

LSC #1

Luys Skype-Conference



LUYS Meets with Sarine Der Kaloustian

Harvard Law School Graduate Program's
Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

Biography

SARINE DER KALOUSTIAN

Sarine Der Kaloustian obtained her LL.B. and LL.M. degrees at the Faculty of Law of the University of Montreal and is a member of the Quebec Bar.



Prior to joining the Graduate Program, Sarine served as Program Director for the Global Public Service Law Project at NYU Law School where she was in charge of managing the LL.M. program in Public Service Law.

In that capacity, she also coordinated two international summer courses on public service lawyering held respectively in Beirut, Lebanon and Budapest, Hungary.

Sarine maintains a special interest in human rights and humanitarian law.

She spent four years in the Middle East working for local NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Beirut, Lebanon. In addition to English, Sarine is fluent in French, Armenian, and Arabic.

For more information please visit:

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For more information about the criteria to be eligible for a Master of Laws Program please read:

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/prospective/gradprogram/llm/index.html>

Stds: Are we allowed to work while being a student at Harvard University?

SDK: Yes, up to 20 hours a week, although we recommend not working more than 10 hours since your workload is very heavy. You may also work full time during summers.

After a general introduction to the program and the application criteria, Sarine Der Kaloustian stressed the importance of the following information that are grouped in 3 categories:

1. [The Student letter of purpose and a law essay](#)
2. [Letters of recommendation](#)
3. [The applicants professional Experience](#)

1. In the letter of purpose, it is advised to explain why the applicant will benefit from a Harvard Education. What is in the program that is of particular interest to the student?

Please do study the website and research information regarding each of the faculty members. Who are they, what do they teach, what have they published. Read their articles. If one of the faculty members is heading a research that interests you, tell us why? How does it related to what you wish to do? Bare in mind that you may start doing research in one particular field and wish to change later, for example you may start studying Corporate Law and in the course of your study become more interested in Human Rights. That is something expected. The goal of the university is to expand your horizon and offer a rich range of possibilities that may be you had not considered when you started your program.

So please write your letters and have friends and family give you feedback. It takes many months of writing and rewriting your letters until you think that they are conveying the right message.

It is important to note that Harvard University does wish for its graduates to return to their country and apply what they have learnt to their local culture and needs. It is a very important factor that enables Harvard University to be a global school and have a very wide spread network of experts builds a rich network for the benefit of all.

2. Your letters of recommendation. It is more important to obtain letters from People who know you well and can speak in details about you than from people who are very well known. The committee wants to know who you are and will try to guess it through these letters. Please ask people who will write the recommendations to speak about the kind of research you have done for a professor or a volunteer work you have done for a given organization etc...

3. Think of the kind of work you would like to volunteer to do, or the kind of work you would do during your summer vacation that would provide a rich learning experience It takes a long time to prepare your application, at least a year. Plan for your professional experience. Do not be shy about making your plans clear, talk to your professors they will help.



Stds: Can you tell us more about the Financial Aid application to Harvard University?

SDK: It is important to look at your application as a student separate from your application for financial aid. Please keep in mind that your needing financial aid has no bearing in the selection of students. Harvard University is interested most of all in accepting the best students. So do not think that not applying for financial aid will increase your eligibility. It is simply wrong. The university will study your application and make you a proposal for scholarship, possible loans etc.

Conclusion

Sarine Der Kaloustian asked us to remember the 3 “P” for the 3 virtues that will help you succeed:

Passion

– Tell us what is important to you and why. What kind of things you want to change what kind of difference you want to make in your community, country, the world. Be genuine!

Patience

- Plan things ahead of time and prepare well. An admission officer always knows when reading a file if the student has done his/her homework and is prepared or not.

Perseverance

- If it does not work now, try again and again; you may apply multiple times if you know what you want.

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Please send comments to Anahit Evoyan, Media Liaison anahit@luys.am

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