

**December 1, 2021**

**POLICY ON DIRECTED APPLIED RESEARCH COURSE AND  
EXTERNSHIP IN LEGAL KNOWLEDGE ENGINEERING**

Second- and third-year students at the Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University (TRU Law) who have taken Designing Legal Expert Systems (DLES) are eligible to pursue independent research and training in legal knowledge engineering through the Directed Applied Research Course in Legal Knowledge Engineering.

This course requires a serious commitment to producing professional-quality work to meet or exceed expectations in accordance with planned deadlines. **Students should not consider applying unless they are prepared to take on and fulfil this commitment.**

Students accepted for this course will develop legal expert systems using Neota Logic. They will be supervised by Professor Katie Sykes.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure adequate time to discuss and finalize their proposal with Professor Sykes, and to obtain Professor Sykes' agreement to supervise and a statement of support before the deadline for submission of the proposal to the office of the Associate Dean.

Proposals must be submitted two weeks following the final day of classes of the preceding semester (preceding the semester for which the work is proposed). For work in Winter 2022, proposals should be submitted to [lawassocdean@tru.ca](mailto:lawassocdean@tru.ca) on December 17, 2021. Proposals must be submitted by 4:00 pm on that day.

An application must include:

1. A Statement of Interest (maximum 750 words) setting forth the student's reasons for applying for this opportunity and the project that the student proposes to work on.
2. An up-to-date resume.
3. The student's transcripts for all law courses.

Students will be selected by Professor Sykes with approval of the Associate Dean.

Students enrolled in this course will meet regularly (approximately every two weeks) with the Professor Sykes to report on their progress and learning.

Evaluation is based on the following components:

- **10% Reflection Papers.** Two papers of 800-1,000 words each, worth 5% each, for a total of 10% of the final grade. The first paper to be submitted at the beginning of the course, expressing the students' reflections on what they anticipate from the course. The second paper to be submitted at the end of the course, reflecting on the

experience, how it compared to their expectations, what the greatest challenges were and how they overcame them.

- **20% Project Plan.** Students prepare and maintain a project plan setting out the steps in their workflow, with explanations for each step, milestones and deliverables, and target completion dates. Students update the project plan at regular intervals through the duration of the course. Students and the supervising professor use the project plan to track progress. The grade is determined in part based on success in completing deliverables in accordance with the plan.
- **70% Knowledge Engineering Project.** The quality of the students' applied research and knowledge engineering work will be evaluated based on key performance indicators and the quality of the final work product. The expectation is that the work produced will be of high enough quality to be used by the intended users (whether members of the public or legal service providers).

All coursework must be completed by the end of the semester (i.e., no later than the last day of exams), absent extraordinary circumstances sufficient to justify an extension.

The course is worth three credits.