From Us: Testimonials

My name is Trinity and I graduated from the Laurier/Sussex program in 2024. This unique opportunity allowed me to pursue my professional goal of attending law school, while simultaneously fulfilling my personal dream of travelling abroad. Living in Brighton and studying at Sussex expanded my horizons in ways I never anticipated. From the people I made connections with, to the places I was lucky enough to visit, and the invaluable skills I developed along the way; the experience was transformative. Moving abroad taught me to be adaptable, and reinforced the value of approaching life with an open mind - qualities that are now essential in my professional life. I was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2025, and I'm currently practicing as a Family Lawyer in the GTA. I have maintained several close friendships since leaving Brighton, with Canadians and Brits alike. I continue to cherish the time I spent at Sussex, as this chapter of my life certainly helped shape me into the lawyer - and person- I am today.

Trinity Thrower, alumni, 20'



The academic achievement of the students who have chosen to go to USussex for their legal education shows that the value added by international experience was a key factor in their decision to pursue this pathway. The perspective gained through study abroad makes better lawyers and legally trained graduates in a variety of professions.

Heidi Northwood, Provost & VP: Academic, Wilfrid Laurier University

My experience in the Laurier-Sussex program was instrumental in preparing me for a career in law. The program provided a comprehensive and well-rounded undergraduate and legal education, while also delivering on the commitments that attracted me to the program when I enrolled out of high school. Now practicing in corporate and real estate law, I recognize the value of the foundation the program provided and would make the same decision again without hesitation.

Andrew Tse, alumni 23'



Working with the Sussex-Laurier partnership has been such a fulfilling experience. Seeing the students take that initial leap of faith when the program first started, their achievements at both universities and their successes in the world is testament to them and the education they have received. The program has also been a testament and perfect case study of outstanding institutional collaboration. Both universities have welcomed each other with open arms, and this attitude of openness and honesty has enabled the partnership to thrive. It has also bred true friendships and has been an absolute joy to be a part of. I look forward to the next 10 years of success.

Kasia Symons, Regional Manager, University of Sussex

Choosing the Laurier-Sussex Partnership was one of the best decisions I made for both my education and my career. The opportunity to earn my law degree while living in the UK allowed me to see the world, travel, build lifelong relationships, and experience a different culture and legal system, all while receiving an outstanding legal education. The program also gave me a structured path back to Canada, preparing me for the licensing process and providing the foundation I needed to begin my career as a lawyer.

Matthew Cabral, alumni 23'



The Sussex-Laurier partnership offers students an exceptional opportunity to pursue their legal studies in England, the historical foundation of Canada's legal system. For me personally, it has also been a privilege to work with outstanding students, watch them thrive throughout the program, and see them go on to begin exciting careers in law. The program's success is built on the shared commitment and active engagement of faculty, administrators, coordinators and students alike.

Sabrina Gilani, Canadian lead, Sussex University

Choosing the Laurier/Sussex program was the best decision I have ever made. Our support from the Laurier staff was absolutely incredible! Living in Brighton for three years was an absolute dream. There is always something to do, and people to meet!

Brianna Wolf, alumni 26'

