

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Applications to Laurier increase by 9.4 percent over previous year *Significant increases in applications to Laurier Brantford, economics and honours programs*

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WATERLOO –Wilfrid Laurier University is again experiencing one of the largest increases among area universities in the number of applications from Ontario secondary school students for fall 2001 admission. According to statistics released today by the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC), applications to Laurier have increased by 9.4 percent overall and applications to Laurier Brantford have almost doubled.

Preliminary OUAC figures show that, as of February 7, the number of applications to Laurier increased to 10,289, compared to 9,404 as of February 2, 2000. This represents the greatest increase in applications among area universities, the sixth-highest increase in the province and exceeds the average provincial increase of 6.4 percent. While there was an overall increase in the number of applicants in Ontario, Laurier attributes its continued success in attracting students to its high admissions standards and the quality of its graduates.

“It’s no secret that Laurier students are among the best and brightest – not only in Ontario but across Canada – and that they have great success in finding work after graduation,” says president and vice-chancellor Bob Rosehart. “We’re particularly proud of the growing interest in Laurier Brantford and in our recently separated faculties of arts and science.”

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Nearly all of Laurier’s faculties and schools saw a substantial increase in applications. Applications to arts programs increased by 9.3 percent, from 4,181 to 4,573. Science applications increased from 1,691 to 1,816, or 7.4 percent. In both the arts and sciences, the greatest increases came at the four-year, honours level with arts applications up by 31.7 percent and science applications up by 30.1 percent. Applications to music programs remained almost unchanged, from 324 in the year 2000 to 313 this year.

The Laurier School of Business and Economics saw an overall increase of 11 percent, from 3,179 to 3,528, largely due to a 79.5 percent increase in applications to economics. Also contributing significantly to the School’s overall numbers are joint business and science programs; applications to the double degree program in business and computing increased by 29.3 percent.

Laurier Brantford saw a dramatic 75.9 percent increase in applications, which rose from 29 in the year 2000 to 51 this year. Heading into its third year, Laurier Brantford anticipates a first-year class of 100 in September 2001.

“There’s no question that Laurier Brantford is settling into its reputation as a small, friendly and dynamic campus in the heart of the city,” says Laurier Brantford dean Leo Groarke. “With the addition of a full, four-year honours program in contemporary studies and a residence, I have no doubt that this campus will become the place to be in the coming years.”

Overall, Laurier anticipates a similar first-year enrolment of roughly 2,200 students for September 2001. With the added demand and growing competition for spots at the university, Laurier is well positioned to maintain or increase the academic quality of its student body.

Statistics for Ontario secondary school students applying for admission to Ontario universities can be found at www.ouac.on.ca/news/uapp/feb01/summary.html.