

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PLACEMENT

LAWS 2225.03

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The **Environmental Law Placement** provides students with the opportunity to work with environmental law practitioners in Halifax during the Winter term. Students will take part in the work of their Host Organization assisting with research, and other tasks as requested, on a specific pre-selected project. Students will be required to spend nine hours a week on placement work. Placements can either be directly with the East Coast Environmental Law Association (ECEL), or, on request, with another suitable Host Organization, including government, non-governmental organizations, or in-house council in the private sector. Students will be evaluated based on performance in the placement including assessment of memoranda written for the Placement Supervisor as well as the major paper to be written on a related topic. Students will be assigned a project that is suitable as a major paper topic and are encouraged to write a major paper that is closely related to the placement project. While the overall evaluation of the placement will be conducted by the Faculty Supervisor; the Placement Supervisor will be consulted with respect to the student's performance in the placement as appropriate. This course fulfils the major paper requirement. Students will be selected by the Director of the Marine & Environmental Law Program (MELP) (in consultation with ECEL when the placement will be carried out with ECEL) based on academic standing, demonstrated interest in the field of environmental law and policy, and supervisor availability. Applicants who have already secured a placement with an external Host Organization will be required to submit a statement outlining the host's capacity to supervise the placement (contact MELP for additional information).

Supervision:

Faculty Supervisor: Director, MELP

Placement Supervisor(s): Executive Director / Staff Lawyer, ECEL, and/or Supervisor, Host Organization

Assessment Method: Major Paper 60%; Placement Feedback 40%

Enrollment: Limited to 3 students

Prerequisite:

Only students who will have taken Environmental Law I before the start of the placement will be considered for the placement.

Credit hours: 3

Weekly Hours:

Students will be required to spend **nine hours a week** on placement work for the duration of the semester. Semester dates (for classes) are outlined in the academic calendar.

Application Requirements:

Students must submit a written statement confirming their experience and/or interest in environmental law, and a copy of law school grades to date. Interested students should apply in writing to the Marine & Environmental Law Program at melp@dal.ca in the academic year prior to the year in which they wish to participate in the placement program. Applicants who have already secured a placement with an external Host Organization must also submit the below Host Organization and Supervisor Agreement outlining the host's capacity to supervise the placement.

Major Paper Writing Assignment:

Students are required to write a Major Paper worth 60% of the grade. For the 60% final paper/memo, the written work may be analogous to a major paper but with style and form that may be similar to the work product on a file, as in research background work, for example. For more information regarding overarching style and form expectations, see *Appendix A - Major Paper Guidelines*.

- **Due Date:** The writing assignment must be submitted one week after last scheduled day of classes indicated in the academic calendar.
- **Submission:** Email an electronic copy of the writing assignment to the Faculty Supervisor and Placement Supervisor by the due date.

Grade Distribution:

Letter grades are used for all purposes at the Law School; however, the numerical equivalent is used to determine the student's weighted average. The numerical equivalents to the letter grades are in attached document, see *Appendix B – Grading Information and Evaluation*.

Feedback from Placement Organization Supervisor:

- (1) 40% of the grade will be based on the Placement Supervisor's assessment of the student's work—written and otherwise—over the course of the placement. The Placement Supervisor will provide an overall report of the student's performance as well as a numerical (out of /100) grade and letter grade (please see *Appendix B* for further information) to the Faculty Supervisor.
- (2) 60% of the grade will be based on the student's final paper/memo. Both the Faculty Supervisor and Placement Supervisor will review and grade the final paper/memo. The Placement Supervisor will provide a numerical (out of /100) grade and letter grade recommendation to the Faculty Supervisor, who will account for this recommendation in calculating the grade for the final paper/memo.

Placement Organization(s) and Supervisor(s):

Three placements are offered during the Winter term with the East Coast Environmental Law Association, or, on request, with another suitable Host Organization, including government, non-governmental organizations, or in-house council in the private sector.

Marine & Environmental Law Program, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University:

Faculty Supervisor: Sara Ross
MELP Director
Email: sara.ross@dal.ca
Web: [Environmental Law Placement](#)

East Coast Environmental Law Association (ECEL): provides environmental law information, advice, and support to members of the public, community groups, and non-governmental organizations in Atlantic Canada; conducts legal research, analysis, and advocacy to support progressive law reform; and mentors new generations of law students and environmental lawyers in training.

Placement Supervisor: Lisa Mitchell
Executive Director
Email: lisa@ecelaw.ca
Web: www.ecelaw.ca

Other Host Organization: government or non-governmental organizations or in-house council in the private sector.

Host Organization: _____

Placement Supervisor: _____

Placement Supervisor's email: _____

Placement Supervisor's phone number: _____

Placement Student's name: _____

Standards of Conduct:

Students are required to maintain a significant presence at the Placement Organization (i.e., the bulk of required course hours should be spent at the placement location, subject to an alternative arrangement, which is taken to include the placement offices as well as off-site hearings, meetings, etc.). Students should also make all reasonable effort to be available to attend events (e.g., meetings, hearings) as requested by the Placement Supervisor.

Students are required to adhere to the following standards of conduct:

Professionalism:

When communicating with the Faculty Supervisor, Placement Supervisor or any other member of the Placement Organization, or any other person on matters related to the placement, students will act in a professional and respectful manner. Students shall perform all activities and communicate with the Faculty and Placement Supervisors in a timely and effective manner.

Competence:

Students will provide competent support to Placement Supervisors. Competence implies knowledge of general legal principles and relevant substantive law, and the exercise of professional (research, analysis, writing, and advocacy) skills in a manner appropriate to each activity undertaken. Students will seek to recognize and to communicate to Placement Supervisors the limitations of their competence respecting any activity requested or undertaken.

Conscientiousness, Diligence and Quality:

All memoranda, briefs, reports, reviews, and other documents prepared by students will reflect conscientious, diligent, and high-quality work.

Records and Confidentiality:

Students will keep a full record of all research, analysis and other activities undertaken in connection with their participation in the placement. Students will also keep informal notes of all interactions with Placement Supervisors. Students are required to maintain the confidentiality and protect against the unauthorized disclosure and use of information acquired in connection with their participation in the placement and which is not otherwise in the public domain. The obligation of confidentiality does not cease upon the conclusion of a student's placement. The obligation of confidentiality does not prejudice the capacity of students to communicate with each other and with the Faculty Supervisor.

Students are required to adhere to all standards of conduct as detailed in the policies of the Schulich School of Law and Dalhousie University.

The following Environmental Law Placement Host Organization and Supervisor Agreement is to be completed by the Host Organization Placement Supervisor:

1. Please provide a brief description of the project(s) and tasks the student will undertake.
2. Please briefly outline the Placement Supervisor and/or Host Organizations' expectations for the student (i.e., goals or targets to reach, responsibilities, deadlines, in-person presence, etc.).
3. Please briefly outline the anticipated outcomes for the student (i.e., skills learned, experiential learning opportunities, etc.).
4. Please provide a brief description of how the student will be supervised over the course of the placement (i.e., meetings per week, performance feedback, status reports, etc.).
5. Please briefly describe how the student will be integrated into the Host Organization (i.e., training, workspace, etc.).

Please indicate by signing and dating below that _____
(Host Organization)

and _____ are willing to undertake the supervision of
(Placement Supervisor name)

_____ and that you agree to the terms and
(Placement Student's name)

conditions of this Environmental Law Placement Host Organization and Supervisor Agreement and have read and understand *Appendix A - Grading Information and Evaluation* and *Appendix B – Major Paper Guidelines*.

Placement Supervisor's Signature

Date

The Placement Student is required to return this form to the MELP office either by email MELP@dal.ca or drop it off in person to the address below, prior to the start of the academic year.

Marine & Environmental Law Institute

Schulich School of Law
Dalhousie University
6061 University Avenue
Room 413
PO 15000
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

If you require any additional information or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the MELP office at: MELP@dal.ca or 902-494-1988.



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