



Melissa Owens

Melissa Owens is a 2021 graduate of Queen Mary University of London, where she studied Politics and International Relations and spent a year studying in Germany. During her time at QM, Melissa focused her research on the intersection of law and politics, culminating in writing her dissertation titled *Growing Power Through Law: the use of a 'Radical Legal Praxis' approach by agrarian communities to increase their political power through climate litigation*, which has been nominated for the Undergraduate Dissertation Prize for QM's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Her decision to focus this paper on agrarian communities specifically comes from a childhood spent on a sustainable family farm in Pennsylvania, USA, which helped shape a worldview that focuses on the impacts of large-scale issues on the individual lives, and power, of those most vulnerable. In the context of climate change, this is often those closely connected to the land, such as farmers.

Melissa is planning to start the GDL in August of 2022 in preparation for undertaking a training contract beginning in August, 2024 with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, through which she hopes to eventually focus on environmental and renewable energy law.