



## King's and Dalhousie relaunch joint journalism-law degree program to help prepare graduates for a rapidly changing information landscape

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[King's School of Journalism, Writing & Publishing](#) and [the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie](#) are relaunching an integrated four-year program that will allow students to pursue advanced education in both journalism and law, preparing graduates to work at the intersection of media and public policy. The [Master of Journalism \(MJ\)](#) and [Juris Doctor \(JD\)](#) combined degree program links legal training with investigative reporting, offering students a distinctive academic pathway that bridges two professions critical to democracy.

Although joint journalism–law programs exist elsewhere, this program is unique in Canada in that it offers students the chance to pursue a law degree and a graduate degree in journalism simultaneously, says [Lisa Taylor](#), an Associate Professor of Journalism in King's School of Journalism, Writing & Publishing and Executive Committee Member of the King's Board of Governors. A Schulich Law alum, Taylor has been instrumental in the re-creation of this program, along with her counterpart at Dalhousie, [Jodi Lazare](#), Schulich Law Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Academic.

The JD/MJ program was first approved in 2016 but did not get off the ground at the time. We are excited to relaunch the program, following its re-approval last fall. The timing couldn't be better, says Taylor, citing the rise of misinformation and disinformation online and the weakening of journalism as a public institution. "Now more than ever, we need journalism that interrogates claims and offers informed analysis. This important work can be enhanced by a thorough understanding of the law."

### **Building on shared values and collaboration**

The connection between the two disciplines of journalism and law is inherent, as students in both fields tend to share such values as public service. King's School of Journalism, Writing & Publishing has a long-standing investigative public service mandate, while the Schulich School of Law is rooted in the Weldon Tradition, which emphasizes lawyers' responsibility to serve the community and the public good. "The Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service is central to what we do at the Schulich School of Law," says Lazare. "Combining law and journalism means graduates will be equipped with the best tools to contribute to their communities in the pursuit of both information and democracy."

"There's an awful lot of mutual interest at a time when supporting a free and democratic press is really important," says Taylor. A grounding in law can strengthen investigative reporting, which, "when done well, is done with an eye to checking every last piece of the evidentiary chain." She notes that almost every consequential journalism story intersects with law in some way.

Journalism training can also benefit law students by strengthening their ability to communicate with broader audiences. “The kinds of skills learned in the journalism program, combined with a legal education, will result in lawyers and legal professionals with the kind of unparalleled communication skills needed to impact public policy. In the era of 24-hour information, media literacy for lawyers is invaluable,” adds Lazare.

Beyond the formal degree, the renewed partnership may open the door to broader collaboration between the two schools, including exercises in which journalism students cover mock trials conducted by law students, as well as cross-listed electives examining media, courts and public policy.

The restoration of this program was championed by the [Dal–King’s Relationship Task Force](#), established in 2024 by [King’s President William Lahey](#) and [Dalhousie President Kim Brooks](#), both of whom are professors of law. The task force seeks to deepen the century-long relationship between King’s and Dalhousie by exploring opportunities for more streamlined transitions between existing programs and new interdisciplinary pathways, as well as shared advising and coordinated student supports and spaces that reflect how interconnected these communities already are.

### **Enrolment: 2027/28 academic year**

The JD/MJ program is officially set to begin in fall 2027, though some journalism students may be able to begin earlier. The proposed structure starts with a year of journalism coursework, followed by a full year of JD studies. Students then spend the third and fourth years completing a blend of law and journalism courses. Visit the King’s website for [information about the admission and application process](#) for this program.

### **About the University of King’s College**

Established in 1789, King’s College is Canada's oldest chartered university and is associated with Dalhousie University. A small and extraordinarily lively academic community located in Halifax (Kjipuktuk), Nova Scotia, King’s is known nationally and internationally for its highly acclaimed interdisciplinary programs in the humanities, Foundation Year Program, professional programs in journalism and fine arts programs in creative writing. [ukings.ca](http://ukings.ca)

### **About Dalhousie University**

Dalhousie University is Atlantic Canada’s leading research-intensive university, a key driver of the region’s intellectual, social and economic development for over 200 years. Located in the heart of Halifax—in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq—with an Agricultural Campus in Truro/Bible Hill, Dalhousie is a truly national and international university, with more than half of our 20,000 students coming from outside of the province. Our 6,000 faculty and staff foster a diverse, purpose-driven community, one that spans 13 faculties and conducts more than \$194 million in sponsored research annually. [dal.ca](http://dal.ca)

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