

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private	Private
Student/faculty ratio	16:1
% faculty part-time	16
% faculty female	46
% faculty minority	19
Total faculty	32

SURVEY SAYS...

Diverse opinions accepted in classrooms, Great research resources

STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	540
% male/female	50/50
% from out-of-state	77
% full-time	100
% minority	11
% international	1
# of countries represented	4
Average age of entering class	24

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	72
Profs interesting rating	89
Profs accessible rating	85
Hours of study per day	5.79

Academic Specialties

Commercial, Constitutional, Corporation Securities, Criminal, Environmental, Human Rights, International, Labor, Property, Intellectual Property, Marine Affairs, Public Interest Law

Advanced Degrees Offered

JD, 3 years full-time

Combined Degrees Offered

JD/MMA Masters Marine Affairs, 3.5 years; JD/MS Masters of Science in Labor Relations & Human Resources, 4 years; JD/MSCJ Masters of Criminal Justice, 3.5 years

Academics

Learning at Roger Williams University School of Law is not only academic, but also experiential. "Through initiatives like the Pro Bono Collaborative, which links law students with area practitioners to work on pro bono projects, the school is always working to integrate itself into the fabric of the RI legal community." The Office of Career Services sets up mock interviews with local attorneys to help students prepare for real interviews. They also regularly run "resume writing events, career fairs, and networking events." "The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service is an integral part of the school. Many students obtain excellent public interest internships and externships through this office." Students have "clerkships with judges," as well as "access to the federal system." The school makes certain that "we not only know the law, but we know how to apply it outside the academic realm." Roger Williams also offers an honors program, comprised of seminars, clinics, and international training for those who qualify. There are summer programs in London, England; Tianjin, China; and Buenos Aires, Argentina and "great human rights-based courses." Other strengths of RW are its public interest and pro bono programs, as well as a full maritime program. There are also criminal defense, immigration, and mediation clinics, which help students by providing "valuable, practical experience."

At RW, most students agree there are "more than a few shining stars" within the faculty, offering "great insight and wisdom." One student says the professors "really have made a difference in my life." This probably arises from the fact that most professors have either practiced law seriously before holding their current positions or are simultaneously working within the Rhode Island legal system. "I have had the excellent opportunity to take classes with five judges in all different levels of the judiciary." Professors have "great practical stories to add to class" and feel they "are also here to mentor." Students who mentioned the dean spoke highly of him, one suggesting he "knows every student personally." Not only are the dean and professors accessible, but so is the entirety of the Rhode Island legal system. The school has "excellent connections with the local bar," and one student boasts, "I've already met both senators, the first circuit court of appeals judges, one congressman, and a RI Supreme Court judge in a semester and a half." Another rhetorically asks, "How many law schools have a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hear arguments in your mock court room." The connections between students, faculty, and the real-world of law are many and fortuitous. This may be because Roger Williams is the only law school in the small state of Rhode Island. Those students who wish to practice there after graduation are pleased with these connections, one claiming there's "a plethora of academic, clinical, and law firm opportunities." Some who wish to live and work elsewhere after their time at RW feel differently. Alternately, one student mentions that there's a "wide network of contacts and alumni working all across the nation."

As for the school itself, "Classrooms are always being updated," and "The school feels comfortable, but professional." There are some administrative "hiccups" and scheduling concerns, but overall, the students seem pleased. Students did express concern for the school's ranking; however, one suggested RW was "quietly becoming a great institution."

Life

"While there is a healthy competition among the students, there is also great encouragement and camaraderie." One student described life outside the classroom as "extremely social," while another suggests that same social world has a "huge range." A third says life at Roger Williams is "a perfect balance of work and social activities." "Our fifteen-plus clubs are extremely active and supported by funds and time from the Student Bar Association." Bristol is "serene and beautiful" but can at times feel "remote." "The location is lovely; however, winters can be pretty brisk." What do you expect when your campus sits "directly on the water," "literally ocean front property"? RW is "a walk down the road from a historically zoned Main Street that has nice shops, excellent restaurants, and great views." One student describes Bristol as "gorgeous and wonderful, if not a little quaint and boring." Yet another says its "size is just right." One definite perk is free public transportation for students, and almost everyone can agree, "It's nice to be so close to Providence and Boston."

Getting In

The acceptance rate at Roger Williams is fairly high. The admissions committee considers LSAT scores, undergraduate GPAs, personal essays, and letters of recommendation all very important. Still valued, but not as much, are extracurricular activities and work experience. Admitted students in the 25th percentile have GPAs close to 3.0, and LSAT scores less than 150. Admitted students in the 75th percentile have GPAs of almost 3.5 and LSAT scores in the mid 150s.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Rating	80	Grads Employed by Field (%)
Rate of placement (nine months out)	83	Academic (2)
Average starting salary	\$51,000	Business/industry (15)
State for bar exam	MA, RI, NY, CT, NJ	Government (8)
Pass rate for first-time bar	87	Judicial clerkship (16)
Employers Who Frequently Hire Grads		Military (2)
New England judges (state and local) and small New England firms		Private practice (49)
Prominent Alumni		Public interest (9)
Eugene Bernardo, Partner, Partridge Snow Hahn, LLP; Peter Kilmartin, Attorney General, Providence, RI; Lucy Holmes Plovnick, Partner, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp, LLP; Betty Ann Waters, subject of the movie <i>Conviction</i> ; William Flanagan, Mayor, Fall River, MA		

Clinical program required	No
Legal writing course requirement	Yes
Legal methods course requirement	Yes
Legal research course requirement	Yes
Moot court requirement	No
Public interest law requirement	Yes

ADMISSIONS

Selectivity Rating	68
# applications received	1,501
% applicants accepted	63
% acceptees attending	21
Average LSAT	152
LSAT Range	149-154
Average undergrad GPA	3.21
Application fee	\$60
Regular application	Rolling, up to 3/15
Regular notification	Rolling
Early application program	No
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	No
Part-time accepted	No
CAS accepted	Yes

International Students

TOEFL required of international students

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$37,350
Books and supplies	\$1,820
Fees	\$660
Room and board	\$10,342
Financial aid application deadline	2/15
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	95
% receiving some sort of aid	98
% of aid that is merit based	18
% receiving scholarships	50
Average grant	\$17,854
Average loan	\$47,150
Average total aid package	\$60,582
Average debt	\$123,338