

2022

# Education Guide

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that the University of Sydney is built upon, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge that this was and always will be Aboriginal Land and are proud to be on the lands of one of the oldest surviving cultures in existence. We respect the knowledge that traditional elders and Aboriginal people hold and pass on from generation to generation, and acknowledge the continuous fight for constitutional reform and treaty recognition to this day. We regret that white supremacy has been used to justify Indigenous dispossession, colonial rule and violence in the past, and in particular, a legal and political system that still to this date doesn't provide Aboriginal people with justice.**

Many thanks to everyone who made the production and publication of the 2022 Sydney University Law Society Education Guide possible. In particular, we would like to thank Associate Professor Nicole Graham (Associate Dean of Education), the Sydney Law School and the University of Sydney Union for their continued support of SULS and its publications.

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# FOREWORD

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Following another year of disruption and uncertainty, the 2022 Education Guide was created with a vision to connect and engage all law students with their studies, opportunities and support available at Sydney Law School. The past two years have undoubtedly been difficult for most, with the transition between in-person and online teaching making it particularly difficult to remain integrated within the law school community. As we return back to campus this year, we hope that this guide serves as an accessible resource in helping you to navigate your studies at law school and provide you a taste of the unique academic and professional opportunities offered.

In continuing to leverage one of the greatest assets of the SULLS Education Guide, we sought to incorporate a greater collection of student testimonials this year, particularly across the Core Units and Law Electives section of the guide. We would like to thank our contributors for taking the time to share their valuable insights and advice through their testimonials and we hope that you will find them useful.

Both Editors-in-Chief really believe in the importance of helping the next group of students to find their feet in law school. We've really tried to restructure the guide to highlight the things that are going to be most useful for students and provide them with a one-stop resource for information they won't find in the handbook. For example, we asked every elective coordinator to provide us with useful information about their elective which we have condensed into a little blurb for each subject. We hope that this will help with elective choices. We've also added more useful information about opportunities available at law school so that you can start thinking about all the things you can get involved in early. We hope that you take advantage of our knowledge and research and make the absolute best out of your time at law school.

We also wanted to make sure that the guide was (relatively) concise. We didn't want to make you have to cut through pages of 'management speak' to get to the good stuff so we've condensed the guide as much as we can to ensure that you can find what you're looking for as easily as possible. We believe the Education Guide should be a practical guide that genuinely helps students, providing them with knowledge that is not easily accessible in a well-presented and easy-to-read format. Especially given the challenges of the last few years, we hope you find that the guide answers any questions you might have.

For the creation of the 2022 SULLS Education Guide to have been possible, we would like to thank our wonderful editorial team, consisting of Jonathan Wong, Andy Park, Mahmoud Al Rifai, Rachel Ryu and Sarah Oh. Their hard work, attention to detail and persistence have enabled this Guide to come seamlessly together.

Thank you also to the amazing design team, headed by SULLS Design Director Justine Hu, and consisting of Amy Tan and Kevin Xie. The Education Guide has truly come to life as a result of your talents and efforts.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Sydney Law School Faculty for their continual support in reviewing the Guide.

Whether you are focused on studying more effectively this year by applying new techniques, interested in hearing high-achieving students' perspectives on law units or curious to explore opportunities to enrich your legal education, we hope that the 2022 SULLS Education Guide will be a valuable tool through that process.



**Irene Ma**  
Vice-President  
(Education)



**Charis Chiu**  
Editor in Chief



**Kiran Gupta**  
Editor in Chief

# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

As students at Sydney Law School, we are bestowed with an immense privilege through our education. An education we share with so many inspirational figures of days past. An education that can take us almost anywhere. An education that, given its fantastic potential, does not always come easily.

With so many law students making the most of their university days, being involved in not only their studies but also work, co-curriculars, and maintaining a healthy social life, sometimes the demands of our course can seem unrelenting. No matter where you have come to our Law School from, the purposefully challenging and rigorous nature of the curriculum before you will require careful navigation.

The SULLS Education Guide is an indispensable resource that will, as the name might suggest, guide you through these challenges. Thankfully, seeing that you are reading this, you have already taken the important first step of finding the guide! In the pages to come are the fruits of many years' experience, successes, collaboration, and, perhaps most of all, failures that have provided lessons indispensable to the Sydney Law School journey. Tips and Tricks from students who have achieved highly in their studies, advice for the units of study you will take, and ways of generally staying organised and acing your assessments are all at your fingertips. Beyond the traditional curriculum, there are also helpful pieces of advice from the Dean, and information on important ways to supplement your degree.

This guide also contains information on avenues of support that are available to you during your time here. Be it the support of SULLS, services provided by the University, or external organisations that are here to help, it is imperative that you know the sources that are here to help with your mental health.

Last, but certainly not least, it is important to remember that above all, you are not alone. Sydney Law School is not only an educational establishment, but a vibrant and supportive community. It is a journey you take not against those around you, but with them, and I hope that you take the time to really appreciate the experiences you share with your peers.

I wish you all the best this academic year, and as always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us here at SULLS!



Handwritten signature of Ben Hines in black ink.

**Ben Hines**

*President, Sydney University Law Society*

# THE DEAN'S WELCOME: NOT ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

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As the Dean and Head of Sydney Law School, it is my privilege to welcome you to the beginning of another academic year. Sydney Law School is located in the beautiful country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. As a mark of respect to our local Aboriginal community and acknowledgement of the peoples and country upon which we meet, elders past, present and emerging, I offer this greeting in the Gadigal language:

**Ngyini ngalawangun, mari budjari Gadinurada  
We meet together on the very beautiful Gadi Country.**

Penned by Professor Jakelin Troy, a leading scholar of Indigenous languages at this University, you will encounter this greeting around campus (for example, see it in the foyer of the Chau Chak Wing Museum), and its use here is an important part of our commitment at the University and School level to promote more use of Gadigal language.



*Our New Indigenous Garden, located in the heart of the Law School, installed in 2021, will be officially named with ceremony scheduled for Semester 1 2022.*

With 2021 Graduation at the end of Semester 2, we were offered the tantalising prospect that academic life for students and staff alike would return to normal face-to-face operations in 2022. But alas, there is always a new clutch of COVID challenges that emerge each year, and in our case, another variant. I expect that some of you (indeed many of you) may have been laid low by the Omicron COVID variant over the break. This variant is more transmissible than Delta, with many University students keen to relax after a stressful year, being at greater risk of unknowingly catching and spreading the virus while asymptomatic. I hope that the Omicron outbreak did not derail your plans for summer break and spending some precious time with family and friends to recharge and reboot.

It is important that we remain vigilant about the virus, and getting booster shots when you are eligible is a critical step for keeping yourself, your family and our community safe. I was 'boosted' in early December and am now triple-vaxxed. Although being boosted did carry some unpleasant side-effects for two days, experiencing mild flu-like symptoms, I am reassured my short-term discomfort offers longer term gain – it is certainly much better than catching the virus and being wiped out for weeks.

This is, again, not the way I had expected, as Dean, to welcome Sydney Law Students to another academic year coping with the pandemic. For current students, this is an all too familiar welcome back to uni. For commencing

students, our new crop of #inspiringlegalminds of Sydney Law School, you have become accustomed to studying online through the lockdown last year. But this is not the norm – and be assured that the University is committed to reinstating our ‘on campus’ learning experience. University is so much more than a place of knowledge transmission – it is, above all, a place of connection - where scholars (at different stages) come together to share learning, test the boundaries of current knowledge, and to live a rich ‘campus life’ which is intellectually and socially rewarding.

We will continue to work towards that vision this coming semester. At the time of writing (late-January), we have not resolved what impact Omicron will have precisely on our operations in Semester 1, and the range of new restrictions and adaptations that will be needed. The University is, however, planning for a range of contingencies. I am gladdened by the statements of our new Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Mark Scott AO, who though only six months in his role, is strongly committed to an enhanced student ‘on campus’ experience. That said, restoring face-to-face operations safely will be a balancing act.

Students have been adversely impacted by the pandemic over the past two years. Some of our students and new staff members, who have joined the School in the past two years, are yet to experience any face-to-face ‘on campus’ learning. I am especially mindful of the plight of our international students who have been locked out of Australia. I hope the trickle of international students that have made it to Sydney in December and January now will turn into a steady stream by the Summer’s end, and that Omicron’s peak passes quickly. Whatever the challenge, and however we deliver it, I expect our Welcome Program will offer the warmest of welcomes to our students, and as always, our close partnership with SULS, will strive to ensure that we provide the support and educational experience you need and deserve.

## Three Top Tips and Cautionary Tales

It is customary in the ‘Dean’s Welcome’ to offer sage guidance and timely reassurance to the students embarking upon or recommencing their law studies. My advice this year is three-pronged:

- Don’t take shortcuts – integrity matters.
- Support Each Other – be engaged.
- Reach Out for Help – don’t isolate yourself.

I will address each of my aphorisms in turn. These three may seem trite but, in my view, failure to embed such top tips into your mind – whether you are facing your first or final semester – could be a recipe for disaster and even failure.

### **Don’t take shortcuts – *integrity matters***

There is a natural temptation, especially in the early years, to find that ‘golden key’ to success in law studies. Top-notch notes passed down from prior cohorts (shared, borrowed or purchased) offer a comforting synopsis of the subject reduced to manageable digestible chunks. In some cases, desperation leads to academic misconduct and educational integrity that can derail your professional aspirations. I know that these stresses, compounded by COVID, lead to shortcuts and that worse still, there are now predatory ‘contract cheating’ businesses that seek to target vulnerable students under the guise of offering a ‘helping hand’. Many jurisdictions have recently moved to criminalise such ‘services’, including in Australia and the UK. Don’t become a party to these exploitative and unlawful arrangements. The professional consequences are dire – cheating rarely ends in a positive outcome, and what is more, there is so much more satisfaction to knowing that you haven’t compromised your degree, and that you did it through your own hard work. You can learn more about contract cheaters and how to report such service providers at the federal regulatory agency website [here](#).

But is simply using someone else’s notes that bad? The answer is that it can be – remember that such notes necessarily are the product of someone else’s learning.

Of course, it may be helpful to read good summaries of the law and there is much skill in being able to reduce complex bodies of knowledge to a succinct set of rules. But legal propositions do not exist in a vacuum – in the wider context of these rules and principles it is always important to understand how they apply in the exam to the facts of the problem or in addressing the problem that a client may present to you.

The volume of reading in a law degree can feel overwhelming compared with other subjects; I recognise that this can be a challenge early in your studies, aggravated where English is not your first language or where your prior studies have favoured science/maths subjects. The solution to the challenge is not to outsource to the hire mind, but rather to invest time into learning to how to learn, particularly how to navigate judgements and secondary sources (textbooks and articles) efficiently. Don’t shortcut learning this foundational skill of ‘reading for relevance’ and learning how to digest, reduce and reproduce legal complexity into an accessible form comprehensible to the reader – whether that be your examiner, client or judge. This is an essential skill upon which all good lawyering is founded – it is also an important generic skill, about which a recent law graduate, now working for an international consulting firm, related to

me at last year's graduation ceremony: the graduate was effusive of the value of these forensic skills, learned over his years at Law School, that set him apart from graduate peers that had not yet developed these skills.

Proficiency does not necessarily come quickly to everyone. I remember my own painful first year at Bristol Law School in the mid-1980s. I spent hours, if not days, ploughing through readings in which everything I read seemed important and 'noteworthy'. What I learned from my first year was that I need to 'learn how to learn' – for me, I learned that I could better master the law if I first read the textbook chapter on the assigned topic for the week (which provided me with that wider framework and context) and then read the cases and legislation. People learn differently – some people are more visual learners, and for me, setting out the rules and exceptions in diagrams proved to be really helpful. Indeed, my own textbooks in criminal law developed a range of visual props to help explain complex bodies of legal knowledge. Be patient, as this does take time.

### **Support Each Other – *be engaged***

The second tip is that you must be engaged, both inside and outside the classroom. If you don't understand the topic, try to overcome your fear and **ask questions**. If this seems too daunting, then buddy up with a classmate. It is actually a good way to 'break the ice' to ask someone to explain the point. It will be a two-way street inevitably and I am sure that you can return the favour in due course. There are many ways to help each other thrive in Law School – being active in tutorials and seminars (and not just when you are 'on call'), forming your own study groups, and attending the many self-help sessions that SULLS and the School offer to students. Recognise that your peers and collegiality are a source of strength and comfort.

### **Reach Out for Help – *don't isolate yourself***

And this leads to the final tip - don't suffer in silence. There is considerable evidence of that student mental health has been adversely affected. The School is committed, as indeed is the profession more widely, to offering support. As a former Sub Dean myself, I have seen outstanding students experience periods of disabling mental stress and who, with help and time, have put themselves on the right track and are now leaders of the profession – and have become advocates of the profession for greater support for the mental wellbeing of lawyers (and it all starts at law school!). It is important that we put measures in place, offering Mental Health First Aid Training to key staff and student representatives, so that programs and services will be developed to support our mental wellbeing, collectively as well as individually. I look forward to working closely with SULLS on this important issue, at a time of uncertainty and disruption caused by the pandemic.

On the happiest of final notes, I wish everyone best wishes for 2022 and a rewarding academic year ahead.



**Simon Bronitt**  
*Dean and Head of School,  
Professor.  
#inspiringlegalminds*



# STUDYING AT LAW

Keeping on top of your readings, completing assignments and preparing for exams can all seem incredibly daunting, especially for first year students. This section provides some guidance and advice on how to study law, and even enjoy yourself while you're at it! Keep in mind that while your studies are important, law school is not the be all and end all – looking after yourself physically and mentally should always be the priority, and there is plenty of support available to help you along the way.

## Preparing for and attending classes

### Remote Learning in 2022

From Semester 1 of 2022, students are expected to enrol on-campus unless they are located overseas. Students overseas will be able to take classes in remote mode for Semester 1. In-person and online modes of delivery will mostly be separate, but some classes may be offered in 'hyflex' mode with online components. This also means that some units may have online exams and assessments. It is likely that all students will be required to return to campus for Semester 2 of 2022, but this will be confirmed in official communications.

Keep watch of the University's responses to changing circumstances on the following page:  
<https://www.sydney.edu.au/covid-19/students/study-information.html>

### Lectures and Seminars

Lectures involve a lecturer delivering information orally, often with the aid of slides, to a large group of students. Seminars are usually smaller in size and may involve some small group discussion and problem-based learning. Students who are well prepared for lectures and seminars are best equipped to grasp concepts, stay focused and remain on top of content. In preparation for these classes, you could choose to do the set readings in advance or after the session.

#### Option 1: Do the readings in advance

- When you are reading in advance:
- Complete the set readings before class and add important points made by the lecturer to your notes.
- Consider using a different colour or altering your formatting so that you know which parts of your notes you need to revisit and tidy.
- Reading the unit outline and lecture slides before classes can help structure your notes and familiarise yourself with the key concepts for the week.

Doing readings in advance means that you can:

- Learn the concepts at your own pace, rather than trying to keep up with the lecturer.
- Better distinguish between essential knowledge and background information

#### Option 2: Do readings after the session

When you are doing your readings after:

- After the lecture or seminar, build upon what was just covered by adding notes from the set readings

Doing readings after means that you can:

- Recognise what is key information and what is more peripheral, based on what your lecturer had emphasised.

### What about supplementary material?

On top of compulsory readings, lecturers often suggest supplementary materials, including textbooks. These can:

- Further your understanding of certain topics beyond the information provided in class and set readings.
- Clarify difficult concepts. Try using a second textbook or study guide (such as those produced by LexisNexis or Butterworths) which uses simple language or summarises key concepts.
- Expand the complexity of your argument in essays. Textbooks often provide extracts from academic journal articles which offer critiques of the law and suggest ways it could or should be altered.

However, be careful not to spend so much time on supplementary readings that you lose sight of what is most important! If lecturers or tutors indicate that a specific reading is likely to be useful to understand the course or exam preparation, you should prioritise those.

# Preparing for tutorials

Tutorials are different to lectures and therefore require different preparation. They are your chance to apply the knowledge you've gained from lectures and readings to problems, and to clarify anything that doesn't make sense. Participation marks often mean that your contributions in tutorials are assessable. There are three main methods of assessing participation:

Method	What does it involve?	How can I best prepare?
Socratic Method	Tutors cold-call members of the class during any week in semester. This method is said to encourage preparation and engagement, but can be stressful.	Preparation for every class is key! This may mean creating short note summaries that you can quickly access, answering tutorial questions in advance, and ensuring you know the facts and details of important cases.
Continual Assessment	Tutors expect students to contribute consistently throughout the semester.	Go to most classes prepared. The more readings you've completed, the more answers you can volunteer. However, during busy assessment weeks, you can afford to volunteer fewer answers if you haven't had time to prepare.
On-Call	Tutors assign students to lead discussion, respond to questions or give a presentation in one or two weeks of the course. This makes it very easy to fall behind in readings as it seems there is no imperative to prepare in your non-assigned weeks!	Ensure you are well prepared for your assigned week. This will include completing the entire set of readings, thoroughly answering the tutorial questions, and even completing supplementary readings for further detail. However, participating in other non-assigned weeks can also give a good impression! At a minimum, come to every class having read and thought through the problem questions. Be sure to stay on top of the course content as engaging in tutorials is part of the learning itself.

# Choosing your tutorial

Everyone has different learning styles and personalities, and your class environment can have a big impact on how you contribute to class discussions. Some things to consider when choosing your tutorial are:

- Class time and location. Make sure you do not have conflicting commitments at your class time.
- Your tutor. It is often also a good idea to research your tutor to see if you think they will be a good fit in terms of your interests and learning style.
- Other students. Signing up for the same tutorial as someone you know can make you feel more comfortable to contribute to class debates and discussions.

You can stay updated with the latest information regarding the date, time, venue and tutors of all units on the Sydney Law School canvas page.

Undergraduate LLB students can access the timetable here:

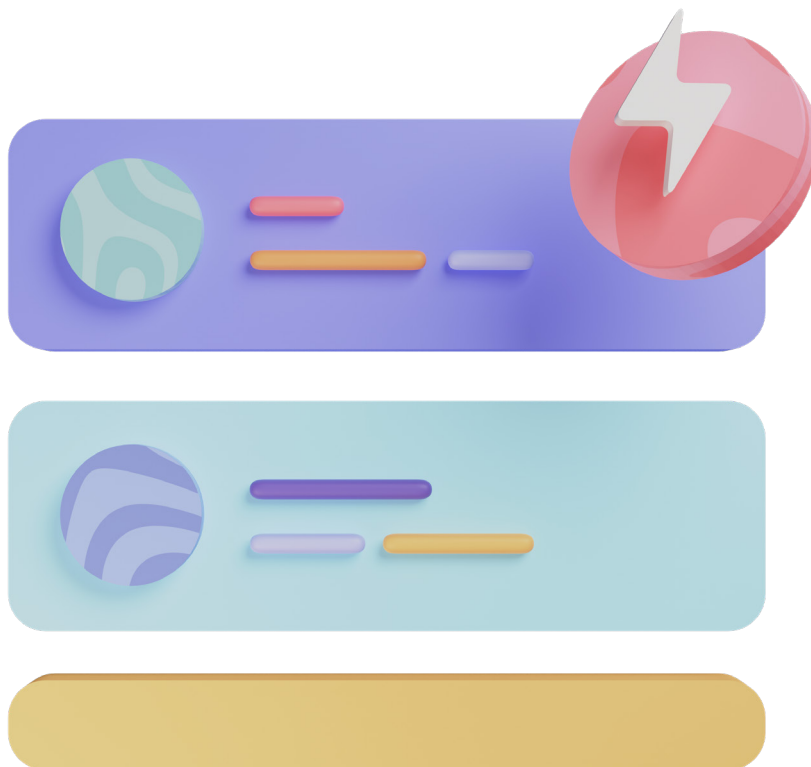
<https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/4533/pages/undergraduate-bachelor-of-laws-timetable>

JD full-time and part-time students can use the following links:

<https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/4533/pages/juris-doctor-timetable-full-time>

<https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/4533/pages/juris-doctor-timetable-part-time>

If after the first tutorial you do not feel comfortable in that class environment, consider speaking to your tutor to ask how they usually run their classes. You may also want to ask other classmates what they thought about the tutorial and talk to peers in other tutorials about their experiences. As a last resort, consider changing classes. Remember that you generally have until the end of week two to finalise your timetable. However, please note that classes are often capped and there may be challenges with changing classes once the semester has begun. Students need to unenroll from a class and re-enrol in a new class to change tutorials. It is not possible to change tutorials by simply turning up to a different class, as academics have no control over individual students' timetables. One of the risks with changing your class after semester has started is that some units have assessments allocated in Week 1, so if you change, you may not get to keep the same topic/assigned week for that assessment in the new class.



# CREATING NOTES

## To cram or to be consistent?

Ideally, making notes should be something you do on a continual basis, in preparation for each lecture, tutorial or seminar. Creating your notes gradually can help you to get the most out of tutorials, programs like PASS, and your time in STUVAC. Additionally, deep learning is an incremental process and consistency can ultimately help to reduce stress levels towards the end of semester as you prepare for final exams.

### Guide to making notes

#### 1. Make notes from your readings

The notes from your readings could be structured based on one or a combination of the following:

- Course outline
- Reading guide
- Lecturer's slides and topic summaries

Your reading notes will mostly consist of set reading materials and additional information from supplementary materials, including:

- Summaries of cases and legislation
- Casebook commentary (often repeats the lecture content in more difficult language)
- Supplementary materials (textbooks, study guides)

Note, supplementary materials should not be relied on as an alternative to the compulsory reading as they will not provide you with a sufficiently comprehensive understanding of the content.

#### 2. Make notes from your lectures

Some lecturers will make their slides available before the lecture. It can be useful to read these before class to get a general idea of what will be covered and how the notes from your readings fit into the overall course content.

Soon after your lecture, review and tidy your notes. Doing this soon after class will help you retain information better than if you weren't to look at them again until you make exam notes. Make sure you combine these notes with any slides and materials that your lecturer has made available.

#### 3. Create super summaries

It is a good idea to condense your notes in preparation for exams, focusing on key principles, relevant cases and legislation. Organise the notes under headings corresponding to legal issues that are likely to arise in the exam. Ideally, reference to cases will be limited to the case names that you will (hopefully) be familiar with at this point of your study.

Exam summaries should ideally be completed prior to the beginning of STUVAC, so that you have enough time to revise and practice using them when completing past exam questions. It is likely that your notes will undergo substantial alteration as you go through the process of answering practice questions, so there is no point getting bogged down with perfecting your exam notes.

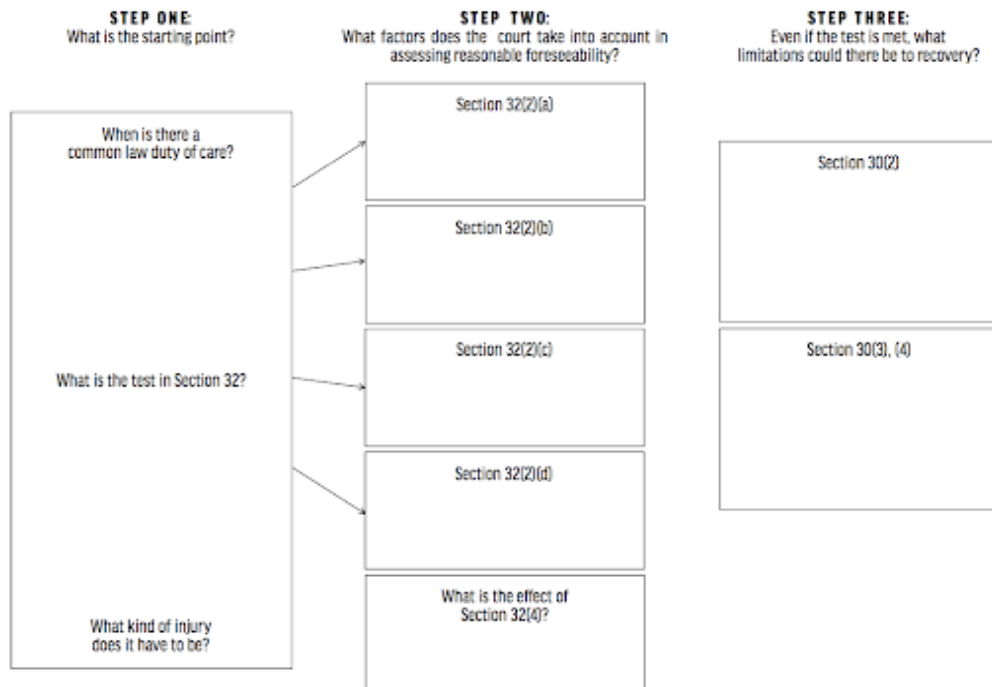
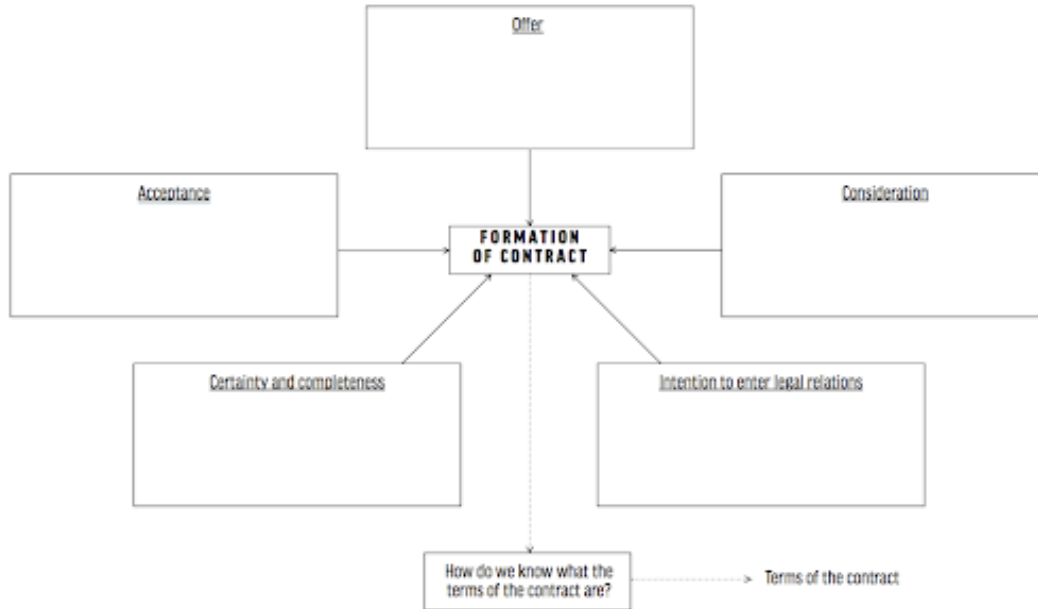
#### 4. Customise your summaries

Manipulate and work with the information to maximise your retention. Try including mind maps, diagrams and tables. Write them on post-it notes, butcher's paper, or even your mirror to improve your memory.

# Scaffolding

Scaffolds may also work for you as a thorough and systematic way to compile notes for a subject.

## Scaffolding a Unit of Study



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# LAW EXAMS

## Preparation

### Practice Questions

Creating your notes is only the first step. Completing practice questions can make a huge difference to your performance in the exam, which means it is incredibly important to integrate them into your pre-exam schedule.

Your guide to practice questions:

1. Start by working through the problem as you would a tutorial question, with your notes beside you.
2. As exam day draws closer, try to complete them in the set time to gauge how long it takes to get through each issue. Handwrite or type your answers, depending on whether the exam will be written or online.
3. Once you've answered questions, read through them and check with the solutions (if available), ask your peers what they answered to gauge what you may have missed and ask yourself key reflections.
4. As you complete more exam questions, adapt your notes and scaffolds based on what you learn.

Benefits of practice exams:

- A great opportunity to apply your knowledge to factual scenarios as you would in the exam.
- Allow you to test whether your exam notes, scaffolds and checklists facilitate a solid response to a question, and can help you shape them into exam-friendly formats.
- Can be the best way to absorb the information you have compiled in your notes.
- May help you identify areas for improvement and reveal gaps in your knowledge.
- Allow you to set up a replicable structure for answering aspects of problem questions.
- Can give you confidence in the exam room with the knowledge that you have 'done this all before'.
- Can put you on track for neater handwriting/faster typing.
- Improve your time management.

## Types of Exams

### Open-book Exams

All law exams are fast-paced, so don't let open-book exams lull you into a false sense of security. You will need to rely on your memory and/or very succinct notes because there isn't enough time to flip through readings or consult notes in detail.

Many students recommend making a short set of exam notes and scaffolds, with each topic reduced to one page.

### Closed-book Exams

If you have a closed-book exam, you will need to memorise much of the content from your exam notes, focusing particularly on headings and scaffolds. Memorise the wording of key phrases, definitions and case names. Remember that doing past exams is a great way of memorising your notes, and much more effective than simply reading over them multiple times.

### Take-home Exams

Take-home exams are not as different to ordinary exams as you may think! The main difference is that you are given a few days or even a week to complete them.

How should you prepare?

- Before the allocated time, prepare as you would for open or closed-book exams. You can afford to keep your notes slightly more detailed as you'll have more time to sift through the material.
- Take into account whether your take-home exam is within the confines of the course, or requires some extra research.
- Follow directions about referencing - unlike in a formal exam, take-homes may require footnotes, pinpoint referencing and/or a bibliography.

Here is an excerpt from “Take-Home Exams: The Official Word” by Kiran Gupta, where Associate Dean of Education at Sydney Law School, Associate Professor Nicole Graham discusses some of the pedagogical benefits/problems of take-home exams.



**Nicole Graham:**

*“Long take-home exams (24-48 hours) take some time and pressure off students compared to a 2-3 hour exam but the disadvantage is that some students mistakenly believe that a 24-hour exam requires 24-hours of effort. To disabuse students of this misunderstanding, the University has introduced something called ‘Expected Student Effort’ so all students know how much time is really required to complete the task. The expected student effort of a 24 hour exam is about 2-4 hours of research/*

For more information about take-home exams and the future of law school exams, please read more here by clicking the link or scanning the QR code in the top right corner: <https://www.suls.org.au/citations-blog/2021/9/28/take-home-exams-the-official-word>

# TYPES OF QUESTIONS

## Problem Questions

### How should I structure my answer?

Creating your notes is only the first step. Completing practice questions can make a huge difference to your performance in the exam, which means it is incredibly important to integrate them into your pre-exam schedule. There are a variety of ways to approach a problem question. Many lecturers recommend ‘IRAC’: an acronym for Issue, Rule, Application and Conclusion.

Steps	Meaning
1. Issue	From the set of facts given, determine what the issues are.
2. Rule	For each issue, state the rule – that is, the relevant principle found in case law or statute.
3. Application	Consider how that rule will apply to the facts given. Better responses will consider if there are any limitations on the rule, as often there are competing judgments where any of them could likely be applied to the facts of your particular case.
4. Conclusion	Give a brief conclusion as to the likely outcome of the case. Note that your conclusion is not important; what is important is your argument and reasoning.

### Should I address both ‘sides’ of the question?

Always look at the directive at the end of the question. It might ask you to advise both parties - in which case you'd weigh your advice equally to both parties and plan your exam time accordingly. It might ask you to advise one party - in which case advise that person of potential claims they could bring, potential claims against them, and their counter-arguments to these claims.

### Should I bother with counter-arguments?

Absolutely. Never present a one-sided argument that explains how one party is bound to win the case. The examiner wants you to recognise the pros and cons of your arguments. Like the real world, if you thought an argument was weak,

you'd let your client know if it wasn't likely to succeed.

### **What about contentious areas?**

You are expected to briefly canvass any contentious areas. This will give your response an added layer of depth, and help to distinguish you from the pack.

### **Do I need to have a definite answer?**

No! You're not a judge. Present arguments fairly, and reasonably, with authorities. Recognise their strengths and weaknesses. In saying that, come to a conclusion. While it does not need to be 100% certain, a statement such as "Bob will likely be convicted of manslaughter" is much more convincing than "Bob may or may not be convicted of manslaughter".

### **How do you use reading time?**

While you are reading, keep in mind the issues that arise, what party did what, and the relationship between the parties. Highlight and underline so you can easily refer to it when you are writing the paper. Remember that every fact is there for a reason and you should not overlook something without first questioning why it has been placed there. Often a good place to start is the question at the bottom of the paper - this will tell you who you are advising and on what issues, so you know what to look for while you're reading the fact pattern.

During reading time, most subjects also allow you to write on the exam script (not the exam booklet) so use this time wisely to scribble in the margins and create a rough outline of your answer!

An in-depth guide to writing responses to legal problem questions can be found via Sydney Law School's homepage under the tab "Learning and Teaching Resources" > "Problem Questions" at the following link: [https://www.sydnev.edu.au/law/learning\\_teaching/index.shtml](https://www.sydnev.edu.au/law/learning_teaching/index.shtml) or via the QR code.



## **Essay Questions**

Essay questions typically ask you to offer a critical analysis on a contentious case or an area of the course. As you are writing under exam conditions, your marker will factor that in and understand that you don't have as much time to refine your response as you would with an assignment.

### **How should I prepare?**

1. Become familiar with all the major cases (and the reasoning employed by the judges) as well as other sources of law and noteworthy commentary. Do not ignore dissenting judgments - these are particularly ripe areas for essay questions.
2. Once you're familiar with content, identify:
  - The most contentious or unclear aspects of each topic. The lecturer will usually guide you to these areas, so make sure that you listen carefully in class!
  - Consistent themes running across the entire course that may be able to draw together several topics.
3. Prepare essay scaffolds based on these themes, which include your position on the issue and the main arguments that you would raise, backed up by relevant authorities. Further strengthen your notes with this information from relevant journal articles or supplementary readings.
4. Complete a past exam paper under exam conditions, using the scaffolds that you have prepared and your topic summaries.

### **How should I structure my answer?**

#### **Introduction**

- Directly address the question asked by distilling the core of the question (even something simple such as re-stating it in your own words).
- Define any key terms.
- Provide brief context and explain the legal debate alluded to by the question.
- State your opinion/thesis.
- Outline how you will support your thesis – what are the main arguments that you will set out in the following paragraphs?

#### **Body**

- Introduce each argument using a clear topic sentence that explains how the analysis contained in the paragraph supports your thesis.
- Use key cases, judgments, legislation, journal articles or textbooks as authority for your position.
- Acknowledge counter-arguments but try to explain how they do not detract from your thesis.
- Use headings that order and structure your essay.

#### **Conclusion**

- Including even a single sentence restating your position in relation to the question can make your answer appear more complete.

*Tip: If you run out of time, you can still attempt to cover what you have missed in dot points. This can sometimes get you a couple of extra marks.*



# LAW ASSIGNMENTS

As a first step, make sure you follow the specific instructions contained in your assignment document. The following section is simply a guide!

## Problem Questions

Problem question assignments will be longer and more complex compared to an exam-style question. In addition to approaching and structuring in a similar way to an exam-style problem question, you may need to engage in legal research or apply supplementary materials. Make sure to read the assignment instructions carefully before doing so.

## Research Essays

### What is a research essay?

Research essays require you to conduct exhaustive research into the area of law raised in the question and to reference these sources meticulously. Research essay questions are more complex than essay questions presented in exams – a higher standard is expected of your argument, research and expression.

### How should I approach a research essay?

#### 1. Analyse the question

- Read the question several times, focusing especially on the key terms and noting any instructive words like 'discuss', 'analyse', or 'explain'.
- Think about how the instructive words would frame your answer. For instance, if a question asks whether you agree or disagree with a position, it is crucial to explain why you have taken a particular position.
- If a question is general, try to narrow down the scope of the question, which will show your marker that you have a nuanced and critical perspective on the question.

- #### 2. Brainstorm possible points.
- Note all issues raised by the questions, considering all possible arguments and counter-arguments.

#### 3. Conduct research

- Preliminary Stage - Starting with set textbooks and recommended readings, read up on the general topic you have identified during the brainstorming stage. After you have wrapped your head around the general topic, re-evaluate the issues and arguments that you initially identified.
- In-depth Stage - Starting with footnotes and references in the textbooks, gather and read as many relevant resources as possible. Take notes of the parts of any relevant research material that you think you will use in the essay.
- Keep track of your sources as you read so you don't have to go searching for them when it comes time to reference.

#### 4. Plan

- After conducting research, you will probably have formed an opinion on the question (your thesis). Organise your main arguments and counter-arguments that you may raise on that thesis.

#### 5. Write

- Refer to the essential elements of an essay response discussed under 'Essay Questions' in the Law Exams section of the guide. Note that the standard of writing is expected to be significantly higher, as is the depth of analysis.
- Ensure that your sources are footnoted using the 4th edition of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC4)<sup>1</sup>. Tip: For a 2000 word research essay, a detailed response may have around 75-80 references.

#### 6. Edit

- Edit your work to ensure your essay is cohesive and that there are no grammatical or typographical errors. Check that your thesis is consistent and clear throughout the essay.

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1 Melbourne University Law Review Association Inc., Melbourne Journal of International Law Inc., Australian Guide to Legal Citation (Melbourne University Law Review Association, 4th ed, 2018).

# Casenotes<sup>1</sup>

## What is a case note?

A case note requires you to summarise and analyse a court judgement. They assess your ability to accurately read cases, reference and summarise.

## How should I approach a case note?

Where a case note is set as an assessment task, you will usually be provided with a number of headings. Each is allocated a certain number of marks. Your role is to identify the information that fits into each category.

### Example case note headings include:

1. **Citation:** A citation identifies a case. Authorised judgments (i.e. those from law reports) are preferable to unauthorised judgments. An example of a citation is *R v Clarke* (1927) 40 CLR 227.
2. **Court and judges:** Include the full name of the court and judges present.
3. **Material facts:** Material facts are those critical and relevant to the outcome of the case. Do not include details which do not affect determination of the legal issues.
4. **Procedural history:** This requires you to give an overview of the case's history – e.g if the case is being heard in the High Court of Australia, the initial proceedings heard in the NSW District Court and NSW Court of Appeal may be the relevant procedural history.
5. **Issues:** You may need to identify the issues to be decided by the case, whether they be issues of fact or law.
6. **Reasoning:** Once you have identified the issues, you may have to explain how the court answered each issue. If judges are not unanimous, you should highlight the different findings here.
7. **Ratio decidendi:** Ratio means the rule of law upon which the decision is based. This is binding on lower courts.
8. **Obiter dicta:** Judges often make comments 'in passing' that raise interesting points of discussion but are not relevant to the legal issues at hand. These are not legally binding as precedent.
9. **Order:** Each case will have legal consequences. For example, look for statements such as 'the appeal was dismissed.'

The Law School has created an electronic Case Analysis Tool which provides students with a number of different judgements and interactive exercises associated with analysing these judgements. They can be accessed via the University's LMS at the following link: <https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/9471>.

# ONLINE ASSESSMENT METHODS

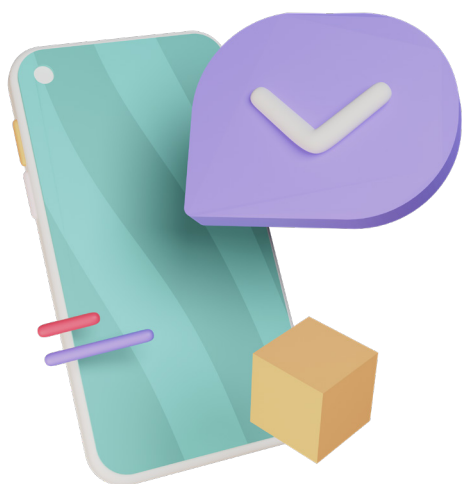
The Law Assignments section of this guide provided general advice about problem questions, research essays and case notes, but there are also various methods of online assessment which have been more commonly implemented by unit of study coordinators over the past year.

## Discussion Boards

Discussion boards are not always marked but are employed by some tutors as a method of assessing your participation and understanding of course content. It's easy for the discussion boards to seem like an intimidating platform,. However, posting on such forums can be truly valuable to your learning. Try your best to give examples of sources you have consulted before posting on the discussion board, and also read through the other posts by your fellow students.

## Zoom Tutorial Participation

Tutorial participation marks are a staple of law school and can often feel quite daunting. Whether you are in person or on Zoom, the approach is the same. As long as you have done the readings and are able to actively participate in class discussions, there will be no issues!



<sup>1</sup> 'Legal Writing Resources', University of Sydney Law School (Web page) <[https://sydney.edu.au/law/learning\\_teaching/legal\\_writing/case\\_notes.shtml](https://sydney.edu.au/law/learning_teaching/legal_writing/case_notes.shtml)>.

# Online Exams

The Law School will not schedule proctored exams in 2022 and instead The Law School conducts take-home online exams. The duration of take-home exams may vary – from 2.5 hours to 48 hours. For take-home exams, it is up to you to answer the questions, upload your response document and submit it through Canvas on time. Make sure to read the cover sheet for key instructions. Upload time is 14 minutes and 59 seconds and is only to be used to upload your exam paper. It is important not to continue writing into upload time because the exam ends when the upload time starts. If you have any problems with uploading, you need to send an email to [canvas.exams@sydney.edu.au](mailto:canvas.exams@sydney.edu.au) and follow the Instructions on your Exam paper very closely. Failure to do so can have really serious consequences (like failing the exam). The canvas exams email service is only available during upload time and ceases when the exam site closes. Do not email your tutor or coordinator during exams under any circumstances.



# ACADEMIC HONESTY

In your application to be admitted to practise law, you will be asked whether you have ever been investigated for academic dishonesty. The legal profession sets high standards in relation to character and honesty is regarded as fundamental to demonstrating good character. Academic dishonesty can be risky territory for law students because many graduates apply for admission to practice and evidence of good character matters to that process. The University of Sydney sees academic honesty as a cornerstone of academic excellence, making it crucial to understand how it applies to your work, no matter the setting. Defined by the university as “any dishonest or unfair action that you take to gain academic advantage”, the university may lower your mark, fail you for that subject, or exclusion from your course, depending on the severity.

Although university studies are now completed partially or completely online, the same principles apply regardless. However, it is important to be aware of how academic honesty applies in this new environment.

## Collusion

Put simply, collusion is any cooperation that unfairly advantages a student. With the increased use of online discussion groups and group chats for studying, the line between legitimate and illegitimate cooperation has been blurred. As a general boundary:

- Using a group chat to discuss general questions or concepts surrounding course work **is legitimate cooperation.**
- Using a group chat during a quiz or non-proctored exam to ask questions **is illegitimate cooperation.**

Although this distinction is fairly self-explanatory, it is important to be vigilant about maintaining academic honesty throughout your study.

For more information on examples of collusion and University policy, visit the link: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/study/why-choose-sydney/student-life/student-news/2020/10/14/sharing-isnt-always-caring-collusion-and-how-to-avoid-it.html> or scan the QR code in the top right corner.

# Plagiarism and Academic Honesty Educational Module

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty where you try to and pass off the work of another person as your own. This could occur where you:

- copy the work of another student;
- copy published work without acknowledgement or without correctly referencing that work (e.g. not using quotation marks when quoting directly from an academic source); or
- if you pay someone else to do your work for you.

Consequences may include failing the assessment or unit of study, or in very serious cases, being suspended or expelled from the University. Even where you do not intend to plagiarise someone else’s work, you may still be found liable for ‘negligent plagiarism’ and face penalties, so it is important to be diligent when writing assessments and referencing.

The University takes plagiarism very seriously and all students are required to complete the Academic Honesty Education Module on Canvas in their first semester. Read more: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/academic-dishonesty.html>.

# LAW SCHOOL BASICS

In Semester 1, 2021, SULLS hosted a panel discussion about study techniques, assignment skills, and exam techniques for law students. The seminar series explores topics such as:

- Tips for tutorial preparation, notes and open-book exams
- How to structure problem questions and essays
- Staying focused and preventing procrastination
- Strategies for maintaining a healthy balance with studying

If you wish to watch the panel's responses containing useful advice regarding topics such as the above, you can watch the recordings on: <https://www.sull.org.au/education-programs>

## STUDY SUPPORT PASS

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) is a free learning program available to students in the first three years of their law degree. It provides students with the opportunity to reinforce the key content from their course in an informal, laid-back environment, and to make friends with people in their cohort.

PASS consists of weekly, one-hour sessions during which students work collaboratively to complete worksheet activities and answer problem questions. PASS allows students to direct their own learning and choose to focus on aspects that they collectively find most challenging.

In Semester 1, PASS runs in the following law units:

- LAWS1015 – Contracts (LLB)
- LAWS1023 – Public International Law (LLB)
- LAWS5001 – Torts (JD)
- LAWS5002 – Contracts (JD)

In Semester 2, PASS runs in the following law units:

- LAWS1012 – Torts (LLB)
- LAWS1016 – Criminal Law (LLB)
- LAWS1017 – Torts and Contracts II (LLB)
- LAWS5004 – Criminal Law (JD)
- LAWS5005 – Public International Law (JD)
- LAWS5006 – Torts and Contracts II (JD)

### How can I register for PASS?

Registration for PASS is conducted through the following webpage in Week 1 of each semester: [https://pass.sydney.edu.au/pass/student/registration/listuos/program\\_id/1](https://pass.sydney.edu.au/pass/student/registration/listuos/program_id/1). Places are limited to ensure small class sizes, so it's important to register early to secure a spot. If you register but have missed out on a spot, your name will be placed on a waiting list.

## Contacting Lecturers and Tutors

Students should not ask individual academics for personalised email responses to questions of an academic kind where there is a Discussion Board available for posting questions in a unit of study. Indeed, it is super helpful for students to post their academic questions on a Discussion Board because then everyone benefits from this query and response. It is important not to ask a question that is already answered in the Unit Outline or in the Lectures for a Unit. Questions of a personal nature in relation to individual student circumstances should not be posted on the Discussion Board and should be addressed to the Coordinator of the Unit. If there is no Discussion Board for a Unit of Study, email is a perfectly acceptable way to ask both academic and personal questions. Students can make appointments to consult with their tutors in person/over phone if they have a problem or require assistance that is not amenable to email correspondence.

Try the following, preferably in this order:

- Raising the issue in class.
- Posting on the Canvas discussion board under the relevant topic.
- If there is no discussion board, emailing your tutor directly. Their details can be found in your detailed unit of study information. Ask a specific question, and explain what you have done to try and answer it yourself.
- Booking a consultation if the problem persists even after the tutor has replied.

During busy times, such as near the due date of an assignment or the date of an exam, teaching staff will be overwhelmed with emails from students seeking clarification and might not be able to answer certain questions. When contacting your tutor or lecturer, it is polite to address them in the first instance by their title and last name, e.g. "Associate Professor X", unless they have explicitly said in class to address them by their first name. You can take your cue by how they sign off. For instance, if they respond to emails using their first name only, it indicates it is acceptable to proceed on that basis. Your lecturers and tutors are there to help you, so as long as you are respectful and are genuinely in need of their assistance, don't be afraid to reach out!

# LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Studying law can be incredibly rewarding but stressful at the same time. Law students are particularly susceptible to mental illness (particularly anxiety and depression). To ensure that you get the most out of your education, it's vital to look after your mental health and seek help where necessary.

## Sydney University Law Society (SULS)

SULS is committed to supporting students and raising awareness about health and wellbeing issues. Know that there are a variety of support services and resources available for a whole range of concerns, many of which are easily accessible and completely free. Some of the key ones are outlined below.

### SULS Support Portfolios

All members of the SULS Executive are available to help you through any issues you might face at Sydney Law School. However, specific members of the executive may be more helpful to your particular concern.

**Equity:** The SULS Equity Portfolio aims to promote equal opportunity, equal access and equal representation at Sydney Law School. The Equity Officer is able to provide up-to-date information about student welfare and support services to assist students in meeting their academic and personal goals while at university. If you're feeling stressed, concerned about a friend or just want to have a chat, please contact the Equity Officer, Yijun Cui, at [equity@suls.org.au](mailto:equity@suls.org.au) or swing by the SULS Office.

The SULS Equity Textbook Loan Scheme provides textbooks for core subjects each semester. Eligible students will have access to textbooks for the entire semester, after providing a deposit that is refunded upon return of the textbooks in good condition.

The Financial Grants Scheme provides monetary grants to be used for law school-related purchases. Eligible students may be reimbursed for SULS events such as Law Ball or competitions, as well as purchases such as textbooks or stationery.

For more details and to apply, please visit <https://www.suls.org.au/equity-schemes>. All questions or concerns regarding these schemes can also be directed to the Equity Officer, Yijun Cui, at [equity@suls.org.au](mailto:equity@suls.org.au).

The Online Textbook Exchange facilitates the sale and purchase of textbooks prescribed by the LLB and JD courses at Sydney Law School. You can find out more at <https://www.suls.org.au/online-textbook-exchange>.

**The Student Support Services Handbook:** We recognise that a whole range of pressures impact your university experience and add to your stress levels - whether they be health concerns, legal, financial, or academic. The SULS Student Support Services Handbook outlines a

variety of support services on and off-campus which can help. It also has a comprehensive section on Mental Health and Wellbeing, including information about anxiety and depression, how to help a friend, what resources are available, and strategies for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Pick up a copy at the SULS office or read it online: <https://www.suls.org.au/publications>.

**Queer:** The SULS Queer Officer supports and advocates on behalf of all queer-identifying (LGBTIQ) students in the Sydney Law School. In addition, the portfolio exists to engage the broader Law School community on current issues, as well as the opportunities that gender and sexually diverse law students face – both in the law school and in broader society. If you have any concerns or queries, don't hesitate to contact the Queer Officer, Edward Ford, at [queer@suls.org.au](mailto:queer@suls.org.au), or swing by the SULS Office.

**Women's:** The SULS Women's portfolio aims to promote gender equality and support all women in the Law School. Despite equal numbers of men and women enrolled in university degrees, sexism is unfortunately still alive and well. If you ever feel sexually harassed or if anything has made you feel uncomfortable, please contact the Interim Women's Officer, Elizabeth Nutting, at [women@suls.org.au](mailto:women@suls.org.au).

**Ethnocultural:** The SULS Ethnocultural portfolio supports students of colour and advocates for the unique experiences they may have at Law School. The Ethnocultural Officer is a portfolio which aims to ensure that students of colour can access the same opportunities regardless of their cultural or religious background. If you have faced any racial discrimination or any other concerns, please contact the Ethnocultural Officer, Nishta Gupta, at [ethnocultural@suls.org.au](mailto:ethnocultural@suls.org.au).

**International:** The SULS International Officer is here for international students who require academic, personal and social assistance. Additionally, the International Officer is also responsible for providing administrative information and other services to the international student body. If you are experiencing any difficulties as an international student, please contact the International Students' Officer, Michelle Chim, at [international@suls.org.au](mailto:international@suls.org.au).

## Other University Support Services

### Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The University of Sydney offers support to students through its Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Their sessions are free and confidential, and are available to all currently enrolled undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University. Find out more here: <https://sydney.edu.au/students/counselling-and-mental-health-support.html>.

### University Mental Wellbeing and Support Line

The University Mental Wellbeing and Support Line operates alongside CAPS, and is an alternative option when CAPS is not available. They offer a 24/7 call and SMS chat service. Call: 1300 474 065; Text: 0488 884 429

### University Health Service

The University Health Service (<https://sydney.edu.au/campus-life/health-wellbeing-success/health-services.html>) offers experienced general practitioner and emergency medical care services to all members of the University community. The University Health Service is also able to provide referrals to specialists as required, including for mental health issues.

Location: Level 3, Wentworth Building, City Road, Darlington Campus

Opening hours: 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday except on public holidays (last appointment, 4.45pm)

Phone: 02 9351 3484

### Complaints (both academic and non-academic) - Student Affairs Unit

Contact the Student Affairs Unit for any concerns and read the Student Affairs complaints page to familiarise yourself with the process: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/complaints.html>.

Complaints can be received online or by contacting the department at 1800 SYD HLP (1800 793 457) (option 2 for complaints).

## Off-Campus Support

### Headspace

Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. If you're aged 12 – 25, you can get health advice, support and information from headspace. headspace has centres across Australia. The closest headspace centre to campus is the Camperdown headspace.

Location: Level 2, Building K (Brain and Mind Centre), 97 Church Street, Camperdown

Opening Hours: 8:30am – 5:30pm, Monday to Friday

Telephone: (02) 9114 4100

Email: [headspace.camperdown@sydney.edu.au](mailto:headspace.camperdown@sydney.edu.au)

### Camperdown and Redfern Community Health

The Camperdown and Redfern Community Health teams provide crisis and case management services to adults experiencing a range of mental health problems, such as depression, mood disorders and severe anxiety.

Location: Camperdown Community Health Centre, Level 5

(Street Level), King George V Hospital, Missenden Road, Camperdown; Redfern Community Health Centre, 103 Redfern Street, Redfern

Telephone: (02) 9515 9000 (Camperdown); (02) 9395 0444 (Redfern)

Opening Hours: 8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday

The 24/7 after-hours phone number for both services is 1800 011 511.

### Therapeutic Axis

The Therapeutic Axis Centre for Wellbeing is located in Glebe and has bulk billing psychologists, alongside massage and natural therapists.

Location: 125 St Johns Road, Glebe (opposite Glebe Town Hall)

Telephone: (02) 9692 9788

Email: [enquiries@therapeuticaxis.com.au](mailto:enquiries@therapeuticaxis.com.au)

### The Black Dog Institute

The Black Dog Institute is a world leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder. They also have clinics, but their healthcare professionals require a referral from a patient's managing doctor.

Location: Hospital Road, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick

Telephone: (02) 9382 4530

Email: [blackdog@blackdog.org.au](mailto:blackdog@blackdog.org.au)

## Disability Services

The University's Disability Services assists current and prospective students with a disability to access reasonable adjustments. Services and support are provided through Disability Services where:

- A student has a disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth);
- Disabilities can be long term (e.g. blindness), short term (e.g. a broken ankle), physical, and psychological;
- The disability impacts on the student's University studies in some way;
- The student has supporting documentation (i.e. medical documentation) describing the disability and any corresponding need for services and/or adjustments.

Services available will depend on the student's individual needs. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Assistive technology;
- Accessible restrooms;
- Library services;
- Transport;
- Exam adjustments and assignment extensions.

### Contact Disability Services at:

Location: Level 5, Jane Foss Russell Building G02

Phone: (02) 8627 8422

Website: <https://sydney.edu.au/study/academic-support/disability-support.html>

Email: [disability.services@sydney.edu.au](mailto:disability.services@sydney.edu.au)

The Law School's Disability Liaison Officer is Mr Joel Harrison ([joel.harrison@sydney.edu.au](mailto:joel.harrison@sydney.edu.au)).

# WHEN THINGS GO WRONG



When extenuating circumstances mean you're unable to complete assessments or hand them in on time, consider one of the strategies below.

## Simple Extensions

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) is a free learning program available to students in the first three years of their law degree. It provides students with the opportunity to reinforce the key content from their course in an informal, laid-back environment, and to make friends with people in their cohort.

A simple extension is an informal extension of up to 2 days, which is granted directly by a unit of study coordinator. To apply, you should email your unit of study coordinator before the due date of the assessment. If your request is refused, you may then apply for a Formal Extension through the Special Consideration process.

## Special Consideration and Arrangement

Special Consideration is available to students in instances of well-attested, short-term serious illness, injury or misadventure that may prevent a well-prepared student from completing an assessment or sitting for an examination. Occasional, brief or trivial illness that occurs one week or more before an assessment is due or an examination is scheduled does not warrant special consideration. Special arrangement is available for students who have essential commitments that will impact their preparation and sitting of an assessment or examination. Visit the website for more information: <https://sydney.edu.au/students/special-consideration.html>.

Important things to note:

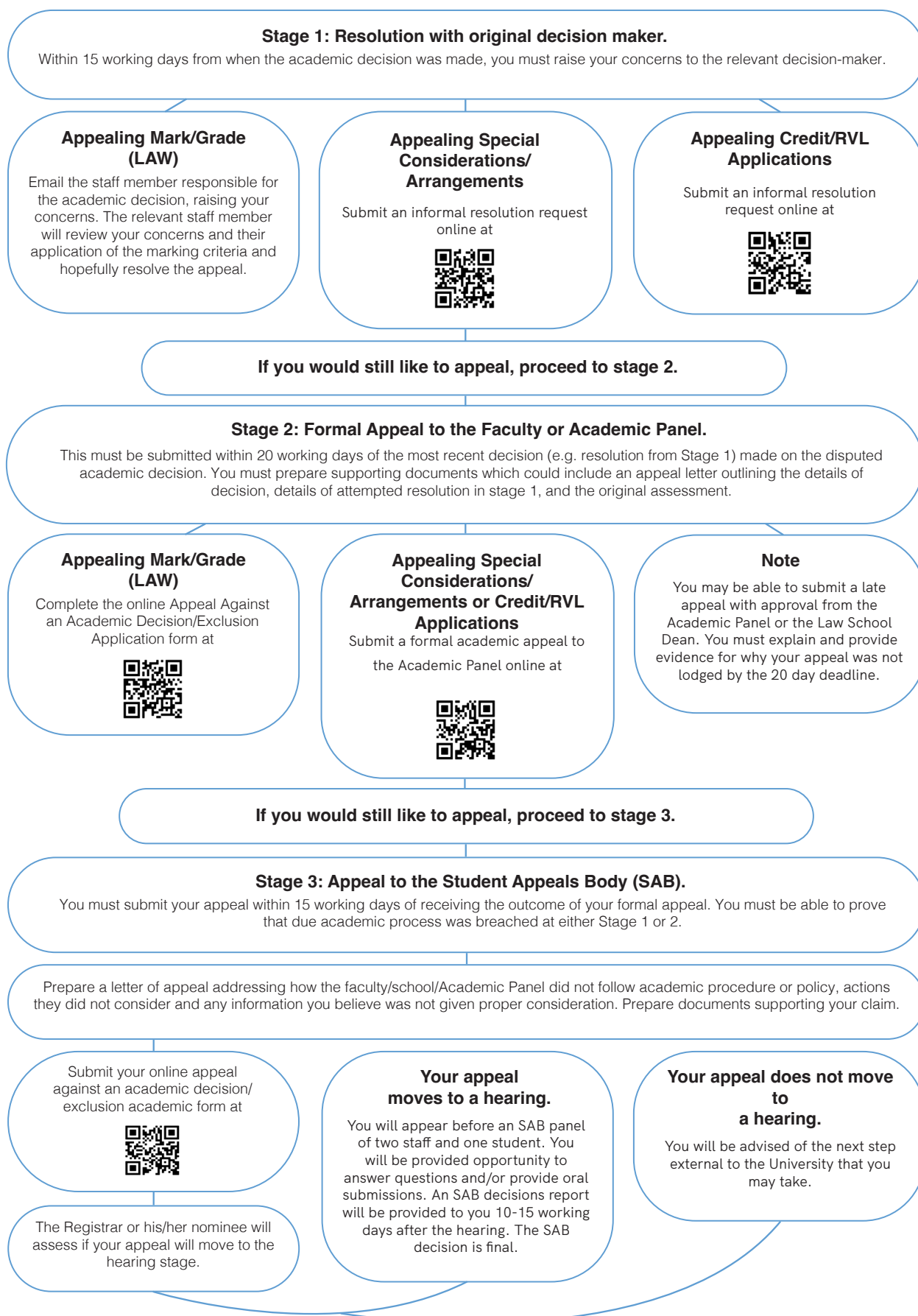
- Make sure to check whether your circumstances are eligible for special consideration or arrangement.
- Submit your application as soon as possible, noting the deadline.
- Review supporting documents that you need to submit as these vary according to circumstances.
- It is also useful to email your unit coordinator/tutor about the situation in case any issues arise.

Reason	Deadline	Circumstances
Special consideration: illness, injury or misadventure	No longer than three working days after the due date assessment or sitting date of an examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short term illness or injury</li><li>• Personal misadventure of a family member or close friend</li><li>• Technical issue</li><li>• Death of a family member or close friend</li><li>• Unexpected primary carer responsibilities</li><li>• Attendance at a funeral of a family member or close friend</li><li>• Natural disaster</li><li>• Circumstances preventing you from receiving supporting documents</li></ul>
Special arrangement: for an assessment or examination held during semester	Start of semester or as soon as you become aware of the clash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australian Defence Force or emergency service (including army reserve)</li><li>• Employment of an essential nature (where the student has little or no discretion with respect to the employment demand)</li><li>• Legal commitment such as summons, subpoenas, court order or jury duty</li></ul>
Special arrangement: for an assessment or examination held in the formal University examination periods	Within 14 days of publication of the exam timetable or within three working days you become aware of the clash.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parental or adoption commitments</li><li>• Religious commitments or beliefs</li><li>• Sporting or cultural commitments representing the University, state or nation</li><li>• COVID-19 assessments scheduled in a different time zone</li></ul>

# Appeals

The University believes in fair academic decision-making. If you feel that an academic decision (in Law or another degree) was not fair, you can appeal that decision. Contact the Student Affairs Unit to learn more about the process and note that you need to submit appeals within a certain time period: <https://sydney.edu.au/students/academic-appeals.html>.

Refer to the following flowchart to assist with your appeals process:





## Further appeals

If you have exhausted the appeals procedures within the University and feel that the University has still not followed its policies or there is procedural unfairness, you can lodge a complaint with the NSW Ombudsman. The Ombudsman cannot examine the merits of the decision. It can only examine the process of the decision. Examples of grounds to appeal to the Ombudsman include:

- The university has acted dishonestly, unfairly or unreasonably towards you, and you have been unable to resolve the matter within the university;
- The university's policies or procedures are flawed or unfair;
- There has been an unreasonable delay;
- The university has made a decision that they should have provided reasons for (but did not);
- There is good evidence of maladministration on the university's part.

For more information, go to <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-work/universities>.

## Discontinue a Unit of Study

If you withdraw from a unit of study before the Census Date, you will not incur an academic or financial penalty. That is, the subject will not appear on your transcript at all. If you withdraw from a subject after the Census Date, you may have a 'Discontinue – Not to count as Failure' (DC) listed on your transcript rather than a subject failure. A DC is not used to calculate your Weighted Average Mark (WAM). However, you will generally have to pay this subject's fees (unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness).

You may withdraw from a Unit of Study after the Census Date and before the DC deadline set by the University – this is usually around Week 7. Log into Sydney Student to discontinue a unit. As a last resort, you can discontinue fail (DF) a subject if you miss this Week 7 deadline, though it remains on your transcript.

Visit the 'Discontinue a unit of study' page for the more information about what to do: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/discontinue-unit-of-study.html>.

## Failed Assessment

If you ultimately fail a subject, you may be able to make up the subject in Summer or Winter School, rather than waiting to re-sit it during the next semester it is offered.

Alternatively, if you fail an assessment or are otherwise dissatisfied with your mark, you may appeal it through a number of avenues:

- Look through the information previously provided about the assessment or exam in question, and the individual and generic feedback which you were provided
- Consider seeking advice from a case-worker from the SRC (for LLB students), or from a SUPRA Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (for postgraduate students). These free and confidential services can provide you with advice on the appeals process and the kind of documentation you may need.



# DEGREE PROGRESSION

Undergraduate law at the University of Sydney requires for law studies to be combined with some other degree, totalling five years (except Engineering Honours/Law, which is a six year degree). The following combinations are available:

- Arts/Law
- Commerce/Law
- Economics/Law
- Science/Law
- Engineering Honours/Law
- 

For these above degrees, you may choose to undertake honours through the Bachelor of Advanced Studies or integrated honours within the Bachelor of Laws.

The Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Honours) is an additional year of intensive study that high achieving students may undertake after completing an undergraduate degree. If you choose to pursue the honours component, you will undertake:

- Honours units of study (4000-level or above)
- Supervised but independent research honours project

This will vary depending on the discipline you choose.

Note:

- If you started your Bachelor's degree in 2017 and did not transfer to the new resolutions in 2018 and want to do honours in 2020, you will need to apply for an appended honours\* degree.
- If you started your Bachelor's degree after 2018 and want to do honours, you will need to transfer into the combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies degree in your fourth year.

\*Stand-alone or appended honours is an additional program that you complete after you have finished your undergraduate degree.

Find out more: <https://sydney.edu.au/study/study-options/undergraduate-courses/bachelor-of-advanced-studies.html#combined>.

# Undergraduate Degree Progression

Year	Semester	Units of Study				
1	1	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Foundations of Law	Legal Research
	2	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Torts	
2	1	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Civil and Criminal Procedure	Contracts	
	2	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Criminal Law	
3	1	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Public International Law	
	2	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Partner Degree Unit of Study	Torts & Contracts II	Public Law	
4 (or Year 5 Engineering Honours/Law)*	1	Administrative Law	Federal Constitutional Law	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	The Legal Profession	
	2	Corporations Law	Equity	Evidence	Real Property	
5 (or 6 Engineering Honours/Law)*	1	Private International Law A	Law Elective	Law Elective	Law Elective	
	2	Law Elective	Law Elective	Law Elective	Law Elective	

\*You may choose, instead, to take a maximum of two electives and complete the remaining compulsory units of study in Year 5 or Year 6 for Engineering Honours/Law.

# JD Stream: Part time

Year	Semester	Units of Study		
1	1	Foundations of Law	Torts	Legal Research
	2	Public International Law	Public Law	
2	1	Civil and Criminal Procedure	Contracts	
	2	Criminal Law	Torts and Contracts II	
3	1	Administrative Law	Federal Constitutional Law	
	2	Corporations Law	Evidence	
4	1	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	The Legal Profession	
	2	Equity	Real Property	
5	1	Private International Law A	Elective Unit	
	2	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	
6	1	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	
	2	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	

# JD Stream: Full time

Year	Semester	Units of Study				
1	1	Foundations of Law	Torts	Contracts	Civil and Criminal Procedure	Legal Research
	2	Criminal Law	Torts and Contracts II	Public International Law	Public Law	
2	1	Administrative Law	Federal Constitutional Law	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	The Legal Profession	
	2	Corporations Law	Equity	Evidence	Real Property	
3	1	Private International Law A	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	
	2	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	Elective Unit	

## Credit transfer

Students who have transferred from another institution may be eligible for a credit transfer. Depending on the type of units or the type of institution, students may be eligible for specific or non-specific credit. Each situation differs, so for more information, please visit: <https://sydney.edu.au/students/credit-for-previous-study.html>

## Concurrent Enrolment

Many times students choose to undertake exchange for their first degree, and may have had to rearrange their credit points to accommodate this. If you have not completed the course requirements within your first degree by the normal final year e.g. Commerce (III), you must apply for concurrent enrolment to complete your credit points alongside starting your fourth year law units.

To be eligible to apply for concurrent enrolment:

- You should be due to commence your penultimate law year but you are behind in your first degree;
- You must have less than 24CP remaining in your first degree; and
- You have completed at least eight out of the ten LAWS1000 level units which are part of your first degree. The ten LAWS1000 level units include Legal Research units.

These applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and eligibility to apply does not guarantee approval.

Concurrent enrolment is normally approved for one semester only but may be extended to two semesters if you cannot satisfy the requirements of your first degree within one semester. Concurrent enrolment is not permitted for more than two semesters in total. Access the concurrent enrolment form here: <https://sydney.edu.au/content/dam/students/documents/concurrent-enrolment-form-law.pdf>.

# CORE UNITS

## Structure, Assessments & Top Student Tips

Core units are compulsory subjects that you must complete in order to graduate. This section outlines the assessment structure and tips from former students.

## Degree, Progression & Planning

Planning your degree is vital and highly recommended. Generally, LLB and JD students (with the exception of JD part-time stream) must be enrolled in a full-time course load during their degree, taking a minimum of 18 credit points of study per semester. Some students may opt to take three units of study and extend their degree or take Summer or Winter School.

Note: International students are generally required to undertake a 24 credit point load. For more information see <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/change-study-load.html>

Semester 1, 2022 runs from 21 February to 18 June.

Summer and Winter School can be advantageous for some students when going on exchange or seeking special considerations. However, note that spaces are often limited. Final-year law students will have priority, with all other students admitted on a first come first served basis. Students may apply for Summer/Winter School via the Sydney Student Summer/Winter School enrolment pages, which become available a few weeks before the end of each semester. Eligible students may be able to apply for HECS-HELP or FEE-HELP to assist with the fees.

Going on exchange is popular at university, but you must plan well so that you can graduate on time. You can choose to go on exchange either with your law degree in your final year or with your other major in a combined degree. Check your faculty's information for the best time in your degree to study abroad. A great way to help plan your exchange is by attending a Sydney Abroad Seminar, an on-campus information event which is scheduled regularly throughout the semester.

For students required to undertake OLEs and/or enrolled in the Dalyell stream, it is advised that you take the applicable units at the earliest possible opportunity. For recommendations and sample degree planners, see the appendix.

Any student who wish to modify their degree structure should check their course handbook for prerequisites or progression requirements that may limit their subject options. For more advice on degree planning, book an appointment with a student adviser from the Professional Law Programs (PLP) Team. They are able to help with more complex, degree-related issues that cannot be handled by the University's Student Centre. You can book an appointment here: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/LawProfessional1@unisyd.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

**Each unit of study will have some of the terms below:**

- Assigned class participation: A class is designated at the start of semester for each student to present on course material and/or problem questions
- Non-assigned class participation: Students are assessed on their input in class across the entire semester
- Lectures: Large classes of 40-200+ students where the material is covered with little student interaction
- Tutorials: Classes of around 20-40 students where the content and material from the lecture is covered in more detail with high student interaction. Example problems may be covered.
- Seminars: Classes of around 20-40 students where both materials and problem questions are covered with high student interaction
- Offshore Units: Subjects which are taken at a location other than University of Sydney's main campuses
- Intensive Units: Subjects that are taken outside of the normal semester load. This includes summer/winter school and are designated by month (e.g. LAWS5000 is Intensive March)
- Core Units: Subjects to be completed by all students studying towards a law degree
- Elective Units: Subjects which may be optionally completed by students. Students must undertake a certain number of electives
- Prerequisite: Without special permission, prerequisites must be completed before certain units are taken



# LLB I-III and JDI

*Disclaimer: Please note that the following is based on how the units have previously been run and all students should ultimately refer to their Unit of Study outlines and Canvas to confirm the details. The evolving COVID-19 situation may result in adjustments to assessment regimes. The editors take no responsibility for the continued accuracy of this information.*

## LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law

### LLB

Session: Semester 1  
Class Structure: 1 x 1hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week  
Assessments: Unstructured class participation (10%), structured class participation (10%), case analysis (30%), essay (50%)

### JD Full-Time Stream

Session: Intensive March, Semester 1; commences two weeks prior to the beginning of the semester  
Class Structure: Lecture and seminar-style classes taught intensively over three weeks, followed by 2hr weekly seminars for the following three weeks  
Assessments: class participation (10%), group case analysis presentation (10%), quiz (10%), mid-course assignment (20%), final 3hr take-home exam (60%).

### JD Part-Time Evening Stream

Session: Semester 1  
Class Structure: 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks, beginning from Week 1  
Assessments: class participation (10%), in-class case analysis exam (30%), 3000wd final essay (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Foundies is the perfect time to figure out what study habits work for you, and to develop efficiency in your reading and note-taking. I strongly recommend being flexible to try new things – I found that over the semester I refined my ability to write case summaries, considering the ratio (key principle) in any given case and then how it was applied in the facts of the case. Unlike me, please don't write pages and pages covering every single factual detail of the case – it's both unnecessary and a waste of time! What is most essential is that you don't treat the facts in isolation from the ratio, but rather understand the unique factual circumstances of the case that resulted in the judgement due to the application of the ratio.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

For this subject, the key difference to other law subjects is in the name – it really is about developing foundational knowledge about the history of law, general approaches and concepts of law. For me, this meant that my notes were full of flow charts and tables which were laid out sequentially to show the relationship between different sub-concepts and how they linked to a significant aspect of the legal system.

### How would you describe the content?

The content is foundational. I would argue that the content mostly scratches the surface of many different areas of law, but it's most important to wrap your head around case law and statute, and skills that are associated with reading and understanding these, such as understanding the function of precedent, and undertaking statutory interpretation.

### What did you enjoy the most?

This subject gives you the space to learn study habits and legal concepts without the sort of pressure or pace you might find in other law subjects. If you are a history buff like me, you'll enjoy the first few weeks in particular. It's certainly a challenge to learn a whole bunch of new research, writing and study skills, but I liked that this was paired with getting a taste of different areas of law, and an idea of which subjects I would particularly enjoy further down the track in my degree.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

I found that the provided reader really was the most useful to dedicate time and attention to. Instead of other

textbooks, I would strongly encourage you to commit any extra time you have to getting comfortable with the different legal databases accessible through the university's library website. These are not only beneficial for your mid-semester and final assignments, but familiarity with search strings and navigating cases is valuable for your whole degree!

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

Don't panic about scribing word-for-word the content in the lectures or translating massive chunks from the reader. Instead, focus on the techniques above, and then learn the content through a subsequent process of summarising. It is important you are confident in your ability to discern important information and have a layout that works for you.



**Margot McKeown, LLB IV**

# LAWS1012/LAWS5001 Torts

## LLB

Prerequisite: LAWS1006  
Foundations of Law  
Session: Semester 2  
Class Structure: 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 1hr tutorial per week, beginning from Week 1  
Assessments: mid-semester take-home assignment (30%), tutorial participation (10%), final take-home assignment (60%)

## JD Full-Time Stream

Corequisite: LAWS5000  
Foundations of Law  
Session: Semester 1  
Class Structure: 1 x 2hr lecture, 1 x 1hr lecture and 1x1hr tutorial/wk for 10 weeks  
Assessments: In-semester assignment (30%), class participation (10%), final short-release assignment (60%)

## JD Part-Time Evening Stream

Corequisite: LAWS5000  
Foundations of Law  
Session: Semester 1  
Class Structure: 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks  
Assessments: In-semester assignment (30%), class participation (10%), final short-release assignment (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Because torts is quite broad, there is a lot of content to cover for the unit and so it's very important to stay on top of the lectures, tutorials and readings throughout the semester. Also, just like any other law subject, it's quite useful to have a small study group with whom you can attempt the tutorial problem questions before class every week, as well as attempt practice problems before the assessments. While practising problems with friends, I realised that everyone approaches the questions in very different ways and so the insights that can be gained from studying with others is often very valuable.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

As mentioned above, this subject is definitely a lot broader than some of the other law subjects that you will complete during your degree. It covers several different areas, from the elements of intentional torts and negligence to related topics such as vicarious liability and concurrent tortfeasors. Because of this, it is possible for the content to feel quite overwhelming and thus it's really important to have a clear scaffold so that you can see how everything fits together.

### How would you describe the content?

I found the content very interesting. It relies heavily on both case law and statutes, and so for someone like me for whom Torts was their first substantive law subject, it was a valuable introduction into how case law and statutes often interact with each other.

### What did you enjoy the most?

At the risk of sounding repetitive, I really did enjoy just how diverse but closely related each of the topics were that we learnt about in the course. From reading cases which involved snail remains at the bottom of a bottle (yes, *Donoghue v Stevenson*) to ones where a woman suffered psychiatric injury due to a prank played on her by a colleague, it was very interesting to see how the same principles could be applied to such different scenarios.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Torts was the first subject which introduced me to the Civil Liability Act. Although I didn't discover this resource at the time, I have retrospectively realised that the Annotated Civil Liability Act is a great resource to use in order to understand certain provisions of the act in more depth and their interaction with case law. Also, the past problem questions in the unit of study reading guide were very helpful in preparation for the final assessment.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

The importance of a clear legal scaffold which provides a reliable guide to approach problem questions was something that I realised through completing later law subjects, which I wish I had known before taking Torts.



Esha Gupta, LLB IV



# LAWS1015/LAWS5002 Contracts

## LLB

Prerequisite: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week

Assessments: Class participation (assigned) (10%); in-semester assignment or research essay (option) (30%) and 2 1/2 hr final exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2x2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (full-time);

1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (part-time)

Assessments: assigned class presentation (10%), mid-semester take-home problem assignment OR essay (30%), final 3hr (including 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

SO: Reread the cases after the seminar. Listen carefully to what the tutors focus on or emphasise in class. Take each problem set (even if you are not on-call) as if you are on-call. Use each tutorial as an opportunity to check your understanding/application with tutors and peers.

AZ: Always reflect on your understanding of the law. This unit focuses heavily on cases rather than statutes. It is important to make case notes by summarising the law and facts. Also, draft out a flow chart for your tutorial question and check it during the seminar. After, know where you got wrong and update your response. The time constraints on the final exam are tight. Therefore, practicing sample exams under exam conditions is a good idea to get you prepared. Find as many sample exams you can find and practice all of them!

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

SO: Although legislation is involved, the case law is more significant in this unit. Also, I found that focusing too much on understanding all the facts in some cases was ineffective. As fascinating as some of them are, there are some complex cases that you may struggle with understanding the facts. Seek clarifications when necessary but note that it might be better to focus on the facts/ principles highlighted by the tutor.

AZ: There are no lectures on this subject, only seminars, so be prepared

before you walk into the class. In the seminar, your lecturer teaches and asks questions at the same time. Making case notes beforehand is super important. You want a good understanding of the topic so that you are always engaged with the content.

### How would you describe the content?

SO: After examining the formation of contracts, you delve into the construction of the terms and termination of the contract. Each part of the unit is crucial when solving problem questions (especially in the final) so practice applying all parts in a scenario.

AZ: The content is based on case law and is facts intensive. That's why I find drawing analogy is a good way to establish my reasoning.

### What did you enjoy the most?

SO: I found the unit well-organised and structured, which was instrumental in my learning. The immense amount of problem sets we had each tutorial was also useful as I could test out if I actually can apply the principles to facts. Most importantly, I love how applicable the topic is.

AZ: The whole thing. You will be amazed by how broad contract law is. It is a useful tool in everyday life. Your friends may approach you for some valuable opinions!

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

SO: I would recommend focusing on the main textbook as it provides thorough

and clear explanations. Besides the lecture slides and prescribed readings, the legal database is of great use. I found the PASS sessions one of the most effective ways to confirm my understanding and application with other peers.

AZ: The prescribed text is comprehensive and enough to achieve a decent mark. If you want to know more, just go onto Westlaw or LexisNexis for more cases.

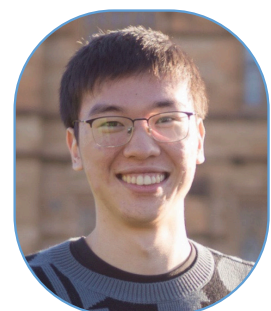
### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

SO: Be flexible: don't be afraid if the way you approach the problem question differs from your peers.

AZ: Don't leave everything to the last minute!



Sarah Oh, LLB III



Andrew Zhu, LLB IV

# LAWS1014/LAWS5003 Civil & Criminal Procedure

Prerequisites: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law and LAWS1014/LAWS5003 Civil and Criminal Procedure

## LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 1 x 2hr pre-recorded lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week for 10 weeks

Assessments: 2 x class participation (20%), interim assignment (20%), final exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 1 x 2hr pre-recorded lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week for 10 weeks

Assessments: 2 x class participation (20%), interim assignment (20%), final exam (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

There is a lot of content in this unit, and in particular (perhaps quite differently to other law units), a heavy emphasis on legislative provisions in both the criminal and civil aspects of the unit. My biggest piece of advice would be to try to stay on top of the weekly material as you go along and attempt the tutorial questions as you learn the material to consolidate your understanding. In preparation for the final open-book exam, I would recommend making a combined scaffold/'cheat sheet' containing all the steps, legislative provisions and cases you will need to refer to during the exam. Try to keep this brief and straight to the point, as you will not have a lot of time to dig through your individual topic notes during the exam.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

As mentioned above, CCP has a greater emphasis on legislation rather than cases, which means that the approach to problem questions might look a little differently to your other law units. I would say that problem questions for CCP are relatively more straightforward in a sense, because of the procedural nature of the unit which means you can often categorise your understanding of content into a series of steps/processes. Some topic areas, particularly in the criminal aspect of the course, will involve applying the rules in a less straightforward manner, as it is very facts-dependent. This means that you will have to apply your usual rigorous legal analysis, applying principles from cases, to reach a conclusion. Generally, I

would recommend using flowcharts/mindmaps/ comparison tables to help you unpack the processes that you have to consider in this unit and annotate the various legislative provisions with principles from cases to help elucidate your understanding.

### How would you describe the content?

This unit introduces you to essential criminal and civil procedures. In the first half of the course, you will learn about the procedural aspects of the criminal law including police powers, bail, pre-trial processes and appeals and sentencing. The second half of the course focuses on civil dispute resolution, covering topics such as alternative dispute resolution, the procedures for commencing a civil action, case management, gathering evidence and the rules of privilege. There is a focus on practical examples in this unit, so you will certainly find something in this unit that is useful/relevant to your future legal career!

### What did you enjoy the most?

I enjoyed the structured nature of this unit, which meant that it was not too difficult to anticipate the types of problem questions you would complete in the final exam and the legislative provisions/cases you needed to know. As mentioned above, this unit is quite practical (which is beneficial if you are keen on practising law in the future), as there are a few opportunities to be involved in moot-style tutorials - e.g. I was on the prosecution of a mock bail hearing in Tutorial 3 (based on a set of hypothetical facts that you would similarly deal with in a problem question setting). This was an excellent way for me to gain a close experience

of real-life courts in a Law School class.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

The required and recommended materials in the unit guide are entirely sufficient for the purposes of doing well in this unit. Always ensure that you are using the in-force version when you are learning the relevant legislative provisions and stay up-to-date with any changes (although your unit coordinators will likely inform you of any significant changes).



Charis Chiu, LLB III

# LAWS1016/LAWS5004 Criminal Law

## What tips do you have for the unit?

KG: It's important to take a critical approach to the unit. The lecturers will encourage you to think about what the law should be rather than simply what the law is so taking a critical approach to all your classes from the outset will be very beneficial.

It's also very important to stay on top of the content. As you move from offence to offence quite quickly, it becomes very easy to fall behind. I would recommend consolidating your notes weekly as this will save you time later in the semester.

JW: Make sure you do all the prescribed weekly readings, and that includes both the chapters in the prescribed casebook (i.e., Brown) and other readings (e.g., chapters from other criminal law textbooks and journal articles). It goes without saying that the Brown casebook is essential because it includes all the important cases and relevant commentary. The other readings are also essential because they can be very helpful when it comes to writing your mid-semester essay assignment and the essay component in the final exam.

I would also recommend that students create personalised scaffolds to help them navigate through sometimes very complex statutory requirements for an offence (e.g., sexual offences and assault offences). In other words, be prepared to spend some time going through the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) section by section.

## How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

KG: Compulsory law subjects generally don't care about what you think, only how you apply the law. However, in criminal law, there is a real focus on what each student thinks about the law and this should inform analysis, especially in the research essay.

JW: Criminal Law may be the first unit where you are not only taught legal theories in detail but also required to discuss them in an essay. This can be challenging and therefore it is crucial that you get a good understanding of those theories from the very beginning.

Secondly, I would argue that there are a lot more controversies and scope for argument in Criminal Law. This means that applying critical thinking and thinking outside the box are essential to succeeding in this unit.

## How would you describe the content?

KG: Very interesting. The facts of the cases are often very serious but definitely touch upon issues that students have a broad familiarity with. As such, it's often a lot easier to pick up as we are more familiar with the basic terminology.

JW: Exciting and intense! Criminal law is arguably what has attracted you to studying law in the first place and as expected, there are some very interesting and at times brutal criminal law cases for you to study. With that said, criminal law is an old and extensive area of law. Therefore, there are a lot of cases you have to go through, many of which are still relevant today in NSW.

## What did you enjoy the most?

KG: The lecturers in criminal law are always really passionate and engaging. It is great to learn from some of the most eminent people in the profession who are always keen to help and deliver the content in an insightful way. This makes it a really great course for students!

JW: I really enjoyed the seminars. Unlike the lecture-tutorial format, a seminar format meant that the professor could adjust the teaching schedule accordingly to ensure that the class fully understands a topic before moving on to the next topic. Moreover, I felt like it was an easier way to learn the material and ask questions.

I also enjoyed the essay. I personally found it intellectually stimulating to work with legal theories and refreshing to write an essay when most law assignments are problem-based questions.

## Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

KG: The USYD online library database

is excellent for research. Have a good idea of what you are looking for and then explore the database for your essay. And follow the footnotes - it's often the best place to find additional sources.

JW: I think the Unit of Study Outline has already provided a very detailed list of recommended readings you may consider in addition to the prescribed text. However, don't be afraid to go to the criminal law section in the law library and flip through the numerous textbooks and casebooks available for additional research.

## What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

KG: It is really important to be organised when taking the final exam. There is often a lot of content to cover and it's really important to have an organised set of notes so that you are well set (even if it is open book)!

JW: Criminal law textbooks are regularly updated and so make sure you buy the latest edition of the set text. I also wish that I had spent more time preparing for the essay component in the final exam. This included reviewing all the journal articles listed as recommended reading for each topic, writing out essay outlines and doing more essay questions from past papers.



Kiran Gupta, LLB IV



Jonathan Wong, LLB IV

# LAWS1017/LAWS5006 Torts and Contracts II

Prerequisites: LAWS1012/LAWS5001 Torts and LAWS1015/LAWS5002 Contracts

## LLB

Session: Semester 2

Class Structure: 12 x 2hr lectures and 8 x 2hr tutorials, spread across the semester; lectures start in week 1 and tutorials start in week 2

Assessments: In-semester short-release assignment (30%), structured class participation (10%), and final short-release assignment (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2

Class Structure: 12 x 2hr pre-recorded lectures and 8 x 2hr tutorials, spread across the semester; lectures start in week 1 and tutorials start in week 2 (full-time); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (part-time)

Assessments: In-semester short-release assignment (30%), structured class participation (10%), and final short-release assignment (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Stay organised! There is quite a lot of content to cover in this unit, so it's really important that you keep on top of the material and don't fall behind.

Once you have done the readings, watched the lectures and attended the tutorial for a particular topic, go back and spend some time summarising the case law and finalising your notes. This really helped me solidify my understanding on each topic before I moved onto new content. Some tutors provide summary scaffolds at the end of each topic. Use these as a template and expand on them!

Make sure you are well prepared for the 72 hour exam BEFORE it starts! The problem questions can be long and complex so you don't want to spend the limited time you have learning or revising content.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

Something that makes TC2 different from Torts or Contracts is that the course covers some areas of unsettled law which can seem convoluted at first. Make sure you do additional readings for these topics and ask your tutors any lingering questions.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Although you should prioritise the prescribed reading material, I found the supplementary readings and case law extremely helpful in enriching my understanding of the content.

For the contracts part of the course, I highly recommend Principles of Contract Law (Thomson Reuters, 6th ed, 2020). Specifically, the chapters on penalties and actions for debt are legendary!

For the torts part of the course, Torts (LexisNexis, 9th ed, 2020) provides a clear summary of facts, issues and decisions for each case!

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

Record pinpoint references and judges as you go!

This will save you SO much time when revising caselaw and completing your footnotes. Having precise footnotes not only gives your marker a good first impression, but it is also a great way to draw analogies or distinctions between the factual matrix of a case and a problem question. Engaging closely with the facts in this way will help you exemplify depth of knowledge.



Erika Blendell, LLB IV

# LAWS1021/LAWS5007 Public Law

Prerequisite: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law

## LLB

Session: Semester 2  
Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars / wk for 10 weeks  
Assessments: interim test (30%) and final exam (70%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2  
Class Structure (full-time): 2 x 2hr seminars / wk for 10 weeks.  
Assessments: interim test (30%) and final exam (70%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Prepare for the final exam as if it were closed book. Conceptually, the topics have an odd relationship – many of them are overtly connected, others covertly, and some stand alone – which necessitates an ingrained understanding to pick up on the issues raised by the exam.

Your exposition of the law is also more important than in other subjects. Rather than diving head-first into application, I found that lecturers appreciated a demonstrated understanding of e.g. the source of a certain principle in the Constitution and how it had been extrapolated. That being said, the bulk of your marks still lies in accurate application to the facts, which for the most part will be a matter of drawing analogy to, or distinguishing, cases – so, be very familiar with the specifics of cases, especially those noted in class.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

In-class discussion of problem questions often only really happens in bursts, largely at the end of semester, which makes it much easier than in subjects with regular tutorials to slip behind in reviewing content, much less applying it. Avoid this by holding yourself accountable: track down problem questions (if there are none on Canvas, ask an older friend or your lecturer), give them an earnest attempt and pinpoint what you aren't understanding as you progress through the semester. Though daunting, it is a good idea to reach out to your lecturers for feedback on these attempts – they are often elated to see you taking initiative.

### How would you describe the content?

There is quite a difference between the pre- and post-mid sem content. The former is a mix of history and select introductory facets of constitutional law which are not particularly deep, so concentrate on having the principles at your fingertips.

The latter is less ad hoc and roughly traces the powers of the Executive and the Judiciary (which will likely form the crux of the final exam), as well as stand-alone topics on Freedom of Information and the ICAC, which are heavily statute-focused unlike the rest of the course, which is dominantly case-based.

### What did you enjoy the most?

Much of what you study concerns very public facets of government or heavily politicised issues, and even the most politically disinterested person is likely to find a level of interest in some of the novel factual scenarios at play (bikie gangs are a recurring theme). Readings thus feel like less of a chore. The lecturers I encountered were also a big part of my enjoyment of the subject. Each had an incredible depth of knowledge in the area – for many, this is their speciality – and imparted a lot of life into what sometimes seemed like bone-dry content.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

More about Australia's system of government! I think having a solid idea of the composition and function of the Executive branch in particular would be helpful in contextualising much of the content.



Charlie Ward, LLB V

# LAWS1023/LAWS5005 Public Law

Prerequisite: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law

## LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 1hr tutorial per week

Assessments: In-semester test (40%) and final exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (full-time); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (part-time)

Assessments: In-semester 2.5 hr test (40%) and final 2.5 hour exam (60%).

### What tips do you have for the unit?

There are A LOT of treaty provisions to remember for this course, especially for the final few topics. Include the specific provisions, sections and subsections in your exam notes and scaffolds so that you can quickly refer to them and avoid making any errors. Pay close attention to the nuances of the caselaw too. Most of the cases and advisory opinions have very ordinary names, some of which are similar to others studied in the course, so it can be quite difficult to remember a case by its name. Studying the background facts of a particular case/advisory opinion will really help with this.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

As the interim and final assessments both constitute timed exams, it is really important that you thoroughly understand the content and feel well prepared. I found it useful to create short, summary scaffolds (in addition to more detailed scaffolds) which I stuck onto my wall and used as a 'checklist of issues'.

The final exam also contains an essay component so don't neglect this! Attempt as many essay questions as you can get your hands on and don't be afraid to ask your teachers to review your work in the lead up to the exam. Writing some of your own essay questions is another great way to identify key concepts that may be assessed.

### How would you describe the content?

The content is quite different from that covered in other substantive law subjects – It's more conceptual and this can make it hard to see how all the topics fit together until the end of the course.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Focus your attention on the prescribed readings and pay particular attention to those cases which re-appear throughout the course. Read these cases carefully and forget about them.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

It's easy to approach this unit with a preconceived idea that International Law is "soft", "unenforceable" and "not law at all" but stay open to the power of the international legal system to affect international affairs and public relations. Not only will this allow you to enjoy the unit, but it will also help you develop a well-rounded understanding of the importance and shortcomings of the system.



Erika Blendell, LLB IV

# LLB IV and JD II

## LAWS2010/LAWS5010 Administrative Law

Corequisite: LAWS1021/LAWS5007 Public Law

### LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: 2000wd essay (40%) and 3hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (60%)

### JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: 2000wd essay (40%) and 3hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Administrative Law is concerned with Executive decision making. The unit is largely focused on judicial review – where a remedy is sought from a court on the basis that the decision maker made an error of law. Although this may sound dry, the content is both intellectually stimulating and of great practical importance.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

Although there are other compulsory public law subjects (Public Law; Federal Constitutional Law), Admin is a fairly unique subject. I found studying Admin to be much like learning a language. It has its own grammar, so to speak, and I found it took a lot of time to become familiar with how that worked. Of course, every area of law is structured differently and has its own unique features. However, to understand Admin you really need to understand the whole picture.

### How would you describe the content?

The previous answer probably seemed quite daunting! Thankfully you do have an entire semester to get comfortable with 'speaking' Admin. Stretching the language learning analogy, my advice is to get plenty of practice and engage with the material. Ask questions in class, try to keep track of how the course is developing (even though you probably won't see the big picture until near the end), and work through some practice problems.

### What did you enjoy the most?

It was really satisfying to see everything come together for the final exam. Since the subject demands thorough understanding of all its component parts, I think it provides a great base to draw upon beyond the course.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

The provided case extracts were very helpful. The prescribed text provides more of a big picture overview of topics. I also found the lecture slides and other handouts on Canvas to be very helpful.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

I think it would've been helpful to know how long it takes to fit all the pieces of the course together. Don't panic if it feels like the structure of the subject is lost on you – just keep getting your notes together on the component parts, and slowly fit the pieces together. A more specific note – as I'm sure you've discovered by this point in your studies, reading loads can vary by topic. I found the Procedural Fairness topic in this course demanded a particular large amount of close reading, to be able to summarise the nuanced differences in fact patterns and reasoning between cases.



Alex Kiefer, LLB Graduate

# LAWS2011/LAWS5011 Federal Constitutional Law

Corequisite: LAWS1021/LAWS5007 Public Law

## LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 15 x 2hr lectures and 5 x 2hr tutorials over the semester

Assessments: compulsory mid-semester exam (40%) and final 3hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 week (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: compulsory problem assignment (40%) and final 2.5hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (60%)

### Sarah Ienna, LLB Graduate

#### What tips do you have for the unit?

As much as possible, stay on top of the readings and do them in advance of the lectures.

Attend all the lectures and listen closely to what Professor Gerangelos is saying; his pearls of wisdom will be useful not only for this subject but for your future in the law. I also recommend purchasing the most recent edition of Zines's *The High Court and the Constitution* as it contains useful insights that will help you both for the exam.

In the exam, make sure you read the questions carefully and know how many you have to answer if you have a choice of questions. Make sure you allocate enough time to answer each question properly! Practice questions are essential in your preparation for the exam.

#### How would you describe the content?

This subject focuses on the section 51 heads of power and determining whether a purported exercise of Commonwealth power falls within one of these subject matters. Therefore, it is essential that you have a good understanding of the tests for determining whether an impugned exercise of power falls within the heads of power and is constitutional. There is also a discussion of some prohibitions on power like the implied freedom of political communication. It is useful to understand the grey areas where there is debate regarding the scope of the power. Accuracy in stating the law, appreciation of the grey areas, and an ability to think about how the test would be applied in different factual situations is key, as in all law subjects.

It is important to have clear, concise notes that you can easily and quickly work with in an exam. Try to distil complex principles into their essence and be concise and accurate in your expression, particularly with the assignment. As Professor Gerangelos says, aim for "maximum meaning, minimum words".



# LAWS2012/LAWS5008 Introduction to Property & Commercial Law (IPCL)

Prerequisite: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law

## LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr lectures per week (for 5 weeks) and 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week (for 5 weeks)

Assessments: take-home assignment (40%) and take-home exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr pre-recorded lectures per week (for 5 weeks) and 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week (for 5 weeks)

Assessments: take-home assignment (40%) and take-home exam (60%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Do the readings and engage with the tutorials. I'd say that for any course.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

In my experience, IPCL is at the same time very conceptual and very technical, which sets it apart from most other subjects which tend to lean more one way than the other. This means it is important to have a clear picture of how law and equity fit together and also to be across the detail of each specific rule taught in the course and how it is applied to particular facts.

### How would you describe the content?

Interesting and challenging. You'll find what you're learning is very relevant to many aspects of your life.

### What did you enjoy the most?

The whole course was incredibly enjoyable, but without a doubt the material concerning assignment and disposition of interests was for me the most engaging law covered in the course.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Heydon and Leeming, Cases and Materials on Equity and Trusts. There is a new edition out now (not yet published when I studied the course) which is worth the investment. The text asks thought-provoking questions and gives useful extracts from, and commentary on, the most important authorities relevant to the course's study of assignment and disposition. I recommend it thoroughly.

### John-Patrick Asimakis, LLB Graduate



# LAWS2013/LAWS5009 The Legal Profession

## LLB

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: Seminar based task/participation (30%) and final short-release assignment (70%)

## JD

Session: Semester 1

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminars per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: Seminar based task/participation (30%) and final short-release assignment (70%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

The Legal Profession is not like other law subjects in terms of content; however you should treat it like other law subjects in terms of preparation: you should make notes about the prescribed readings and cases like you would any other subject. However, this subject rewards critical reflection and personal understanding of ethical issues – that is, markers want to see what you think about the problems and how you would resolve the ethical dilemmas. I would strongly recommend using your own personal voice and drawing on your own personal experiences in the assessment

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

This subject features a lot more reflection than other subjects. It's important to actually take the time to critically reflect on the issues rather than just memorise them. A significant portion of the mark is also based on group work. Depending on your group, it's important to allocate enough time to ensure that your presentation is perfected as all group members generally receive the same mark. That said, a lot of the study principles remain the same. It's important to be specific with the rules and regulations cited and it is important to be familiar enough with the case law to apply it to the problem question. Focus on writing clearly and concisely and prepare well in advance for the take-home exam (you don't have as much time as you think and there is a lot to do.)

### How would you describe the content?

The Legal Profession focuses on what it means to be a lawyer. You look at everything in the Australian legal profession from conduct rules to being admitted to the processes and practises of large firms and in-house legal teams. It's very broad and a lot of it is very interesting.

### What did you enjoy the most?

There's a lot more flexibility in this course than other law subjects. If you want to take a feminist perspective on the law, there's scope for that and if you want to evaluate how the law affects marginalised communities, you have the opportunity to do that as well. I liked the fact that tutors in this subject cared about what you think, rather than simply lecturing. I found the cases were also a lot more interesting than some black-letter law subjects.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

I'd strongly recommend just focusing on the readings (unless you are specifically asked to undertake independent research). There's more than enough content in the readings and you generally don't need any more content to do well in the assessments.



Kiran Gupta, LLB IV

# LAWS2014/LAWS5014 Corporations Law

## LLB

Session: Semester 2  
Class Structure: 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week for 10 weeks  
Assessments: In-semester 2hr test (20%), class participation (10%), and final 3hr take-home exam (60%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2  
Class Structure: 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)  
Assessments: In-semester 2hr test (20%), class participation (10%), and final 3hr take-home exam (60%)

### Caitlin Lee, LLB Graduate

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Keeping up to date with content and readings was critical - the subject has been designed to constantly build upon the content learned in previous weeks (as opposed to each week or seminar effectively covering a standalone concept). Setting a good foundation each week meant I could really consolidate my understanding throughout the semester, which put me in good stead as content became more complex. This also meant that as soon as it came time to begin preparing for the exam, I had a solid set of notes and a fairly good understanding of the issues, so that I could devote those crucial pre-exam weeks to past papers and reviewing any remaining problem areas.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

The main difference that springs to mind stems from the way the assessments are structured. The 20% mid-semester exam is closed book and consists of multiple choice and short answer questions. In such a format there is very little room for error, so students were expected to have a good grasp on the key concepts and be familiar enough to sit the exam without notes. The final, problem-based exam is more typical of other law subjects, and so preparation for that was not particularly different. As always, I would suggest that completing past exams and problem questions is a better way to study than pouring over notes, as after a while you can detect patterns in factual scenarios and this prepared me well for the final exam.

### What did you enjoy the most?

Corporations Law is an incredibly practical and important subject, and I continue to apply what I learnt in that course pretty much every day in my work as a paralegal. I also really enjoyed that it helped me make better sense of the news, and gain a better understanding of the workings of the commercial world.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

I pretty much exclusively relied on the textbook and it was an incredibly useful resource. Otherwise, the discussion forum on Canvas was a good way to seek help from the teaching staff in the lead-up to the exam.



# LAWS2017/LAWS5012 Real Property

## LLB

Session: Semester 2

Prerequisites: LAWS2012 Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr pre-recorded lectures per week (for 5 weeks) and 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week (for 5 weeks)

Assessments: 1hr in-semester online exam (30%) and 2hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (70%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2

Prerequisites: LAWS2012 or LAWS5008

Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr pre-recorded lectures per week (for 5 weeks) and 1 x 2hr lecture and 1 x 2hr tutorial per week (for 5 weeks)

Assessments: 1hr in-semester online exam (30%) and 2hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (70%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Do the readings and engage with the tutorials. I'd say that for any course.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

There is a lot of statutory material to learn, more perhaps than in many other subjects.

### How would you describe the content?

Extremely interesting and fun to learn. You may be familiar with several of the locations that appear in the cases!

### What did you enjoy the most?

Studying electronic conveyancing. It's happening right now and its implications are significant.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Butt's Land Law might be the prescribed text (it certainly was when I studied the course) but it's worth an endorsement anyway. It is one of the clearest and most useful textbooks you will encounter. Sackville and Neave's Australian Property Law also has useful content, although you may find more of the materials than you would wish are taken from jurisdictions other than New South Wales.

### John-Patrick Asimakis, LLB Graduate

# LAWS2015/LAWS5015 Equity

## LLB

Session: Semester 2

Assumed knowledge: LAWS2012 Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: optional 1hr in-semester online exam (20%) and 2hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (80% or 100%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2

Assumed knowledge: LAWS5008 Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

Prerequisites: LAWS5000 Foundations of Law  
Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: optional 1hr in-semester online exam (20%) and 2hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (80% or 100%)



**Catherine Chang, JD  
Graduate**

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Always summarise your own notes for each topic and cases. Make sure you highlight the specific facts of cases and really understand the rationale behind the rules. A relatively complete set of notes for topics makes it much easier when you are preparing for the final exam.

You should ensure that you never mix up Australian and UK principles and rules as they may use different terminology. You should also ensure that you seek out past papers and attempt as many as you can.

### How is the study for this subject different to other subjects?

Equity is a largely case-based subject, which requires us to be familiar with the logic behind prescribed cases and principles. Like Contracts, the facts of cases are distinct and unique so be careful when you apply those cases to problem questions, being careful to distinguish between the precedent and the problem question.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Sticking to the prescribed readings in the Unit of Study outline is generally sufficient.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

Equity seems to be dry and abstract at first glance, but if you take your time, you will gradually understand the logic and flow behind it.

# LAWS2016/LAWS5013 Evidence

Prerequisites: LAWS1006/LAWS5000 Foundations of Law and LAWS1014/LAWS5003 Civil and Criminal Procedure

## LLB

Session: Semester 2

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars / wk for 10 weeks

Assessments: unstructured tutorial participation (10%), tutorial presentation (15%), optional 2000wd essay (30%), final 48hr take-home exam (45% or 75%)

## JD

Session: Semester 2

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars / wk for 10 weeks

Assessments: unstructured tutorial participation (10%), tutorial presentation (15%), optional 2000wd essay (30%), final 48hr take-home exam (45% or 75%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

I have 3 tips for doing well in Evidence. The first is to think about the Evidence Act as its own complete system of logic. The first part of this is becoming extremely familiar with how all of the fundamental principles of the Act interact. In doing so, it is essential to understand the rationale behind each principle, because unless one understands the rationale, the complex interaction of the sections will not make sense. Although the Act has a mechanical structure with which it is important to be familiar, it will be difficult to do well if one only has a mechanical understanding rather than a deeper understanding of the rationales at play. The second tip is to buy a printed copy of the Evidence Act. This can be bought from the Commonwealth Legislation website. Having the Act in hard copy allows you to get properly

familiar with the interaction between the sections by underlining, annotating and tabbing. Be aware that there are some minor differences between the Commonwealth and NSW Acts, but these can be noted. The benefit of a printed copy in the exam is substantial. The importance of reading the Act and cases yourself, and making your own notes (preferably by hand), cannot be overstated. The holistic understanding of the Act that is needed to do well will not be achieved unless you have done the thinking for yourself. The third tip is to spend time watching a criminal trial to see the operation of the Act in real life. Working out whether there is a basis to exclude evidence requires familiarity with the types of evidence that are commonly excluded, such as hearsay or opinion. Unless one has enough familiarity to develop a bit of an instinct as to whether one of the exclusionary principles is enlivened, it can be hard to spot the relevant issues in the exam.

### How would you describe the content?

The content is very unique, with few connections to other subjects. There are few subjects in which one Act is basically the entirety of the course, so study time needs to be devoted to becoming familiar with the Act. The mechanical nature of the Act is counterbalanced by the holistic understanding of policy rationales that is required. These are the basis of the Act and it simply does not make sense without them.

**Bradley Smith,**  
LLB Graduate

# LAWS2018/LAWS5017 Private International Law A

## LLB

Session: Both Semesters

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: 1500wd optional assignment (25%) and 2.5hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (75% or 100%)

## JD

Session: Both Semesters

Class Structure: 2 x 2hr seminars per week for 10 weeks (daytime stream); 1 x 3hr seminar per week for 13 weeks (evening stream)

Assessments: 1500wd optional assignment (25%) and 2.5hr (plus 30 minutes reading time) take-home exam (75% or 100%)

### What tips do you have for the unit?

Condense your notes: Your notes must be short and well-organised, containing only the most important information as the subject covers a lot of ground.

It is not uncommon to be confused about different Latin phrases covered in this course. Don't panic! It is advisable to spend some time studying the different Latin phrases and understanding the principles of law.

I'd also suggest taking lots of practice exams: sample problem questions will help you determine how exams are drafted and marked.. Try to identify the correct legal issues and apply the

isolated legal principles to the facts of the case.

### Is there a particular textbook or resource other than the prescribed text that is helpful?

Pay attention in class, as tutorial questions will give you a strong indication of what is expected in the exam.

### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

When tackling problem questions, only answer the question being asked and read the facts of the problem question carefully. For example, you will only receive credit if you refer to the correct jurisdiction in the question.



Cindy Xu, JD Graduate

# LAW ELECTIVES

This section summarises the elective units listed in the 2022 Law School Handbook, providing their unit name, teaching session, classes, coordinator and assessments. It is not intended to replace Faculty advice about the electives on offer.

Further information can be found in the complete Law School Handbooks:

<https://sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/undergraduate/laws.shtml>

[https://sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/postgraduate/coursework/juris\\_doctor/juris\\_doctor.shtml](https://sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/postgraduate/coursework/juris_doctor/juris_doctor.shtml)

Both LLB and JD students must successfully complete 42 credit points of elective units, consisting of:

- No more than 36 credit points from Part 1, Elective Units of Study;
- At least 6 credit points from Part 2, Jurisprudence Units of Study; and
- No more than 24 credit points of Master's level Elective Units of Study.

Most elective units of study are worth 6 credit points. Full-time JD and LLB students both generally take electives in their final year of study, but both degrees allow students to substitute one compulsory unit for one elective unit in the penultimate year.

## LLB & JD Part 1 Electives

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3401 Advanced Constitutional Law	Professor Peter Gerangelos	This unit builds on the Public Law and Federal Constitutional Law units. The fundamental aspects of constitutionalism in Australia will be examined in depth from a more jurisprudential perspective. Comparative jurisdictions, like the US and the UK, will also be discussed. Overall, this unit's principal theme is the extent to which the tenets of constitutionalism are being complied with in Australia and the extent to which they can be.
LAWS3403 Advanced Corporate Law	Professor Jason Harris	This unit aims to explore contemporary issues concerning debt and equity finance in Australian public and proprietary companies. Topics to be addressed include potential law reform in the areas of the raising of corporate finance, the positions of shareholders and creditors in the event of the company's insolvency and aspects of external administration (e.g., receivership, voluntary administration, liquidation).



Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3408 Advanced Public International Law</p>	<p>Professor Tim Stephens</p>	<p>This unit builds on the topics studied in the compulsory Public International Law unit. Topics to be examined include international environmental law, the law of the sea, the law of international organisations and international dispute settlement. Any student interested in international law will enjoy this unit. Students enrolling in this unit should have a good working knowledge of the sources and language of international law.</p>
<p>LAWS3409 Advanced Taxation Law</p>	<p>Mr Micah Burch</p>	<p>This unit has a particular focus on the taxation of cross-border transactions (international tax) and is designed to address contemporary issues like the application of state taxes to gig workers. Students who are interested in exploring taxation law in greater detail will enjoy this unit. Note that LAWS3412 Australian Income Tax is a prerequisite for this elective.</p>

## Advanced Taxation Law

### Denny Chen, LLB Graduate

#### What tips do you have for the unit?

Readings, practice questions and spamming the lecturer with questions. The smaller class size allows for a lot more lecturer attention per student - make the most of that and ask the lecturer any points of uncertainty or for further clarity.

#### How is study for this subject different from other subjects?

Advanced Taxation Law has a 'choose your own assignments' structure. Speaking only for the final exam, the exam was very application focused and consisted of several questions rather than a few long responses.

#### How would you describe the content?

All about the good stuff! In all seriousness, the course further develops on the foundations laid upon by Australian Income Tax. Arguably the most applicable course in real life given taxation affects everyone.

#### What did you enjoy the most?

Property taxation. Hopefully after I buy less avocado toasts it will be useful when it comes to buying a house.

#### Particular textbook that is helpful?

ATO website. Still use it today.

#### What do you wish you'd known before taking this unit?

That it would be so much fun!

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3411 Anti-Discrimination Law</p>	<p>Associate Professor Belinda Smith</p>	<p>What is discrimination and what harm does it cause? How has the law addressed discrimination in Australia? What type of conduct does anti-discrimination law prohibit? What are the remedies for unlawful discrimination? What are the limits and future directions of anti-discrimination law? To answer these questions, this unit will focus on particular attributes of discrimination (sex, race, disability, age, or family responsibilities) and also regulatory alternatives to addressing discrimination.</p>
<p>LAWS3412 Australian Income Tax</p>	<p>Mr Micah Burch</p>	<p>Tax is the price we pay for civilization, and it is also an area of law that touches upon just about all facets of human relations. Considering the significance of tax, this unit looks at the basic policies, doctrines and rules underpinning Australia's taxation, with a focus on income tax. All students, including 4th year students, would be suited to this unit.</p>
<p>LAWS3413 Banking and Financial Instruments</p>	<p>Professor Roger Magnusson</p>	<p>This unit introduces students to banking law with a focus on secured lending. It is a "black letter" law unit as distinct from a theoretical unit. Students who want to work in banking and finance, or students who are comfortable with a challenging, professionally-oriented commercial unit are encouraged to enrol in this unit.</p>
<p>LAWS3417 Commercial Land Law</p>	<p>Mr Harrison Simons</p>	<p>This unit explores advanced issues in real property that commonly arises in commercial practice. Unlike other private law electives, this elective focuses on the practical dimensions of complex legal issues that transcend multiple areas of law. Students who enjoyed private law subjects and/or are looking to enter commercial law practice will benefit from this unit. Prior knowledge of both Real Property and Equity is recommended.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3419 Competition Law	Associate Professor Yane Svetiev	This unit examines competition law and policy as a key form of market regulation in Australia. The principal focus is on Part IV of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth). We will study the fundamental purposes of competition law policy, the role of competition as a disciplining force on market conduct and alternatives to competition. Comparative provisions and enforcement from other jurisdictions will also be referenced.
LAWS3426 Criminology	Professor Murray Lee	This unit examines the theoretical issues associated with the definition and explanation of crime, criminality and crime control. Topics to be addressed include rationales for punishment, the impact of criminal justice policy and practice on particular groups of people, the regulation of specific offences and other contemporary criminological debates. Students are expected to visit a gaol and/or a juvenile detention centre as part of their assessment.
LAWS3427 Death and Inheritance Law	Mr Harrison Simons	This unit examines the law that governs the transmission of property rights on the death, the holder of those property rights, to other persons. This unit will provide an overview of succession law in Australia before considering topics like the modern family relationships for succession, the boundaries of the law of succession and the legal fact of death. Students interested in succession law are encouraged to take this unit.
LAWS3428 Media Law: Defamation and Privacy	Professor David Rolph	This unit provides a doctrinal analysis of defamation, privacy and breach of confidence, as well as placing these areas of law in their broader historical, international, comparative, social and cultural contexts. Specifically, this unit examines the principles of defamation law relating to liability, defences and remedies and also how different common law legal systems are developing direct legal protection for individuals' privacy against intrusive media coverage.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3430 Environmental Law	Dr Gerry Bates	This unit provides a framework for understanding contemporary environmental issues by outlining the sources of environmental law and examining the different approaches to global and domestic environmental regulation. Topics to be addressed include climate change, water management, mining, pollution control and waste management. Two overarching themes of this unit are the implication of state sovereignty for global environmental protection and the role of public participation in environmental governance.
LAWS3431 Law and Social Justice Clinic	Ms Irene Baghoomians	In this unit, students will work one day per week during the semester in a 'public interest' placement site. Students will also attend weekly seminars to discuss and reflect on their placement experience. Overall, this unit aims to enrich the students' practical legal skills and understanding of the professional and personal responsibilities associated with the practice of law.
LAWS3432 Family Law	Dr Ghena Krayem	This unit provides a doctrinal analysis of defamation, privacy and breach of confidence, as well as placing these areas of law in their broader historical, international, comparative, social and cultural contexts. Specifically, this unit examines the principles of defamation law relating to liability, defences and remedies and also how different common law legal systems are developing direct legal protection for individuals' privacy against intrusive media coverage.
LAWS3434 International Human Rights Law	Professor David Kinley	This unit provides a framework for understanding contemporary environmental issues by outlining the sources of environmental law and examining the different approaches to global and domestic environmental regulation. Topics to be addressed include climate change, water management, mining, pollution control and waste management. Two overarching themes of this unit are the implication of state sovereignty for global environmental protection and the role of public participation in environmental governance.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3437 International Commercial Arbitration</p>	<p>Professor Chester Brown</p>	<p>In this unit, students will work one day per week during the semester in a 'public interest' placement site. Students will also attend weekly seminars to discuss and reflect on their placement experience. Overall, this unit aims to enrich the students' practical legal skills and understanding of the professional and personal responsibilities associated with the practice of law.</p>
<p>LAWS3441 Introduction to Islamic Law</p>	<p>Associate Professor Salim Farrar</p>	<p>This unit introduces students to Islamic Law. It will focus on Shari'ah and will seek to explain its relationship to the contemporary laws of Muslim states and the cultural practices of Muslim communities living in Australia and other predominantly non-Muslim states. Through case studies, students are encouraged to critically assess past and present understandings in the contexts of terrorism, modernity and social change.</p>
<p>LAWS3443 Interpretation</p>	<p>Ms Patricia Lane</p>	<p>In this unit, you will learn how to apply principles of legal interpretation to various legal texts and also elements of contract and legislative drafting. Unlike most law units, this unit deals with the process of interpreting, not the result of applying interpretation rules. Students should take this unit because legal interpretation is a useful skill for future practice. Furthermore, it is difficult to fail this unit as interpretive arguments do not produce 'right' or 'wrong' answers.</p>
<p>LAWS3445 Insolvency Law</p>	<p>Professor Jason Harris</p>	<p>This unit examines the regulation of bankrupt individuals and insolvent companies. It explores the objectives and key principles of insolvency law, the pari passu principle and the various forms of insolvent administration. The unit also considers the impact of insolvency on employees, unsecured creditors, shareholders and trustee's of trusts. A significant part of this unit involves statutory interpretation.</p>

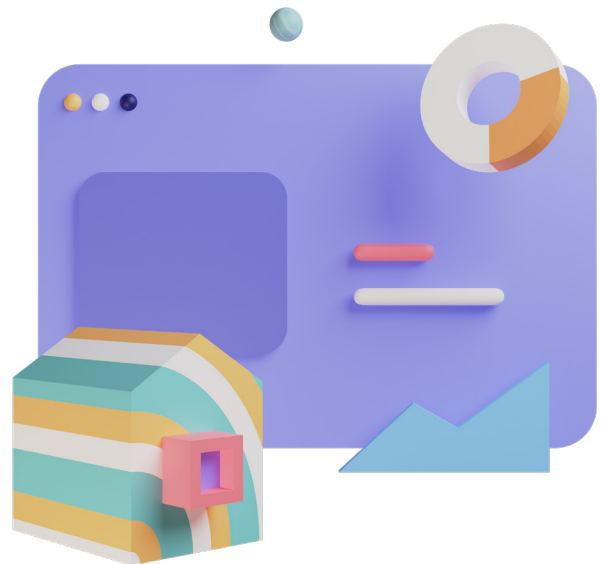
Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3446 Labour Law	Professor Joellen Riley	This unit examines the law governing work and employment in Australia. We will cover common law contract of employment and the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth), as well as analyse labour law from a critical, policy-oriented perspective. Students interested in government policy and trade union activism and those who wish to specialise in employment/workplace law will enjoy this unit. Prior knowledge of Equity and Corporate Law is recommended.
LAWS3452 Medical Law	Professor Roger Magnusson	This unit focuses on the regulation of the doctor/patient relationship and other health care relationships. After providing an overview of the evolution of medical law and the professional regulation of the health professions, the unit will examine consent, medical negligence, reproduction and end-of-life decision-making. Students interested in medicine, health care and professional liability will enjoy this unit.
LAWS3460 Roman Law	The Hon Justice Arthur Emmett	This unit introduces students to all aspects of Roman private law. It also examines Roman institutions from the earliest times until the reign of Justinian, Roman legal history and the development of Roman legal concepts. Roman law is important as it provides a yardstick to measure the virtues and the shortcomings of the common law and forms the jurisprudential background of most legal systems in continental Europe.
LAWS3461 Public Interest Law Clinic	Professor Simon Rice	This unit addresses social justice issues by combining intellectual study (what is public interest law and how do you do it?) with the practical experience of spending a day a week on placement in a public or community legal agency. The unit shows pathways to non-commercial legal practice and encourages discussion about the ways that lawyers can work for and against the public interest. A good understanding of administrative law and civil procedure will be useful.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3463 Sports Law	Mr David Thorpe	Sports law is a commercial law unit as the sports industry is essentially a major business enterprise. The establishment of a Federal Sports Tribunal, to run from 2020, for example, underlines the increasing importance of sports law and the need for specialised expertise. Some of the legal issues within sports include marketing and intellectual property, the avoidance of tortious lawsuits and the prosecution of on-field criminal assaults.
LAWS3465 Sydney Law Review	Associate Professor Jacqueline Mowbray	This unit offers students the opportunity to experience legal publishing through involvement with the Sydney Law Review. Students will engage with legal publishing processes and will write a case note or law reform essay, the best of which will be published in the Sydney Law Review. This unit is recommended for students in their final years and those who are interested in legal research and publishing.

## Sydney Law Review

### Wendy Hu, LLB Graduate

Sydney Law Review was one of the most academically rewarding units I took. Running only in Semester 2, you will need a minimum 70 Law WAM to enrol, and to be quick, as only the first ten students are accepted. The first two assessments, copyediting and reference checking and writing a review note, provide invaluable insight into the publication process. In addition, you attend an Editorial Board meeting where you are encouraged to participate in discussions about the article you reviewed. Most fulfilling for me, however, was writing a law reform essay on a topic of my choosing with a supervisor. Up to two essays/case notes may be selected each year for publication which is an incredible opportunity for any student. I cannot recommend this unit enough!



Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3478 Development, Law and Human Rights</p>	<p>Professor David Kinley</p>	<p>This unit introduces students to the law, policy and practice of the global development economy as it intersects with human rights. This unit will examine the funding, administration and reform of international aid, the role of private sector-led development and the role of the rule of law. It will also analyse the global development reform experiences over the past half-century and human rights-based approaches to economic development.</p>
<p>LAWS3479 IP: Trade Marks and Patents</p>	<p>Dr Fady Aoun</p>	<p>This unit focuses on legal rights concerning the marketing of products (trade mark law and passing off) and legal rights concerning invention (patent law). In this unit, most aspects of trade mark and patent law will be covered, including the effect of such laws on new marketing practices on the Internet. We will also discuss relevant cultural, technological and economic consequences of IP laws.</p>

## IP: Trademarks and Patents Tips

**Claudia Harper, LLB Graduate**

### **What motivated you to undertake this elective?**

I was interested in learning about patent and trademark law, as these areas of law have significant economic and cultural consequences relating to health care and innovation. Further, I thought that it would be useful to learn the basics of intellectual property law given the increasing number of technology-based legal disputes.

### **What were your thoughts about the classes and assessment?**

There were two assessment options: a 5000-word essay on a topic of choice (50%) and a final exam (50%); or, a final examination worth 100%. The final exam was an open book, and included problem questions and short essay responses. Dr Fady Aoun made the classes entertaining by bringing news stories to share. Despite there being approximately 100 students in the course, there was a significant amount of class discussion.

### **What do you think were the advantages of completing this elective?**

This course covers all of the fundamental concepts in intellectual property law, so it is very useful for students who wish to pursue a career in commercial law. The optional essay also gave students the opportunity to write on a topic of their choice.





Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3480 IP: Copyright and Designs</p>	<p>Professor Kimberlee Weatherall</p>	<p>This unit focuses on the requirements for the copyright and design protection and investigates the bases upon which infringement action can be brought. This unit will specifically examine the expanding scope of copyright and the implications of the internet, as well as provisions in the Copyright Act. We will also discuss relevant cultural, technological and economic consequences of IP laws.</p>
<p>LAWS3484 Secured Transactions in Commercial Law</p>	<p>Professor Sheelagh McCracken</p>	<p>This unit examines how security may be taken over common forms of personal property through a detailed analysis of the Personal Property Securities Act 2009 (Cth). Providing an overview of the historical and economic development of the law in this area, this unit explores the rationale for the comprehensive legislation and its underlying general principles. Comparative jurisdictions in Canada and New Zealand will be discussed in detail.</p>
<p>LAWS3489 International Moot</p>	<p>Professor Chester Brown (Vis Moot), Dr Alison Pert (Jessup Moot), Professor Luke Nottage (Tokyo Negotiation and Arbitration Competition).</p>	<p>This unit involves participation in one of three international moots: the Jessup Moot, the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and the Tokyo Negotiation and Arbitration Competition. There will be a competitive selection process for enrolment in the unit. For all moots, students will work as a team preparing written memorials and oral arguments on a set problem as required by each moot.</p>
<p>LAWS3490 Law and Society in Indonesia</p>	<p>Professor Simon Butt</p>	<p>This unit offers an introduction to the legal history, legal system and judiciary of Indonesia, before embarking on selected topics in Indonesian law. Indonesia is a remarkably diverse country and interestingly, the law 'in practice' is often quite different to the law 'on paper'. Any student interested in learning about the legal opportunities (and challenges) of engagement with our nearest northern neighbour should take this unit. No prior knowledge is required.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3496 United States Constitutional Law</p>	<p>Dr Jeffrey Gordon</p>	<p>This unit provides an in-depth introduction to the principles, core concepts, key cases and current developments in US Constitutional Law. It traces the structure and role of the US Supreme Court and the development of US constitutional reasoning from the post-revolutionary period to the present. Topics to be examined include federalism and the commerce clause, equal protection of the laws and freedom of speech.</p>
<p>LAWS3499 Migration, Refugees and Forced Migration</p>	<p>Professor Mary Crock</p>	<p>This unit examines the government regulation of the entry of persons into Australia. We will discuss Australia's immigration program as well as issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers. In this unit, students will develop their statutory interpretation skills through interpreting the Migration Act 1958, legal analysis skills through reviewing courts decisions by relevant tribunals and writing and oral skills through class participation, simulation exercises and the research essay assignment.</p>
<p>LAWS3502 Advanced Trusts</p>	<p>Professor Matthew Conaglen</p>	<p>This unit looks at the content and role of the law of trusts in the management of assets. It examines conceptual analyses of the function served by trust law doctrine, as well as the core doctrines that regulate the operation of intentionally created trust arrangements. The focus is on Australia and England, but consideration will also be given to comparative 'off-shore' jurisdictions.</p>
<p>LAWS3508 Industry and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Professor Simon Rice</p>	<p>In this unit, students in multi-disciplinary teams will work on projects for public agencies and private industry, developing solutions that are presented to the 'client' at the end of the semester. No matter what the project is, students will develop their collaboration and project management skills. Students will also write a pass/fail personal reflection on insights they gain into law and lawyering from the multi-disciplinary team experience.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3510 Law Reform	Professor Simon Rice	Law doesn't just exist; it gets made. This unit examines the institutions and processes of law-making, formal and informal. Starting with legal theory, this unit moves through the conventional structures and systems of lawmaking, from parliament and the courts to committees and commissions, before looking at community-driven movements and strategies to achieve change. Assessments involve analysing past, current or potential campaigns and strategies to achieve law reform.
LAWS3511 Indigenous Engagement	Professor Simon Rice	This experiential, social justice-oriented unit is taught centrally by the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy & Services. It combines the study of contemporary Indigenous issues and Indigenous communication and collaboration skills, with 'on country' experience to work on projects with Indigenous communities and agencies. Participation requires prior completion of a multi-day intensive personal development and Indigenous cultural competency program to prepare for this profound cultural experience.
LAWS3514 Race and the Law	Dr Louise Boon-Kuo	This unit introduces students to literature that disputes the idea that the law is racially neutral as well as debates on redress for racial harm. Students who like discussions and are interested in racial justice and in developing their academic research and writing will enjoy this unit. Overall, this unit aims to enrich students' racial literacy and to empower students to see possibilities for a more just present and future.
LAWS3489 International Moot	Professor Chester Brown (Vis Moot), Dr Alison Pert (Jessup Moot), Professor Luke Nottage (Tokyo Negotiation and Arbitration Competition).	This unit involves participation in one of three international moots: the Jessup Moot, the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and the Tokyo Negotiation and Arbitration Competition. There will be a competitive selection process for enrolment in the unit. For all moots, students will work as a team preparing written memorials and oral arguments on a set problem as required by each moot.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS3515 Citizenship and Nationality Law</p>	<p>Dr Rayner Thwaites</p>	<p>This unit is interested in citizenship – a status that has implications within diverse fields of law, both municipal (constitutional and administrative) and international (public and private). We will study the history of Australian citizenship, international law relating to nationality, the interaction between national citizenship regimes and other related topics. We will also analyse various sources, including history and political science publications, judgments and parliamentary submissions.</p>
<p>LAWS3516 International Law and China</p>	<p>Professor Bing Ling</p>	<p>This unit provides a critical survey of the practice and perspectives of China on international law and examines the impact of a rising China on the international legal order. This unit is best suited for students who have studied Public International Law and are interested in China and/or international law.</p>
<p>LAWS3518 Law and Technology</p>	<p>Professor Kimberlee Weatherall</p>	<p>This unit explores the interface between law and technology and the challenges they create. Some of those challenges that this unit will address include data collection, sharing and use (privacy laws and surveillance), the regulation of automated decision-making and personalised/precision medicine. A background in science, information technology or engineering is not assumed or required.</p>
<p>LAWS3519 The Criminal Trial</p>	<p>Professor Simon Rice</p>	<p>This unit studies and simulates a criminal trial. First, the common law criminal trial is examined and compared to the criminal justice process in civil law countries. Then, working with psychology students and visiting criminal lawyers, students take on prosecution and defence roles to prepare and run a trial before a visiting judge. Successful prior completion of a criminal procedure unit is required, and prior/concurrent study of evidence law is desirable.</p>

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LAWS3515 Citizenship and Nationality Law	Dr Rayner Thwaites	This unit is interested in citizenship – a status that has implications within diverse fields of law, both municipal (constitutional and administrative) and international (public and private). We will study the history of Australian citizenship, international law relating to nationality, the interaction between national citizenship regimes and other related topics. We will also analyse various sources, including history and political science publications, judgments and parliamentary submissions.
LAWS3516 International Law and China	Professor Bing Ling	This unit provides a critical survey of the practice and perspectives of China on international law and examines the impact of a rising China on the international legal order. This unit is best suited for students who have studied Public International Law and are interested in China and/or international law.
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Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3520 Psychology and Law	Dr Jason Chin	This unit looks at the human component of the legal system – the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of judges, juries, lawyers and parties. Students should take this class if they want to better understand the actors in the legal system, the way laws reflect the way we think and feel and the sources of problems like wrongful convictions. No prior knowledge is required for this unit.

## Psychology and Law

### Sinem Kirk, LLB Graduate

#### How did you find the overall course?

I completed Psychology & Law as an elective in Semester 1 and really enjoyed it. It's quite different to other law units because it's not really based on cases and legislation - it has a theoretical feel to it. The teaching style was a mix between guest lecturers, pre-recorded lectures, group activities and class discussions with a seminar being held once a week. The topics included the trustworthiness of psychological science, memory processes and the psychology of judges and juries. We also discussed the reliability of eyewitnesses, confessions and expert witnesses with useful readings on each week's topic outlined in the reading guide for us.



#### How was this course structured, and was there anything beneficial in particular?

The main part of this course that I found very beneficial was that the unit coordinator asked us to submit a weekly reflection on some aspect of the readings or pre-recorded lectures in 250-400 words. Each week's submission was marked out of 5 and added up to 50% of our final mark so it was good to have a low stakes assessment structure. The other 50% was on a final essay based on a topic of our choosing. The unit coordinator was very hands-on with everyone's learning experience and even asked to speak to each student about their essay topic one-on-one, which was refreshing (and rare) for a law subject!

#### To which students would you recommend this course?

If you like thinking about the law from different perspectives and seeing how other disciplines could interact with your understanding of the legal system, this subject would be right up your alley. Choosing electives can be a daunting task but as long as you try to balance your decision based on what types of assessment structures you like and what kind of content you prefer learning about, the process will be a lot easier.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3521 Law of Restitution and Unjust Enrichment	Dr David Winterton	This unit examines the law of restitution in Australia and considers the fundamental question of whether there is a unified law of restitution, or whether the subject merely brings together several distinct, and only superficially related, claims. Students will explore this fundamental question by comparing the English and Australian approaches to the law of restitution and determining which one is preferable.
LAWS3900 Law Honours	Professor David Rolph	The Honours Unit in Law consists of a dissertation written under the supervision of an academic staff and the participation in a non-assessable research workshop. The dissertation will be a maximum of 12,000 words (inclusive of footnotes).

## LLB/JD Part 1 - Master's Level Electives

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS6013 Advanced Employment Law	Professor Joellen Riley Munton	This unit focuses on the regulation of employment relationships. Some of the topics we cover include employment contract interpretation and contractual remedies for wrongful termination of employment. Students interested in pursuing a career in Human Resources/ People and Culture management or who wish to specialise in employment law in legal practice will enjoy this unit. Note that this is a four-day intensive unit offered in Semester 2.
LAWS6022 International and Comparative Labour Law	Professor Emanuele Menegatti	This unit examines the use of individual labour and equality rights to protect working people, with the overall aim of assessing the capacity of this type of regulation to enhance justice. This unit will consider case studies from the UK and the EU as well as the European Convention on Human Rights standards to evaluate various strategies for enhancing the protective capacity of individual workplace rights.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6032 Crime Research and Policy</p>	<p>Ms Hayley Boxall</p>	<p>This unit examines the various research methods in the context of criminology. We will critically analyse the production of knowledge about crime and the sources and forms of crime data. More generally, research design, evaluation, analysis and the relationship between theory and methodology will be discussed and studied in this unit.</p>
<p>LAWS6041 Environmental Litigation</p>	<p>Adjunct Professor Justice Nicola Pain, Adjunct Professor Justice Rachel Pepper</p>	<p>In this unit, students will learn about the theory and practice of civil and criminal environmental litigation with a focus on the Land and Environment Court of NSW. Actual cases concerning substantive law issues and important procedural aspects of environmental disputes will be examined in detail. Anyone interested in how the courts deal with environmental issues and the challenges it brings will enjoy this unit.</p>
<p>LAWS6047 Law of the Sea</p>	<p>Professor Tim Stephens</p>	<p>This unit examines the Law of the Sea – an area of international law that addresses state entitlements and claims to maritime zones and areas of the sea beyond national jurisdiction. Topics to be addressed include how to determine state entitlement to maritime zones, how to resolve maritime boundary disputes and the protection of the marine environment. Students interested in international law and/or maritime affairs will enjoy this unit.</p>
<p>LAWS6052 Govt Regulation, Health Policy and Ethics</p>	<p>Professor Cameron Stewart</p>	<p>This unit examines the relationships between federal and state power, bioethics and policymaking in Australian healthcare. Classes normally include a cross-section of doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners and lawyers. The assessments include a long-form presentation of about 30 minutes and a 7000-word research paper.</p>
<p>LAWS6054 Health Care and Professional Liability</p>	<p>Professor Cameron Stewart</p>	<p>This unit examines civil and criminal liability in healthcare including topics of consent, assault and battery, civil and criminal negligence, end-of-life decision, abortion, voluntary assisted dying and human rights claims in healthcare. Classes normally include a cross-section of doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners and lawyers. The assessments include a long-form presentation of about 30 minutes and a short turn around assignment.</p>



Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS6061 International Environmental Law	Associate Professor Ed Couzens	This unit examines International Environmental Law – an area of international law that concerns the management and protection of biodiversity, climate change, pollution control and the use of natural resources. To engage with both theory and practice, there will be a practical negotiations exercise where students roleplay different states and argue about global environmental issues. Students interested in international environmental law-making and diplomacy will enjoy this unit.
LAWS6066 Discretion in Criminal Justice	Adjunct Professor Nicholas Cowdery	This unit looks at how the exercise of discretionary judgment arises for consideration during the criminal justice process and how that judgment should be exercised at each step. We will examine how actors at each step confront decision making, the laws and rules that apply. We will also look at the place of public commentary (personal, the media and political) in the process.
LAWS6096 Work Health and Safety: Law and Policy	Professor Richard Johnstone	This unit examines the role of law in preventing disease, injury and death at work. The focus will be on The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 as we consider topics like the extent of injury and disease at work and the principles of work health and safety management. Health and safety regulations in the mining, transport and clothing, textile and footwear industries will also be discussed.
LAWS6109 UK International Taxation	Professor Malcolm Gammie	This unit aims to provide an overview of the UK tax system focusing on cross-border investment and expatriate employment issues and a detailed analysis of the most important legislative and treaty rules of the UK in the international direct tax area, especially in dealings with Australia. This unit will be of interest to tax professionals who have dealings with the UK.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6128 Comparative International Taxation</p>	<p>Professor Richard Vann</p>	<p>This unit examines the basic principles of international taxation from a global perspective, with an emphasis on comparative analysis. We will focus particularly on Anglo, US and continental European approaches, and also developed and developing country approaches. Moreover, recent trends in international tax rule development in the context of globalisation will be identified and critiqued.</p>
<p>LAWS6165 Biodiversity Law and Heritage Law</p>	<p>Associate Professor Ed Couzens</p>	<p>LAWS6165 considers the relationship between biological diversity and heritage – they often are at odds in a world filled with different interests, cultures and values; in the fields of both biodiversity and heritage, Australia has taken an unusual approach of bringing international and national law close together. The unit takes a practical approach to learning, and students can expect to find themselves either giving a research presentation to the class or participating in a mini workshop/conference</p>
<p>LAWS6177 Tax Treaties</p>	<p>Professor Richard Vann</p>	<p>This unit is designed to study the policy, detailed rules and practical application of Australia's international tax treaties against the background of the OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital. Students in this unit will study the principles of tax treaties, the interpretation of tax treaties and selected articles of the OECD Model and Australian tax treaties.</p>
<p>LAWS6214 Goods and Services Tax Principles A</p>	<p>Professor Rebecca Millar</p>	<p>This unit introduces the key concepts that underpin the Australian GST, the policies underlying the tax, and the way those policies are reflected in the design of the GST law. The unit examines the basic design features of value added taxes in general and of Australia's GST in particular as well as core elements of the GST law.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6222 Corporate Governance</p>	<p>Dr Ulysses Chiaotto</p>	<p>This unit explores various recent trends and issues in corporate governance, like the link between corporate scandals and corporate law reform and principles-based versus rules-based regulation. The unit will examine these issues from a comparative law perspective, analysing fundamental differences in corporate governance structure and techniques in the US, the UK, Germany, China and Australia.</p>
<p>LAWS6307 Class Action Litigation in Australia</p>	<p>Mr Jason Betts</p>	<p>This unit focuses on the practice and procedure of class actions. Students will review the threshold requirements of commencing a class action, the processes by which class actions are brought to mediation and trial and the perspectives of plaintiffs, defendants and third party litigation funders. The intersections between the legal and economic aspects of class actions will also be examined.</p>
<p>LAWS6311 Advanced Directors' Duties</p>	<p>Professor Jason Harris</p>	<p>LAWS6211 builds on the compulsory corporate law subject by going into detailed examination of directors' duties. The subject considers recent case law, potential law reform and comparatively evaluates Australian directors' duties by discussing directors' duties in North America and England. This would suit students who want to work in a corporate law/M&amp;A or, for instance, a corporate governance team in a private firm. There are even guest talks by leading legal practitioners.</p>
<p>LAWS6317 Regulation of Corporate Crime</p>	<p>Dr Olivia Dixon</p>	<p>This unit will examine, from a comparative perspective, the current debates over the regulation of corporate crime from both legal and policy perspectives. Different theoretical perspectives on the nature and causes of corporate crime, the role of the state in regulating corporate behaviour and the role of criminal, civil and regulatory sanctions in deterring corporate crime are some of the topics to be examined in this unit.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6318 Corporate Innovation and Regulation</p>	<p>Mr Richard Prangell</p>	<p>This unit will cover recent developments in innovation and the law, including disruptive technology and new business models in the contexts of the sharing economy and fintech. The unit will also consider the role of trust, the increasing importance of politics in corporate governance, new global public law issues that have affected the role of the corporation and the impact of technology in society.</p>
<p>LAWS6320 Climate Justice and Disaster Law</p>	<p>Professor Rosemary Lyster</p>	<p>This unit comprehensively analyses the complexities of climate science economics and their interfaces with climate law and policymaking processes. It also provides an in-depth analysis of multilateral climate change negotiations dating from the establishment of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC to the 2015 Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>LAWS6330 Fundamentals of Regulation</p>	<p>Dr Belinda Reeve</p>	<p>LAWS6330 provides students with an overview of key regulatory theories, tools, and processes (such as monitoring and enforcement), using examples from “social” regulation, such as workplace health and safety and aged care. Regulation is a hugely important aspect of contemporary governance, yet it’s often left out of undergraduate law degrees. This course gives students a comprehensive grounding in the key themes, trends, and debates happening in the regulatory landscape.</p>
<p>LAWS6343 International Law and Technology</p>	<p>Dr Rebecca Connolly</p>	<p>This unit examines the response of the international community to technological progress across the different specialised regimes in international law. The unit will first provide an overview of relevant international law and courts and the challenges relating to the regulation of new technology. Then, the intersection of technology and key specialised regimes in international law, like trade, environment and health, will be examined.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6345 Principles of Financial Regulation</p>	<p>Professor Jason Harris</p>	<p>Combining economic theory and legal principles, LAWS6345 will provide students with a strong overview of financial regulation. Centring analytical and economic theory to explain how financial systems operate, students will be able to develop a firm understanding of banking, markets and consumer finance.</p>
<p>LAWS6352 Mergers and Acquisitions in Asia</p>	<p>Professor Jason Harris</p>	<p>LAWS6352 will evaluate the rationale for Mergers and Acquisitions (MA), with a primary focus on comparing MA in western jurisdictions with MA in an Asian context. A strong emphasis will be placed on policy and practice. The unit will also analyze the legal systems of several Asian jurisdictions.</p>
<p>LAWS6355 Energy and Water Security Law</p>	<p>Professor Rosemary Lyster</p>	<p>This unit examines the issues of global energy and water security at a time of climate change and considers how different jurisdictions like the US, the EU and Australia have developed laws and policies to respond to these issues. We will also explore the inevitable links between energy and water security, such as when hydroelectric power is used to generate renewable energy at a time of water scarcity.</p>
<p>LAWS6356 Critical Victimology</p>	<p>Associate Professor Tyrone Kirchengast</p>	<p>This unit examines various perspectives on the recognition of victims of crime as participants in the criminal justice system. Topics to be addressed include the role of the victim in the development of criminal law, the removal and exclusion of the victim in criminal justice and the rise of the victim rights movement. Overall, this unit will challenge assumptions regarding the removal of victims from the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>LAWS6358 Digital Criminology: Tech and Crime</p>	<p>Dr Carolyn Louise McKay</p>	<p>This unit examines criminological theories that critically engage with new technologies. In particular, this unit explores four broad areas: new technologised platforms for criminal behaviour and victimisation, the technologisation of law enforcement, digitalisation of courts and criminal procedure and technologies in corrections. This unit suits students who wish to better understand digital developments throughout the criminal justice system and/or are pursuing careers in cyberlaw, cybersecurity, policing, defence and corrective services.</p>

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAW6360 Project Finance Fundamentals	Ms Alisa Fiddes	This unit explores the fundamental principles of project finance from a practical perspective, using case studies and group work. We will identify the key parties and explore their objectives as well as key risks and options for mitigating them. Moreover, core contractual structures, key terms that are negotiated in project and finance contracts and their implications will also be discussed in detail.
LAW6361 Advanced Insolvency Law	Mr Lindsay Powers	This unit builds on the Insolvency Law unit by considering how insolvency law rules interact with non-insolvency law within the context of common commercial arrangements. The unit will also consider the position of common stakeholders involved in debt restructuring and corporate rescue efforts to support debtors during times of financial distress.
LAW6839 Critical Issues in Public Health Law	Professor Roger Magnusson	This unit is an introduction to public health law and its evolution over time. The unit is structured on a case study basis, where each case will illustrate how public health law develops in tandem with international, medical and economic influences. The unit will allow students to critically evaluate the political nature of public health law, and whether limits on policing public health are appropriate in liberal democracies.
LAW6852 Doing Business in China	Professor Vivienne Bath	This unit examines the legal and practical aspects of doing business in China. First, the unit will provide an overview of the Chinese legal, political and economic system. Then, it explores commercial regulations and the methods of resolution of disputes arising under contracts entered in China. Overall, the focus is on Chinese contract law, the foreign investment regime and issues related to foreign participation in the Chinese market.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS6862 Hate Crime	Professor Gail Mason	The unit will detail how the socio-legal concept of hate crime has developed over time, as well as provide an explanation as to why hate crime occurs and how it can be regulated. The unit will also allow students to assess how hate crime law differs from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
LAWS6865 International Dispute Resolution	Dr James Devaney	This unit of study draws in public international law to analyse techniques used to resolve disputes. The unit takes on the United Nations Charter as a basis for reviewing dispute resolution techniques such as adjudication, arbitration, conciliation, mediation, good offices and negotiation.
LAWS6877 Mental Illness: Law and Policy	Dr Christopher Rudge	This unit deals with the law relating to mental health issues in Australia and human rights principles. Background material on the nature and incidence of mental illness, psychiatric and medical issues, as well as criminological and public policy literature, will be considered where relevant. The unit will cover substantive issues from civil treatment, welfare law and criminal law.
LAWS6889 Death Law	Professor Cameron Stewart	This unit examines the legal dimensions of the management of death in healthcare, including topics of death definition, refusal of treatment, advance care planning, overruling public interests, withdrawal of treatment from incapacitated patients and voluntary assisted dying. Classes normally include a cross section of doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners and lawyers. The assessments include a long-form presentation of about 30 minutes and a short turn around assignment.
LAWS6916 International Investment Law	Professor Chester Brown	This unit introduces students to the international regulation of foreign investment. It examines core principles of international investment law, regional and bilateral investment treaties, the settlement of investment disputes and the international economic and political context in which the law has developed. Recent investment agreements and negotiations of mega-regional trade like the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the negotiations towards the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership will also be discussed.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
<p>LAWS6932 Law and Investment in Asia</p>	<p>Associate Prof Salim Farrar</p>	<p>This unit aims to provide students with an overview of key legal issues commonly faced when investing and doing business in Asia. We will examine the regulation of investment across chosen jurisdictions across Asia (e.g., Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar and India) and compare them with the Australian regulatory system. We will also consider foreign trade and investment regulation in the region, corporate governance and dispute resolution.</p>
<p>LAWS6933 Global Oil and Gas Contracts and Issues</p>	<p>Prof Kim Talus</p>	<p>This unit examines the legal issues and transactions relating to the exploration, production and marketing of petroleum. Topics to be addressed include how countries establish sovereignty and control over petroleum resources, how host governments contract with private international oil companies for the exploration and development of petroleum resources, the legal protection of oil and gas exploration rights and the outlook for petroleum vis-à-vis other energy resources.</p>
<p>LAWS6964 Global Energy and Resources Law</p>	<p>Associate Professor Penelope Crossley</p>	<p>This unit aims to provide a broad overview of the role of law in global energy and resources. As such, some of the topics to be addressed include the role of law in the discovery, financing, development and utilisation of energy and resources projects, energy trading on wholesale markets, mining and resources projects and national and international conflicts in the energy and resources sector.</p>
<p>LAWS6984 Economics of Tax Policy</p>	<p>Professor Patricia Apps</p>	<p>This unit aims to provide an understanding of the modern economics approach to the analysis of tax policy. It defines the role of taxation within the framework of welfare economics and examines the social and economic effects of reforms. Overall, this unit is focused on evaluating current policies and proposed reforms in terms of distributional outcomes and efficiency costs arising from disincentive effects on labour supply, saving and investment.</p>



# LLB/JD Part 2 - Jurisprudence Electives

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3447 Law and Economics	Professor Patricia Apps	This unit aims to provide an understanding of the economic analysis of law and to clarify fundamental differences between legal argument and the analysis of public policy. It defines the role of government within the framework of welfare economics and examines the social and economic effects of legal regimes within that framework.
LAWS3454 Philosophy of Law	Professor Wojciech Sadurski	This unit encourages students to view the philosophy of law as a general, abstract, normative reflection on law, as opposed to an examination of a concrete legal system. Accordingly, topics this unit will cover include the notion of legitimacy, the idea of rights, justification and limits of liberty rights, the concept of justice and the obligation to obey the law.
LAWS3468 Theories of Justice	Dr Kevin Walton	LAWS3468: Theories of Justice aims to equip students with a critical understanding of the philosophical debates about justice. The unit examines how moral values such as liberty, community, utility, fairness and equality can assess the law while recognising the limits and connections between these ideals.
LAWS3471 The Morality of Obeying the Law	Dr Kevin Walton	LAWS3471 critically engages with whether obedience to legal norms is required by morality. It examines and evaluates various arguments for a moral obligation to obey the law.
LAWS3495 The Rule of Law and its Value	Dr Michael Sevel	This unit explores the nature and value of the rule of law through a critical examination of classical and contemporary writings in jurisprudence. Hence, the readings in this unit will include historical sources from the ancient Greek and early modern periods, contemporary essays in legal, moral and political theory and other primary legal sources.

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
LAWS3500 Law, Morals and Politics	Dr Arthur Glass	This unit reflects on how law, morals and politics are thought of within our tradition. In particular, we will examine the connections and the tensions between legal positivism, Kantianism and liberalism.
LAWS3501 Theories of the State	Dr Kevin Walton	LAWS3501 examines what states are and assesses whether we should have them. Completing this unity of study will enable students to critically reflect on the various conceptions of the state and arguments for and against it.
LAWS3513 Philosophy of Criminal Law	Professor Arlie Loughnan	LAWS3513 is the subject for students who enjoyed studying Criminal Law and other units like Criminology and Advanced Criminal Law — the only prerequisite is the compulsory criminal law unit. In considering issues of law in a deeper way, the assessment structure is suitably essay-driven.
LAWS3517 The History of Legal Thought	Dr Coel Kirkby	LAWS3517 provides a holistic view of the canon of jurisprudence. It will cover traditional Western legal thought but also provide a critical perspective on the rise of empire and capitalism through Southern critics like Rammohan Ray. Luckily, no prior knowledge is needed.
LAWS3522 Rights	Dr Kevin Walton	This unit of study seeks to enable reflection on rights, including legal, moral, political, and human rights. It considers philosophical work on their nature, holders, subject matter, and justification. It examines what they are, who can have them, what they are concerned about, and what grounds them.

# LLB/JD Part 2 - Master's Level Jurisprudence Electives

Unit	Coordinator	Summary
JURS6019 Freedom of Speech	Prof Wojciech Sadurski	This unit aims to clarify the fundamental, conceptual and normative foundations of freedom of speech. We will consider the rationales for freedom of speech, the idea of content and viewpoint neutrality and the distinction between speech and conduct. We will also look at controversial issues like restrictions on racial vilification, obscenity, political communication, freedom of speech in cyberspace and defamation.
LAWS6338 The Nature of the Common Law	Dr Michael Sevel	This unit examines the nature of the common law from the point of view of jurisprudence. We will study the classic Common Law Theories developed in England during the seventeenth century and critically examine their influence on common law today. Topics to be addressed include the nature and authority of precedent, the distinctiveness of legal reasoning and the nature and questions surrounding the validity of customary law.

## Jurisprudence: Theories of Justice Tips

### Zachary O'Meara, JD Graduate

#### What motivated you to apply for this elective?

The title of the subject was the first thing that got my attention. As a criminal law-orientated law student, the concept of justice is fascinating, and further philosophical knowledge of it would benefit my future as a legal practitioner.

#### What were your thoughts about the classes and assessment?

The assessment regime for this course was separated into three parts, evenly spaced out throughout the semester and weighting of assessments. The class participation involved being 'on-call' for a specific seminar of your choosing, and critically analysing ten seminar readings and uploading the responses via Canvas. These were not too onerous, and can easily be managed. For the short essay, it involved critically analysing one of the first ten seminar readings, and responding to the arguments within the paper, either in the affirmative or negative. For the research essay, it primarily relied on research undertaken by the student in formulating a response to one of the selected questions

outlined by the unit coordinator, or pending permission, formulating your own research essay topic. Importantly, for all those students who do use poison notes, there are none available for jurisprudence subjects, and no scaffolds will prepare you for the assessments. It is best to be engaged, disciplined, and choose which topics and weekly readings throughout the course to analyse and be critical of before class.

#### What do you think were the advantages of completing this elective?

Throughout the course, I engaged with a diversity of schools of philosophical thought and understood how philosophy is the underpinning of policy and legal reasoning. You get to dabble in Liberalism, Marxism, Feminism, Multicultural, Egalitarianism, and ultimately, choose which schools of political thought you want to write about for the assessments. The teaching by the course coordinator, Associate Dean Dr Kevin Walton, was commendable. He is a well-versed philosophical scholar, and his depth and breadth of knowledge were valuable when discussing concepts and their application to contemporary and hypothetical circumstances. For students who enjoy philosophy, critically engaging with legal reasoning and prefer research papers, this subject is recommended for you.

# SUPPLEMENTING YOUR STUDIES

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## Faculty Internships

### Centre for Asian and Pacific Law (CAPLUS)

CAPLUS offers up to two internship positions to the University of Sydney Law School students in each semester. Interns must be available to work the equivalent of one day per week for the duration of the semester. Interns are involved in the full range of the Centre's activities, including research, hosting public seminars and conferences, assisting with the organisation of the Centre's offshore academic programs, drafting policy submissions and so on. There are also some administrative duties. Interns report to the Centre Director and will work closely with the Director and Associate Directors, the Administrator, and the Associates of the Centre. Interns interested in Japan may also be invited to work with the Australian Network for Japanese Law on projects agreed with CAPLUS.

Applicants must have a strong overall academic record. Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated interest in Chinese, Japanese, Malaysian or Indonesian law, but students interested in other Asian jurisdictions are also strongly encouraged to apply. An Asian language would be beneficial but is not essential.

### The Constitutional Reform Unit

The Constitutional Reform Unit will offer one or two internships per semester to the University of Sydney Law School students. An intern must be available to work one day per week for the duration of one semester. The intern will be involved in the full range of the Unit's activities, including research, organising events, drafting submissions to parliamentary committees and the like. Interns will report to the Unit's Director or Deputy Director, as advised.

Applicants must have a strong overall academic record and excellent writing skills. They must also have completed the units of study 'Public Law' and 'Federal Constitutional Law'. Preference may be given to applicants with a demonstrated interest in public law, constitutional law or comparative constitutional law. Preference may also be given to students towards the end of their degree.

### Sydney Institute for Criminology

The Institute of Criminology's Internship Program is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students of Sydney Law School.

This is an established program undertaken on a pro-bono basis. At least one internship position is currently offered in each semester of the academic year. Interns must be available to work one full (8 hour) day per week (or equivalent by agreement) for the duration of one semester (10 weeks). Students can also apply for admission to the program by intensive mode during winter and summer break.

The Internship Program will be of interest to those students seeking to gain experience in research and public policy in criminal justice. Interns will be provided with the opportunity to participate in a broad range of Institute activities and to interact, both formally and informally, with Institute staff members.



**Kiran Gupta, LLB IV**



**Jonathan Wong, LLB IV**

## 1. What motivated you to apply for the internship?

JW: I applied for an internship at the Institute because I had just completed LAWS1016 and was eager to learn more about criminal law and criminal justice. Moreover, I thought interning at the Institute would be a good challenge and opportunity for me to further enrich my legal research and writing skills.

KG: I applied for the internship because I really want to develop my general legal writing skills and learn about some new areas of law that we might not touch on in class.

## 2. What has been the most rewarding aspect?

JW: The most rewarding aspect of this internship is the knowledge that the materials I have collected through hours and hours of research will assist my supervisor with his research project and ultimately contribute to the furtherance of criminal justice. In addition to that, I also enjoyed acquiring new legal knowledge and skill through this internship, whether that be new legal concepts or new research methods.

KG: The opportunity to work with and learn from academics who are at the top of their field really is unparalleled. You develop your skills at such a fast rate when you are working alongside the best in the business.

## 3. What is involved duty wise and what level of commitment is required?

JW: In general, my task was to assist my supervisor with his research project. As such, some of my tasks included reviewing academic journal articles, compiling relevant case studies and statistics, and liaising with human rights organisations. In my case, I dedicated an average of two days a week to the semester-long internship.

KG: Often, duties will involve a literature review (finding sources for academics) and occasionally, it will involve contributing to the writing of academic papers.

## 4. How has the program enhanced your legal knowledge and skills? Is there anything that can be applied to your law degree?

JW: Since my supervisor's research project concerned plea bargaining in Muslim countries, I became very familiar with Islamic criminal law and the criminal justice system in several Muslim countries. Learning about them really broadened my understanding of criminal justice and helped me see how Australia's criminal justice system performed in relation to other criminal justice systems in the world. As for legal skills, this internship really trained my time management, organisational, and research skills, all of which are skills that can be applied to the law degree.

KG: You learn a lot about general research skills. You often have to work very efficiently to get through a vast array of sources. This is excellent practice for units requiring research skills. You also learn how to write clearer, which is an important skill in whatever field you eventually end up in.

## 5. What has been the most challenging aspect?

JW: The most challenging aspect of this internship was researching the criminal procedure in Muslim countries. Many of their criminal procedural laws were not translated into English and there were also very few academic sources that discussed those laws in detail. Nevertheless, through extensive research and the help of translation tools, I managed to piece together some noteworthy provisions in their criminal procedural laws, which was a strenuous but very rewarding process.

## 6. What advice do you have for students looking to apply?

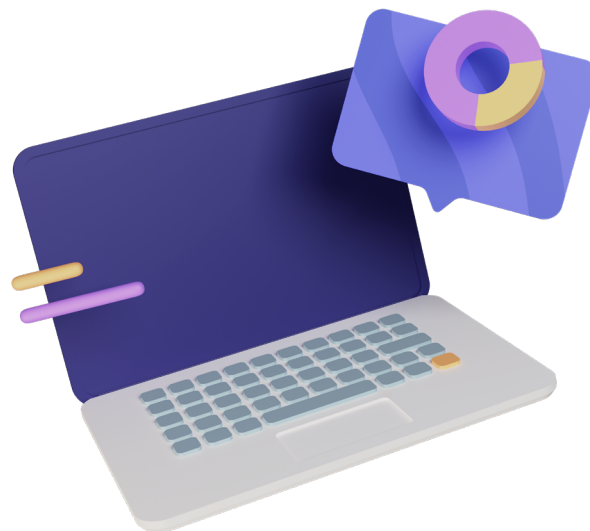
JW: If you are interested in legal research and keen on learning more about criminal justice, then apply for the internship. However, be prepared for the long application process. This is because in addition to a CV and a cover letter, you must also answer several specific questions, provide two academic referees, and submit a writing sample that is related to criminal justice. Overall, the internship is a wonderful learning experience and it will definitely help you with your future legal career and academic pursuits.

KG: Take a leap of faith and go for it. Working with such brilliant academics, it's easy to feel out of place; however, if you work hard and take advantage of all the opportunities that the internship provides, your skills will develop very quickly!

## Sydney Centre for International Law (SCIL)

SCIL offers internship positions to Sydney Law School students in each semester of the academic year, as well as during some summer sessions. Interns must be available to work one day per week for the duration of the semester. In addition, students must be enrolled in the Combined Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Juris Doctor (JD) programs, and must have completed the Public International Law unit of study.

Interns are involved in the full range of the Centre's activities, which may include international law research, drafting legal opinions, policy submissions to parliamentary committees or law reform bodies, hosting public seminars, and the production of the Australian International Law Journal. Interns report to Dr. Alison Pert as well as the Centre Director(s), and work closely with the Director(s) and other SCIL Associates.



## Academic Opportunities

### Research Opportunities



**Charis Chiu, LLB III**

#### **ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (Sydney Law School Node) - Research Assistant**

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society ('the Centre') is an interdisciplinary research institute that seeks to investigate automated decision-making and how it can be used responsibly and ethically. The Centre's focus spans across the public and private sectors and how their uses of automated decision-making impacts everyday life. As Summer Research Assistants, we collaborate with the Centre's Investigators and assist them in completing an array of research projects.

#### **1. What motivated you to apply for the program?**

I applied for this summer research assistant position at the ADM+S Centre as I was interested in how emerging technologies should be regulated and deployed ethically to avoid misuse by data holders and unintended societal consequences. In particular, I wanted to explore the challenges arising from ensuring the accountability and transparency of algorithms and AI to increasingly automate and support decision-making.

#### **2. What has been the most rewarding aspect? What has been the most challenging aspect?**

My research has predominantly focused on data governance for government data sharing, assisting with turning a Data Governance report, based on the National Disability Data Asset, into a journal article addressing the expected reintroduction of the Data Availability and Transparency Bill 2020. Given the relevant and topical nature of this area, it has been rewarding to be part of a project that aims to inform public discussion about the creation of 'integrated datasets' by governments for policy purposes and explores its accompanying accountability and legal challenges. This is probably, ironically, also the most challenging aspect - given how current the discussion surrounding this topic area is, a lot of the legal questions surrounding the construction of the dataset and how it operates remains unresolved.

### 3. What is involved duty wise and what level of commitment is required?

Given that this research assistant position predominantly took place over the summer break, it involved a commitment of at least 20 hours/week. However, this obviously varies between different research assistant positions and the nature of the role/project that you are working on.

### 4. How has the program enhanced your legal knowledge and skills? Is there anything that can be applied to your law degree?

I have honed research skills through my literature review on the impact of data sharing and how governing changes when data-oriented governance is introduced, which will certainly be transferable to my future legal studies and career. Undertaking independent research into a particular

aspect of law and producing legal writing based on that extensive research is probably not something you may have many opportunities to do (unless you undertake the Sydney Law Review elective or do honours etc.) so make the most of these opportunities!

### 5. What advice do you have for students looking to apply?

If you are able to apply for a research assistant role in an area of the law that you are interested in, go for it! You will gain an immense amount of exposure to legal scholarly work in that particular area, work with the most knowledgeable and experienced academics and possibly gain the opportunity to contribute to scholarly literature! If you are particularly interested in legal research and/or publications, I would definitely recommend this opportunity to you as well.

## Policy Reform Projects

### FASS Policy Reform Project

Supported by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Sydney Law School, the FASS Policy Reform is an opportunity for students to work with other peers on policy reform projects. Working with different organisations, students will submit a written research over the course of the project. For further enquiries, contact [fass.studentaffairsandengagement@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fass.studentaffairsandengagement@sydney.edu.au).

#### 1. What motivated you to apply for the program?

I wanted to apply for the program as it would be an incredible opportunity to contribute to a social justice conversation. The idea of students having a direct voice on how policy and legislation operated to affect our communities was incredibly attractive. It sounded like a great way to develop my personal critical voice.

#### 2. What has been the most rewarding aspect? What has been the most challenging aspect?

The most rewarding aspect was the experience of working together. It was a challenge to find the perfect team dynamic with people you had never met before but that made it an even greater accomplishment to complete a well written policy paper. I finished the program feeling like I had grasped a much stronger understanding of how legislation was to be approached and truly understanding its impact on the Australian people.

#### 3. What is involved duty wise and what level of commitment is required?

Duties involved a significant amount of research, liaising with our mentors and writing the actual paper. The level of commitment required could range from about 3-10 hours a week depending on the time of the semester.

#### 4. How has the program enhanced your legal knowledge and skills? Is there anything that can be applied to your law degree?

As aforementioned, it has sophisticated my perspective on Australia's legal realm. Understanding how legislation can be improved to serve the people is invaluable. The process of writing the paper improved general skills such as [attention to detail](#), [working with legislation](#) and syntax.

#### 5. What has been the most challenging aspect?

The most challenging aspect was the expectation that we would become extremely knowledgeable in a field of law that we had very little experience in. To then transfer that into a strong critical perception of the field was daunting at first.

#### 6. What advice do you have for students looking to apply?

I highly recommend focusing on how you believe policy has the capacity to make a meaningful social impact and linking that to your personal vision of the world. Ensure your stance is strongly compounded with two strong examples that reflect that passion and a flair for written communication



Amy Duong, LLB IV

# SULS Publications

SULS publications are a great opportunity for intellectually curious students to develop their skills. You can check out the publications here: <https://www.suls.org.au/publications>

## 1. Why did you join SULS publications?

KG: I thought that writing for SULS publications would be a great way to develop my writing skills. The ability to discover and pursue your academic interests in a different way to class as well as developing your academic writing is really beneficial.

SO: As an avid researcher and journalist in high school, I have always been involved in publications. When I came to university, I continued to pursue my interests by applying for SULS editorial boards: Yemaya, Law in Society, and Dissent. By working with other editors and writers, I wanted to learn from other's research while also offering insights on their work.

## 2. How was the writing/ editing process?

SO: The editing process began with the editorial team coming together to discuss the theme of the journal. After collaborating, we open up abstract submissions from students. When the writers are finalised, each editor is assigned to a few writers to work with over the course of their piece. Whether it is through meetups or online communication, we stay in close contact with the writers until the final piece is completed.

## 3. How has your involvement in the publications helped you in studies/education?

KG: It has really helped me to develop my academic writing skills. You learn to write to a deadline, how to build an argument and how to appropriately reference your work. These are all skills that are incredibly valuable in classroom work.

SO: The publications experience enabled me to learn beyond the classroom. By reading and editing other's works, I learned immensely about a variety of topics. Whether it was a discussion on the intellectual property laws during COVID19 vaccination or the impact on public trust, the range of topics that writers publish gives novel insights into unique legal areas. By working with them in their pieces, you gain new knowledge and skills.

## 4. What was the most valuable part of being part of the editorial team?

KG: The opportunity to work with and learn from incredible minds towards a collaborative goal is a great educational experience. Everyone has such interesting ideas and being part of the process of putting together an academic journal is very exciting.

SO: Working with a team of dedicated editors who want to make the best publication possible and guiding writers from their ideas to a finalised piece. The actual launch is also a highlight as we hear from academics and writers themselves on the selected theme.

## 5. What advice would you give to someone who may be interested in getting involved in publications?

KG: Go for it! It might seem really intimidating at first but I promise you, once you get into it and start writing you will realise that you can do it! The first step is always the hardest.

SO: If you have a passion to work with fellow peers and crave for knowledge, make sure you apply when applications open.



**Kiran Gupta, LLB IV**  
(Editor of Dissent, Editor-in-Chief of Education Guide, Contributor for Dissent, Mosaic and Law in Society)



**Sarah Oh, LLB III**  
(Editor for Law in Society, Dissent, and Yemaya)



# FURTHER STUDY

1. Honours
2. Program Postgraduate Courses
3. Postgraduate Research
4. Oxford & Cambridge Pathways
5. Beyond Law School

## Honours Program

### What is Honours?

Honours at Sydney Law School is a research program that allows students to work with experienced supervisors and academics to gain further insight into an area of law. Instead of completing an additional Honours year, students enrol into a 12-credit point research unit (LAWS3900) in lieu of two electives in their penultimate or final semester, and submit a 12,000 word dissertation.

Students will also be required to attend a non-assessable research workshop, and a series of meetings with their supervisor.

### Am I eligible and how do I apply?

Students can apply for Law Honours in their penultimate year of study. Admission to Honours requires the completion of at least 16 compulsory units, and a minimum WAM of 75 in all compulsory units of study (except for Foundations of Law). However, exceptions can be made where a student has a WAM of 74 and can demonstrate an aptitude for extended research. Entry is a competitive process, and typically only the top 20% of the cohort will be eligible.

The application process involves the preparation of a thesis proposal with a statement of the methodology to be used as well as a preliminary literature review. A list of available supervisors and relevant areas of interest will be provided, although it is the student's own responsibility to contact and organise an appropriate supervisor.

For more guidance, consider listening to the 2022 information session recording via the link: <https://echo360.net.au/media/664b6793-9f73-4e30-9757-5c47468c664d/public> or visit the canvas page: <https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/4533/pages/honours>

### Why should I do it?

While Honours may sound like a daunting process, it is an immensely rewarding opportunity that allows you to develop a higher-level understanding of the law and enhance your career potential.

You will develop valuable skills in critical, rational, and analytical thinking, and learn how to craft clear and persuasive arguments. The research and communication skills you learn from completing an Honours thesis will give you a lift in time management and organisation, which are transferable to any career.

# Honours Student Perspective

Hope Williams  
BA/LLB(HONS1) 2017

## Why did you decide to undertake Law Honours?

After five years of compulsory units of study and non-negotiable exam periods, the opportunity to select any topic to investigate in detail, on my own terms, was an extremely exciting one. My primary motivations for applying were honing my research skills and exploring whether I would be interested in a further career in academia. It was also an opportunity to explore a topic which I was extremely passionate about.

My thesis explored the emerging genre of 'new true crime' podcasts such as Serial and their Australian equivalents. It raised concerns about their potential to negatively impact the accused's right to a fair trial and diminish public confidence in the administration of justice.

## What are the benefits of doing Law Honours?

Law Honours provides a stimulating semester of independent study, the opportunity to develop a close relationship with your supervisor, and the ability to read and think widely and at your own pace. Speaking pragmatically, many postgraduate opportunities also view an Honours degree as an essential entry requirement, and an Honours thesis also offers a route towards publication in legal journals or attending legal conferences.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your Honours year?

The Law School's Honours program is rare in that it only takes a semester, rather than a complete academic year. This means the timeline was tight: I needed to select a thesis topic, conduct extensive research and write 12,000 words in about three months. This did mean completing some preliminary work in January and February.

I also chose to supplement my research by conducting interviews with journalists relevant to my field of investigation, which necessitated the additional process of seeking approval from the University's Human Research Ethics Committee.

It's also important to keep in mind that you will be studying one or two other units alongside Honours - in my case it was my final elective unit, Contempt and Open Justice, which fed well into the topic of my thesis.

## What are some important factors that students should consider when finding a supervisor?

Look for a supervisor who fits two criteria. First, they should be an expert in your topic area so that they can be a springboard for your ideas (and a critic when necessary).

Secondly, they need to be someone who you can imagine working with closely for an extended period of time. Many students select supervisors who they developed closer connections with during their elective subjects.

## Any other general advice you'd like to offer prospective Law Honours students?

Choose a topic that excites you and don't be afraid to push the boat out. This thesis will become your life for a Semester, and so you will need a topic that makes you excited every day of the week!

# Postgraduate Courses

Sydney Law School offers a number of postgraduate coursework programs to graduates who are looking to develop their knowledge within the practice and profession of law.

## MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

The LLM is the Law School's flagship postgraduate degree, which provides lawyers with an internationally recognised postgraduate qualification, expert in-depth legal knowledge, and the option to tailor the program to suit individual needs.

## SPECIALIST MASTERS

In addition to the LLM, Sydney Law School also offers a range of specialist masters courses. They are as follows:

- Master of Administrative Law and Policy
- Master of Business Law
- Master of Criminology
- Master of Environmental Law
- Master of Health Law
- Master of International Law
- Master of Jurisprudence
- Master of Labour Law and Relations
- Master of Taxation

## DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)

The degree of LLD is awarded, on the recommendation of the Sydney Law School, for publishing work that has been recognised by scholars in the field concerned as a distinguished contribution to knowledge. Persons contemplating the submission of work for the LLD should first consult the Dean of the Law School. The degree may also be awarded on an honorary basis in recognition of distinguished achievement.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded by the University on the basis of a thesis, which is regarded by the examiners as a substantially original contribution to the area in which it is written.

Candidates are required to submit a thesis of approximately 80,000 words (including footnotes), which may be exceeded by no more than 20,000 words with the permission of the Associate Dean.

## DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL STUDIES

To be eligible for admission to candidature by the Associate Dean, an applicant must have the following requirements the degree of Bachelor of Laws with first or second class honours from the University of Sydney; or the degree of Master of Laws by coursework with a minimum distinction average from the University of Sydney, including a research component equivalent to 25 percent of one year full time enrolment.

## GRADUATE DIPLOMAS (GRADDIPLAW)

For prospective students who do not wish to commit to a full master's degree but have already completed a law degree, it is worthwhile considering the Graduate Diploma in Law. There are more than 120 units of study on offer each year and more than 20 areas of specialisation, with units taught by Sydney Law School experts and international visitors. The graduate diploma courses on offer are:

- Graduate Diploma in Business Law
- Graduate Diploma in Criminology
- Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law
- Graduate Diploma in Health Law
- Graduate Diploma in International Law
- Graduate Diploma in Jurisprudence
- Graduate Diploma in Law

# Postgraduate Research

## MASTER OF LAWS – RESEARCH

A Research Master of Laws is awarded upon completion of a 50,000 word supervised thesis which makes a substantial contribution to its field.

## MASTER OF CRIMINOLOGY – RESEARCH

A Research Master of Criminology is awarded on completion of a 50,000 word supervised thesis which makes a substantial contribution to its field. Candidates are invited to explore social and cultural aspects of criminal law and justice.

## POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many scholarships on offer from the Law School to assist those in need and reward high achievers. The scholarships offer opportunities to connect with academic scholars, undertake internship or research opportunities, and strengthen employability skills. For a full list of postgraduate and research scholarships, visit <http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/postgraduate/faculty/law.shtml>.

# Oxford & Cambridge Pathways

Sydney Law School offers a unique collaboration with the faculties of Law at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. The pathway programs allow high-achieving students to receive a Sydney LLB or a Sydney JD as well as a Cambridge Master of Laws (LLM) or Masters in Corporate Law (MCL), or an Oxford Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) or Master of Law and Finance (MLF).

The program is open to final-year students at Sydney Law School. Admission is competitive and applications are assessed by the chosen destination law school. Instead of completing the final semester of your degree in Sydney, you will commence your studies in the UK in late September, after successful completion of your penultimate semester in Sydney.

## CAMBRIDGE MASTER OF LAWS

The Cambridge Law Faculty offers a world-renowned, internationally-respected LLM (Master of Laws) program. The one-year coursework gives highly-qualified and intellectually-outstanding students the opportunity to pursue their legal studies at an advanced level in a supportive environment.

## CAMBRIDGE MASTERS IN CORPORATE LAW (MCL)

The MCL is taught by the Cambridge Law Faculty's team of corporate lawyers, widely recognised as one of the strongest in the corporate law field. The MCL has been designed for those wishing to strengthen their credentials as business lawyers or have an academic career in mind.

## OXFORD BACHELOR OF CIVIL LAW (BCL)

Oxford University's Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) is one of the most highly esteemed master's-level qualifications in the common-law world. You will be expected to analyse complex material critically and consider it from a variety of perspectives.

## OXFORD MASTERS OF LAW AND FINANCE (MLF)

The Masters of Law and Finance consists of core and elective study. You will undertake the following core courses:

- Finance I
- Finance II
- First Principles of Financial Economics
- Law and Economics of Corporate Transactions.

You then have the option of completing either a further two law courses, or one dissertation and one law course.

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

You can apply if you have completed the equivalent of four full-time semesters of law study at Sydney in either the LLB or the JD and will have completed all compulsory requirements prior to enrolment at Oxford or Cambridge (including the Jurisprudence elective requirements). More information on the programs can be found at: <https://canvas.sydney.edu.au/courses/4533/pages/oxford-and-cambridge-pathways>

# Student Profiles

## Why did you decide to undertake further study?

I really enjoyed my undergraduate studies and wanted to explore certain areas in further detail: the LLM was a good way to see if academia might be right for me. I selected two electives which were more theoretical in nature (General Jurisprudence and Legal History), and two which would provide a more practical and comparativist approach (Intellectual Property and Restitution). Perhaps surprisingly, it was the 'theoretical' subjects which I drew upon the most when I later entered practice.

## What are the benefits of doing further study?

Postgraduate study can open many doors. These include international opportunities, academia, and law reform. It exposes you to a range of critical and comparative perspectives. It can equip you with new tools to address deficiencies in a legal system. But postgraduate study is not a prerequisite for a long and successful career in law. It's vital to reflect on why it's necessary for you and how it will assist you in contributing to the law and helping those affected by it.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your masters/PhD?

The LLM workload can be intense. As with undergraduate law, one needs to set reasonable limits on work (you can't read everything!) and to prioritise one's own well-being. Doctoral study is even more self-directed, so motivation and discipline is key.

## What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where or what to study?

One factor to consider might be whether you are interested in public law, private law, or international law. Different universities have different research strengths. For a taught masters, you should carefully review the course options at each relevant institution. You might also consider what scope there is for supervised research as part of the masters and whether such work would interest you. A second factor concerns method: are you interested in 'doctrinal' study or vocational training, or do you wish to step outside the law and study (say) legal history, sociology, or law and economics? A third factor is whether



**MITCHELL CLEAVER**  
BA/LLB 2016  
LLM (Cambridge) 2016  
DPhil (Oxford) 2021-

postgraduate study is intended as a stepping stone to a particular international opportunity (e.g. to an American law firm; the English bar; or in-house work at a global company). Other factors will include funding opportunities (e.g. many scholarship programmes are tailored to particular countries, universities, and legal fields) and timing (e.g. you will need to weigh up the pros and cons of undertaking postgraduate study before or after some time in legal practice).



**PATRICK HALL**  
BA/LLB 2017  
BCL (Oxford) 2021

## Why did you decide to undertake further study?

Aside from the personal development that being exposed to high quality students from all around the world offers, further study allows one to focus on particular academic areas. From my perspective, the areas of law in which I wish to practise only became clear to me a few years after I had finished at the University of Sydney (and often were different to those electives I had taken). Taking a year out of work in these early stages provides an opportunity to excel in those subjects which I hope will prove useful all through my career.

## What are the benefits of doing further study?

The BCL at Oxford is renowned for its rigour and reading lists that may

have made Tolstoy blush! It's a highly enjoyable and stimulating course but do be prepared to work very hard in order to yield the intellectual benefits that Oxford offers. I would encourage any future applicant to think carefully about the subjects they choose as they will be spending a lot of time reading into them.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your masters/PhD?

In choosing a course, my advice would be to start with the subjects in which you hold a particular interest and then see which universities are most celebrated in that area. As you'll be living at whichever university for an extended period (and perhaps longer in the country of choice) it might be beneficial to consider where you wish to live too!

## What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where or what to study?

The process in applying for postgraduate study is almost as long, if not longer, than the degree itself. However, it is advisable to start your application a good period before commencement, to gain access to as many scholarships and universities as possible.



**JEEVAN HARIHARAN**  
BA/LLB  
LLM (Cambridge)  
PhD (UCL) - in progress

### Why did you decide to undertake further study?

I first had thoughts that I might be interested in further study while I was an undergraduate student, probably around third/fourth year when I decided to take a year away from my Law degree and complete an honours year in Philosophy. I remember feeling quite

differently at that time about problem questions and essays at university. I didn't enjoy problem questions all that much or feel I was particularly geared towards that form of analysis. On the other hand, I loved writing essays, especially where I could explore areas of my own interest.

### What are the benefits of doing further study?

I would say there are two main benefits of further study. The first is the ability to study the topics you really want, in a significant amount of depth. In my experience, every subject covered a lot of ground and you were forced to think deeply not just about how things worked in practice, but also the law's theoretical underpinnings as well as law reform.

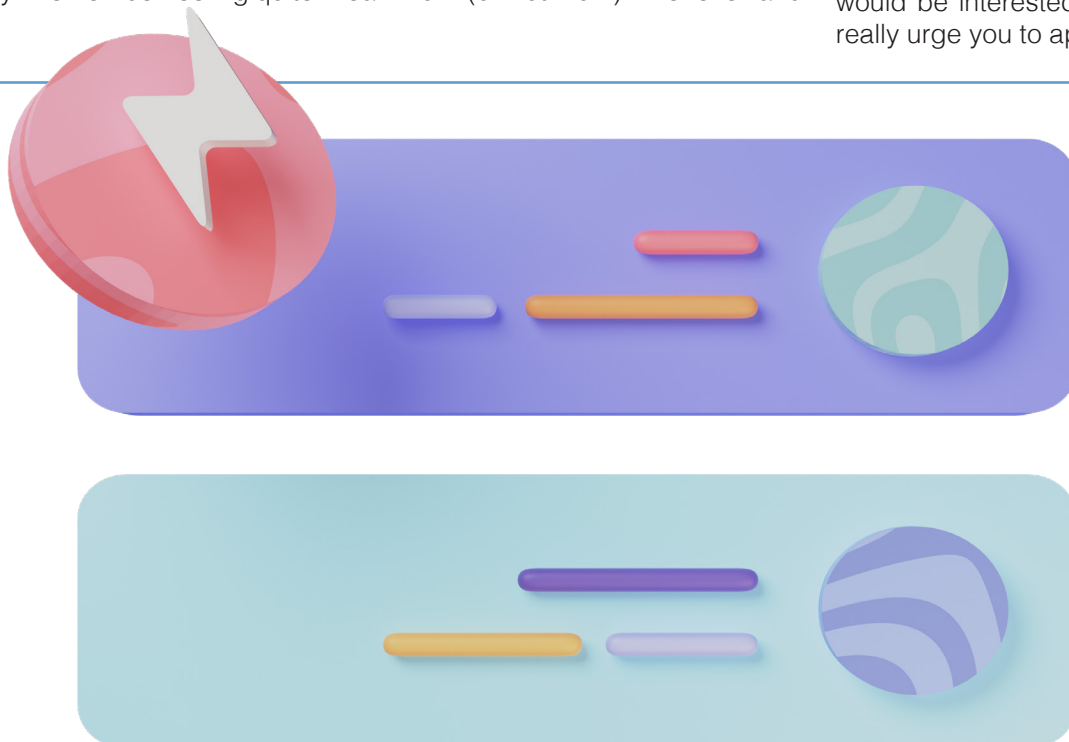
The second, related benefit of further study is the day-to-day freedom it offers. Just like undergraduate university, postgraduate study involves deadlines which you need to meet and often part-time work (in this case, usually teaching). But you have a high degree of control over your day and can work (or not work) whenever and

wherever suits you. This is an aspect of study which I value a lot.

### Any other general advice you'd like to offer prospective postgraduate students?

I'd offer two pieces of advice. The first is to research programmes and funding options earlier rather than later. For many overseas universities, deadlines for admissions applications are almost a year in advance of the programme starting, and funding deadlines can be months earlier than that. As mentioned above, the funding process at the masters level can be tricky to navigate, so it's often helpful to reach out to someone who has been through the process recently.

The second piece of advice is to take the plunge. For many people, further study can feel like a "less safe" option than e.g. working at a law firm. There's also less information available—by its nature, postgraduate study might not be marketed in the same way as graduate jobs and the application/funding process might feel daunting. But if it's something you think you would be interested in doing, I would really urge you to apply.



## Why did you decide to undertake further study?

I went on a semester-long exchange during my Juris Doctor and loved the experience of studying overseas – it was great meeting people from all around the world and I learned a lot by thinking about legal concepts from the perspective of a different legal system. Undertaking an LLM seemed like a natural extension of this: I thought it would be fun and that I'd learn a bit along the way.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your masters/PhD?

Well, pandemic really threw a spanner in the works. There are the challenges with online learning which I am sure you are all familiar with by now. It's disrupted a lot of the "normal" things you would expect to do in a year at Cambridge and made basic things, like meeting up with friends, difficult. More generally, it was definitely a challenge to transition from full-time work back to study.

## Why did you decide to undertake further study?

I thought that doing a LLM full time overseas would be a great way to take a year off work, meet some new people, have some fun and possibly learn something along the way.

## What are the benefits of doing further study?

When doing an LLM in an American law school, the first fun bit is to experience American law school teaching methods. Recall that scene from *Legally Blonde* where Elle says "Do they just -- put you on the spot like that? Like, all the time?" And Emmett says, "The professors? Yeah, they tend to do that. Socratic method." And Elle says, "And if you don't know the answer, they just kick you out?". No one had been kicked out, regrettably. But it was still quite an engaging way to learn.

More broadly, the Harvard LLM program had candidates from all

## What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where or what to study?

I would have a clear idea in your mind as to why you want to undertake further study. An LLM or a PhD would be particularly useful in some fields, such as academia. However, in other fields, it isn't likely to make a huge difference (don't expect to walk into a law firm as a senior associate just because you've got a Masters from a fancy uni). There are a lot of advantages to undertaking further study overseas (training your legal skills, making connections, enjoyment); but you should know what you want to get out of it and weigh it against the cost – both time and money-wise.

## Any other general advice you'd like to offer prospective postgraduate students?

Studying a Masters degree overseas can be intellectually fulfilling and enjoyable; but there are drawbacks

around the world. So you do get to learn a lot about how similar social or political issues are dealt with in different jurisdictions. Then, of course, there are all the social events and new friends you get to make from around the world.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your masters/PhD?

If you do go overseas to travel and study at the same time, the hardest thing is balancing your priorities. There is a real temptation to try and attend every social event or guest lecture for fear of missing out. It's too easy to wear yourself out, especially when you don't have your usual leisure routine or the support networks that you have at home. So try to remind yourself that it's not the only time in your life that you'll be away from home, and that it's okay to spend a weekend not doing anything.

## What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where



**BRENDAN HORD**  
BPSS 2013  
JD 2017  
LLM (Cambridge) 2021

– the application process can be arduous and it is very expensive. Good luck (and don't forget to pack Tim Tams)!

## or what to study?

One great way to guide yourself is to think about the research papers that you have done, which journal articles or books really impressed you, or which you found thought provoking. Then work out where they teach. If you are like me, then you also want to think about where you want to live and play. Is it important to you to be in the middle of London or New York City? Or are you happy spending most of your time on and near campus?

## Any other general advice you'd like to offer prospective postgraduate students?

Start thinking about it early. Lots of people are willing to share their advice and experiences, such as your peers who have already done a program, or faculty members.

**NATHAN LI**  
BA/LLB (Hons I) 2014  
LLM (Harvard) 2018



**WILLIAM KHUN**  
**BA (Hons)/LLB (Hons)**  
**2018**  
**LLM, Banking & Finance**  
**2020-**

### **Why did you decide to undertake further study?**

The honest (if unhelpful) answer is “because I find study intrinsically rewarding”. The exercise of synthesising disparate pieces of information into a cohesive explanation of how and why things are the way they are, and the perverse pleasure in crushing niggling uncertainties and ambiguities, is immensely rewarding and something which I wanted to continue to pursue. The process of making connections across and between different facts, theories,

processes, and patterns requires you to understand the things you are seeking to connect, and whilst there is obviously a wealth of expertise and knowledge which can be learnt on the job I always wanted to marry this with a strong academic background in my chosen field.

### **What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where or what to study?**

This will vary from person to person as ultimately it is a question of whether, for you, the exercise is worthwhile. I’ve set out the reasoning I followed below. First, structural constraints. I’m English speaking and common-law trained, so postgraduate study outside of the Anglosphere was probably off the table. It was going to work full time, so I needed to be able to control the course load by studying part time, ideally with limited numbers of assessments, and needed to ensure the course would fall within firm policy for further education. Second, content constraints. I wanted to study areas of law I was interested in (equity, banking & finance, contract, security interests, property, etc.) and not areas of law I was not interested in (criminal law, procedure, evidence, employment, family law). Third, I did a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the various potential programmes, in light of the extrinsic

returns discussed above and the unique opportunities provided by each programme. At the end of the day, having all the information I could reasonably obtain, I came to a logical conclusion as to what programme, objectively, was likely to be best for me in my personal circumstances.

Fourth, and finally, I ignored the SWOT analysis and asked my gut. In my case, the course I wanted to enrol in was also the course which I thought was objectively best suited to my circumstances and objectives, so I took the plunge. This final step is important. It is significantly more difficult to change programmes once enrolled, and ultimately you need to live with the decision. So if you are not 100% behind the decision, both intellectually and emotionally, it is important to understand why. It is okay to have reservations, but it is important to understand them before making a decision.

### **Any other general advice you’d like to offer prospective postgraduate students?**

Postgraduate study is immensely rewarding and worth pursuing, both in terms of intrinsic and extrinsic returns. However it is also demanding and time-consuming, so you need to be confident in your decision. It is important that you choose the postgraduate study path that aligns with your objectives, and not what others consider to suit theirs.



## Why did you decide to undertake further study?

I decided to undertake further study as I wanted to pursue my interest in public international law (a subject that I had really enjoyed in my undergraduate degree). While at Cambridge, I have had the opportunity to deepen my understanding in this field by studying International Human Rights Law, International Environmental Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law.



**CHRISTIE WILSON**  
**BA/LLB 2019**  
**LLM (Cambridge) 2021**

## What are the benefits of doing further study?

Postgraduate study provides an opportunity to further refine your legal knowledge and choose an area of specialisation. It is also a great way to meet other people from around the world, as postgraduate degrees tend to have a more international cohort; this diversity in the cohort also makes for interesting class discussions.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your masters/PhD?

The biggest challenges that I have faced with the LLM have all been COVID-19-related. From a delayed arrival to classes predominantly being online to lockdowns, it has been harder to have a proper Cambridge experience. Making friends in the LLM cohort has also been more difficult, and we've all had to adapt to more virtual means of getting to know each other. Fortunately, both the University and the College have sought to find other (COVID-19-safe) ways to improve student life (like pre-lockdown socially distanced outdoor pumpkin carving for Halloween).

## What are some important factors that students should consider when deciding where or what to study?

When deciding where or what you would like to study, I would recommend taking a look at the range of courses available, the course structure, the kinds of assessments offered, and how this may fit in with your desired career path (e.g. if you would like to eventually do a PhD, would you like to write a thesis in your Masters course). It's also good to consider what kinds of opportunities you would like to have (e.g. some courses provide the opportunity to do internships, or may allow you to study at more than one institution).

## Any other general advice you'd like to offer prospective postgraduate students?

Postgraduate study can be quite expensive, so it's a good idea to research which scholarships are available. There are a lot of scholarships out there, including from the University of Sydney which has a range of scholarships for graduate students looking to study overseas.

# APPENDIX

90 Juris Doctor - Full Time

92 Juris Doctor - Part Time

94 Combined Law Years 1-3

47 Transfer Students

95 International Students -  
Mid-year Entry

97 Combined Law Year 4/5 (LLB  
Penultimate Year)

98 Combined Law Year 5/6 (LLB  
Final Year)

# JURIS DOCTOR - FULL TIME

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 1</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5000	Foundations of Law #	6	
LAWS5018	Legal Research +	0	
LAWS5001	Torts	6	
LAWS5002	Contracts	6	
LAWS5003	Civil and Criminal Procedure	6	Torts
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5004	Criminal Law	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
LAWS5006	Torts and Contracts II	6	Torts/ Contracts
LAWS5005	Public International Law	6	
LAWS5007	Public Law	6	
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5010	Administrative Law	6	Public Law
LAWS5011	Federal Constitutional Law	6	Public Law
LAWS5008	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	6	
LAWS5009	The Legal Profession	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5014	Corporations Law	6	
LAWS5015	Equity	6	
LAWS5013	Evidence	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
LAWS5012	Real Property	6	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

<b>Code</b>	<b>Unit of Study</b>	<b>Credit Points</b>	<b>Pre-Requisites</b>
<b>YEAR 3</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1 OR 2</b>			
LAWS5017	Private International Law A	6	
	1 Elective unit of study selected from Part 1 (International, Comparative & Transnational)	6 (minimum)	
	5 Elective units of study selected from Part 2	30 (maximum)	
	1 Elective unit of study selected from Part 3 (Jurisprudence)	6 (minimum)	
Juris Doctor Total Credit Points		144	

# Foundations of Law is a pre-requisite for all other law units.

+ Students who completed Legal Research within the unit LAWS5000 Foundations of Law prior to the introduction of LAWS5018 Legal Research in 2017 are not required to complete LAWS5018 Legal Research.

# JURIS DOCTOR - PART TIME

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 1</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5000	Foundations of Law #	6	
LAWS5018	Legal Research +	0	
LAWS5001	Torts	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5005	Public International Law	6	
LAWS5007	Public Law	6	
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5002	Contracts	6	
LAWS5003	Civil and Criminal Procedure	6	Torts
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5004	Criminal Law	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
LAWS5006	Torts and Contracts II	6	Torts/ Contracts
<b>YEAR 3</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5010	Administrative Law	6	
LAWS5011	Federal Constitutional Law	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5014	Corporations Law	6	
LAWS5013	Evidence	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 4</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5008	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	6	
LAWS5009	The Legal Profession	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5015	Equity	6	
LAWS5012	Real Property	6	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law
<b>YEAR 5 &amp; 6</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1 OR 2</b>			
LAWS5017	Private International Law A	6	
	1 Elective unit of study selected from Part 1 (International, Comparative & Transnational)	6 (minimum)	
	5 Elective units of study selected from Part 2	30 (maximum)	
	1 Elective unit of study selected from Part 3 (Jurisprudence)	6 (minimum)	
Juris Doctor Total Credit Points		144	

# Foundations of Law is a pre-requisite for all other law units.

+ Students who completed Legal Research within the unit LAWS5000 Foundations of Law prior to the introduction of LAWS5018 Legal Research in 2017 are not required to complete LAWS5018 Legal Research.

# COMBINED LAW YEARS 1-3

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 1</b>			
LAWS1006	Foundations of Law #	6	
LAWS1013	Legal Research +	0	Semester 1- students in Faculty of Arts; Semester 2- students in all other faculties
LAWS1012	Torts	6	
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
LAWS1015	Contracts	6	
LAWS1014	Civil and Criminal Procedure	6	Torts
LAWS1016	Criminal Law	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
<b>YEAR 3</b>			
LAWS1023	Torts and Contracts II	6	Torts/ Contracts
LAWS1017	Public International Law	6	
LAWS1021	Public Law	6	
LAWS1019	Legal Research II +	0	Semester 1-students in Faculty of Arts; Semester 2- students in all other faculties

# Foundations of Law is a pre-requisite for all other law units.

+ For students commencing LLB in 2020, Legal research I and II is merged into one unit and undertaken in the first year of study.

# TRANSFER STUDENTS

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
LAWS1006	Foundations of Law #	6	
LAWS1015	Contracts	6	Semester 1- students in Faculty of Arts; Semester 2- students in all other faculties
LAWS1012	Torts	6	
LAWS1021	Public Law	6	
LAWS1013	Legal Research +	0	
<b>YEAR 3</b>			
LAWS1014	Civil & Criminal Procedure	6	Torts
LAWS1023	Public International Law	6	
LAWS1016	Criminal Law	6	Civil & Criminal Procedure
LAWS1017	Torts and Contracts II	6	Torts/ Contracts
LAWS1019	Legal Research II +	0	Semester 1-students in Faculty of Arts: semester 2- students in all other faculties

# Foundations of Law is a pre-requisite for all other law units.

+ For students commencing LLB in 2020, Legal research I and II is merged into one unit and undertaken in the first year of study.



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - MID YEAR ENTRY

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>YEAR 1 - SEMESTER 2 - NO LAW STUDY</b>			
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5000	Foundations of Law #	6	
LAWS5001	Torts	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5018	Legal Research +	0	Semester 1- students in Faculty of Arts; Semester 2- students in all other faculties
LAWS5007	Public Law	6	
<b>YEAR 3</b>			
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5002	Contracts	6	
LAWS5003	Civil and Criminal Procedure	6	Torts
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5004	Criminal Law	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
LAWS5006	Torts and Contracts II	6	Torts/ Contracts
LAWS1019	Legal Research II +	0	Semester 1-students in Faculty of Arts; Semester 2- students in all other faculties
<b>YEAR 4 - SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5005	Public International Law	6	

# Foundations of Law is a pre-requisite for all other law units.

+ For students commencing their LLB in 2020 or later, Legal Research I and II are merged into one unit and undertaken in the first year of study.

# COMBINED LAW YEAR 4/5

Combined Law students enrol in their penultimate law year in Year 4 after completion of their first degree. The exception to this is Engineering/Law students who complete their Engineering degree in Year 4 and commence their penultimate law year in Year 5.

Students may substitute one compulsory unit with one elective unit in each semester of their penultimate year, deferring the compulsory unit(s) to final year. Students cannot enrol in more than two elective units in their penultimate year.

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
LAWS5010	Administrative Law	6	Public Law
LAWS5011	Federal Constitutional Law	6	Public Law
LAWS5008	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law	6	
LAWS5009	The Legal Profession	6	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
LAWS5014	Corporations Law	6	
LAWS5015	Equity	6	
LAWS5013	Evidence	6	Civil and Criminal Procedure
LAWS5012	Real Property	6	Introduction to Property and Commercial Law

# COMBINED LAW YEAR 5/6 (LLB FINAL YEAR)

Code	Unit of Study	Credit Points	Pre-Requisites
<b>SEMESTER 1 OR 2</b>			
LAWS5017	Private International Law A	6	
	6 Elective units of study selected from Part 1	36 (maximum)	
	1 Elective unit of study selected from Part 2 (Jurisprudence)	6 (minimum)	
Juris Doctor Total Credit Points		144	



SYDNEY  
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LAW SOCIETY