

Statement of Interest: Applicants must provide a brief statement of interest of approximately 500 words indicating your reasons for wanting to pursue graduate work in this program.

I am interested in the University of Calgary's Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law to complement my training in environmental law and policy. A specialised LLM that addresses natural resource and energy interests alongside environmental concerns in an integrative manner is invaluable for my career. The LLM programme will arm me with tools required for achieving my career ambition of becoming a leading scholar and researcher in sustainable development (SD) policy and regulation. I am interested in not only finding ways law can ensure that states develop without harming the environment, but also how law can protect development interests. Hence, I need exposure to natural resources and energy regulation issues that influence environmental policy.

Having learned about the uncertainty, complexity, and socio-political ambiguity of environmental problems, stakeholders need to devise means for protecting the environment. However, I have learned that showing concerns for the environment without caring for development interests is a misleading approach to environmental governance. This fact manifested itself in the North/South polarization during the first earth summit, and forms a major factor causing the failures in SD implementation. I believe law should find better ways for creating a balance between development interests and environmental concerns to facilitate SD beyond its current failures.

I am prepared for the LLM programme and my proposed research academically. I graduated top of my Master of Laws (LLM) class, and top five of my Bachelor of Laws (LLB) class. During my LLB programme, I took relevant courses such as "Human Rights Law," "Energy Law" (Oil and Gas, Solid Mineral, and Nuclear Energy Law), "Maritime Law," and "Jurisprudence," and wrote a final long essay that introduced me to legal theory, titled "The Concept of Law in African Jurisprudence." During my LLM programme, I took Law of "Environment and Development," and wrote a dissertation titled "Legal and Institutional Framework for Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Nigeria through Renewable Energy: Possible Lessons from Brazil, China, and India."

I am currently enrolled in a Master of Environmental Policy at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, to be completed by July, 2015. The courses I currently take are "Foundations of Environmental Policy and Administration," "Natural Resource Policy and Administration," "Environmental Political Thought," and "Risk Governance and Analysis." They provide me with interdisciplinary insights into SD issues, and underscore my passion.

I have relevant peer-reviewed journal articles and other publications as shown in the appropriate section of this application. As my Resume shows, I have relevant on-going projects with scholars at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

As part of the preparation for a career in my area of proposed research, I have worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant, and currently work as an Instructor for Environmental Law at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. I believe law can remedy the problems of SD implementation. Bringing my environmental policy background into this University of Calgary's specialised LLM programme will help me explore the potentials law has in achieving this.