

Faculty of Law

Introduction to the Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law provides an excellent legal education in a challenging intellectual environment. Flexible, innovative and progressive programs are taught by highly qualified academic staff, many of whom have published important works in their area of expertise. Established in 1873, the Faculty has a national and international reputation for outstanding scholarship and research, and continues to strive for excellence through on-going critical review and innovation.

The Faculty has established specialist centres offering undergraduate and postgraduate students depth of teaching and research expertise in Asian law; Australian judicial administration; comparative constitutional studies; corporate law and securities regulation; employment and labour relations law; energy and resources law; and media, communications and information technology law.

The Faculty recently established the Institute for Comparative and International Law, acknowledging the impact on law of globalisation and the need to learn about the great diversity of legal systems.

Completion of the Bachelor of Law program will take three to four years as a full-time student. Most students choose to study two degrees simultaneously, taking five to six years. Combined degrees are offered with Arts, Commerce, Computer Science, Creative Arts, Engineering, Geomatics or Science, enabling graduates to pursue a wider range of rewarding careers. Students are encouraged to take up exchange placements with law schools in other countries. Credit is given towards the Bachelor of Law degree for subjects successfully completed on an overseas program. The Faculty of Law provides students with a wide variety of computer-based resources and an open-access student laboratory comprising 100 IBM desktop computers. The range of programs and resources is constantly being improved and includes access to internet information resources; CD ROM-based databases, for example, index to legal periodicals; electronic mail and various utility programs. The Law Library has approximately 100 000 printed volumes, the equivalent of about 30 000 volumes in microfiche or microfilm, and a rapidly growing collection of electronic databases, which it makes available through Faculty and University networks.

Faculty objectives

The general objectives of the Faculty of Law are to:

- be the best centre for research, teaching and scholarship in Law in Australia, and among the leading centres for research, teaching and scholarship in law in the world;
- make a significant contribution to ideas, knowledge and learning in the University, Australia, and the rest of the world;
- be a vigorous, fearless and diverse community of legal scholars, as students, teachers and researchers;
- exercise its influence and discharge its obligations in the interests of the wider community, with a particular commitment to justice; and
- maintain a strong commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunity.

Faculty courses

Undergraduate degrees

- Bachelor of Laws *LLB*
- Bachelor of Laws with Honours *LLB(Hons)*

Combined degrees

- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws *BA/LLB*
- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws *BCom/LLB*
- Bachelor of Computer Science/Bachelor of Laws *BCS/LLB*
- Bachelor of Creative Arts/Bachelor of Laws *BCA/LLB*
- Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Laws *BEng/LLB*
- Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws *BSc/LLB*

Graduate diplomas

- Asian Law
- Banking and Finance Law

- Construction Law
- Corporations and Securities Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Resources Law
- Government Law
- Health and Medical Law
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- International Tax
- Labour Relations Law
- Media Communications and Information Technology Law
- Taxation Law
- Transnational Law

Postgraduate degrees

- Master of Laws by coursework LLM
- Master of Laws by coursework and minor thesis LLM
- Master of Laws by thesis LLM
- Master of Commercial Law
- Master of Comparative Law
- Master of Construction Law
- Master of Health and Medical Law
- Master of Intellectual Property Law
- Master of International Tax
- Master of Labour Relations Law
- Master of Public and International Law
- Master of Taxation
- Doctor of Juridical Science SJD
- Doctor of Philosophy PhD
- Doctor of Laws LLD

For further information on graduate diplomas or degrees, contact the Graduate Studies office in the Faculty of Law, telephone +61 3 8344 6190.

Subjects offered in other faculties

The Faculty of Law offers programs of study in:

- Business Law - Faculty of Economics and Commerce
- Legal Studies - Faculty of Arts

Undergraduate Studies office

The Faculty of Law Undergraduate Studies office is located on the ground floor on the east wing of the Law Quadrangle in the heart of the University. This office is the main point of contact for undergraduate students.

The staff of the Undergraduate Studies office are responsible for the administration of the LLB course and combined LLB courses within the Faculty, and legal studies in other faculties, under the academic direction of the Associate Dean (Undergraduate).

Contact the Undergraduate Studies office for assistance with:

- enrolment or re-enrolment
- complementary enrolment
- deferrals and withdrawals
- credit transfers
- Community Access Programs

The Undergraduate Studies office staff also provide advice on course requirements, course planning, full and part-time study, leave of absence and exchange programs. Other matters dealt with by the Undergraduate Studies office, include extensions for assignments, special arrangements for examinations, special consideration applications, consideration for students from a non-English speaking background, supplementary examinations and additional assessment. Staff will assist students experiencing general study problems by referring them to appropriate support groups and learning programs.

Liaison officers

In addition to the Undergraduate Studies office, the Faculty has appointed members of academic staff as liaison officers to meet the needs of particular groups of students:

- Koori
- international and non-English speaking background students
- gay and lesbian
- disabled
- mature age

If you are a student from one of these groups and have any concerns or need information, the liaison officers are a good place to start.

Koori students' liaison officers

Koori students have been part of the Law Faculty for nearly 20 years. There are currently approximately 20 Koori students enrolled at all levels of the LLB course. In 1993 the Law Faculty appointed a Koori students' liaison officer to provide assistance to these students. Among other things, the Koori students' liaison officers:

- act as advisers for Koori law students;
- liaise between Koori law students and members of academic staff where necessary;
- arrange seminars and information sessions to sensitise academic staff to the issues involved in teaching Koori students;
- help to link Koori students with tutors under the ATAS (Aboriginal Tutoring Assistance Scheme);
- liaise between the Law Faculty and the University's Centre for Indigenous Education, which provides support services to all Koori students on campus; and
- provide advice to the Faculty on policies and projects relating to Koori students.

Students wishing to contact the Koori students' liaison officers may do so through the Undergraduate Studies office, telephone 8344 4475.

International and non-English speaking background students' liaison officer

At least 20 per cent of law students are from overseas or have English as a second language (ESL). Many of these students have particular educational needs, such as understanding the legal language used in texts, Australian teaching methods, and Australian historical or political events which other students may take for granted.

The international and ESL liaison officer is a member of academic staff to whom international and ESL students may come for assistance and advice on their studies. His or her roles include acting as a mentor for overseas and ESL students; liaising with the ESL Centre to provide language assistance; assisting students to make applications for special consideration or to the Progress Committee; giving feedback to academic staff, in relation to teaching and curriculum content; and, liaising between the Law Faculty and the International Law Students' Society.

The international and ESL liaison officer for 2001 is Sean Cooney. You can contact him on 8344 8109 or by email on s.cooney@law.unimelb.edu.au. His office is in Room 2-07 Baldwin Spencer Building (2nd Floor).

Gay and lesbian liaison officers

The Faculty includes many gay and lesbian students and staff. The appointment of two academic members of staff as gay and lesbian liaison officers is a recognition of the special interests and needs of gay and lesbian law students. The primary role of the officers is to provide the gay and lesbian student body with assistance and support in academic and academic related matters. This includes acting as mentors to the gay and lesbian law students and members of academic staff. The officers also assist in the organisation of gay and lesbian law interest group sessions as well as organising social functions.

The gay and lesbian liaison officers for 2001 will be appointed in the latter part of 2000.

Disabled students' liaison officer

The Faculty has a number of students with disabilities and has appointed a member of academic staff as the disabled students' liaison officer to act as a mentor for the student body. The primary role of the officer is to assist and support students in academic and other related matters, ensuring that they have access to the wide range of services available for students including special examination arrangements, granting of extensions, taping of lectures, organising note takers and so on. If you are a student with special needs please do not hesitate to contact the disabled students' liaison officer. The Undergraduate Studies office has appointed its own disability contact officer who can also assist students with their special requirements.

Students wishing to contact the disabled students' liaison officer and/or the disability contact officer may do so through the Undergraduate Studies office, telephone 8344 4475.

Mature age students' liaison officer

Each year the Law Faculty appoints a mature age students' liaison officer to assist those students with their study and related needs.

Students wishing to contact the mature age students' liaison officer may do so through the Undergraduate Studies office, telephone 8344 4475.

Admission to the LLB program

First year entry

Admission to the first year of the LLB program is governed by the general and special principles of selection for entry, to which applicants should refer for detailed information. Selection is based primarily on academic merit. For most applicants, academic merit is judged on results obtained in the VCE examination and represented nationally as an Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) score, following the formula used by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) and the special rules published by the Faculty. A committee of Faculty identifies and ranks in order of merit those applicants who are likely to complete the LLB course successfully. Places are offered to applicants in the order of ranking until the places available are filled. There is strong competition for admission to the Melbourne Faculty of Law. In 2000 candidates required an ENTER score of 99.40 to be admitted. It is not possible to predict what the ENTER cut-off score will be in 2001.

The minimum requirement for admission to the LLB course is that the applicant have a VCE English minimum grade score of B.

Students who have graduated in another discipline, or who have not yet completed their studies in another course, may also apply for admission to the Faculty of Law. Intending applicants should refer to the special requirements listed in the current VTAC guide.

Other circumstances relevant to admission

Generally, the likelihood of an applicant succeeding in the LLB course is judged by reference to his or her academic record but in certain cases the general and special principles for entry allow additional factors to be taken into account on a discretionary basis. The University's general principles of selection provide that, in appropriate cases, and provided the applicant meets the ordinary requirements for admission, the selection committee may take the following circumstances into account when assessing an applicant's likelihood of successfully completing a course:

- the age of an applicant when attempting any qualifying examinations;
- any illness, war or military service, or serious hardship, as a result of which the studies or examination performance of an applicant have, in the opinion of the committee, been adversely affected;
- physical handicaps or disabilities;
- school principals' reports, where those reports may assist the selection committee in evaluating the effect of factors referred to in paragraph (b) or (c);
- any work experience which, in the opinion of the selection committee, may be relevant to the proposed course of study.

When applying through VTAC for admission, applicants should bring any such relevant special circumstances to the attention of course selection authorities, following the instructions in the VTAC guide and the VTAC application form.

Targeted Access Program

The Faculty of Law reserves a limited number of places for applicants whose academic record has been adversely affected by disadvantage of a social, economic or like nature including mature-age applicants.

For further information about the Targeted Access Program, including eligibility, application procedures and application forms, contact the University's Information Centre, telephone (03) 8344 6543.

All targeted access applications should be returned to the Information Centre. An application for entry to the LLB must also be made through VTAC.

Applicants who do not meet ordinary admission requirements

Special admission may be granted under Statute 11.1.5 to applicants who lack the ordinary requirements for admission. The Academic Board has declared certain disadvantaged applicants, particularly Koori students, to be eligible for selection under this provision. Prospective Koori applicants should contact the Centre for Indigenous Education before making an application.

Later year entry

Later year applicants should apply for admission through VTAC. It should be noted that the Faculty will not grant credit transfers to students from another institution for more than half of the law subjects required for a University of

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Melbourne law degree. Successful later year applicants may not defer taking up the offer of a place. If an offer is declined by an applicant who wishes to be considered for entry in a subsequent year, it will be necessary to reapply and be re-selected in competition with all other later year applicants for that year.

International students

The Faculty of Law welcomes applications from international students. A certain number of places are available for full fee-paying students from overseas. Students who wish to apply for admission under this scheme must have obtained academic results at least equal to the VCE cut-off score currently applying in the Faculty of Law. Results will be assessed on application to the Faculty of Law. It will be an advantage if applicants have studied subjects which are the equivalent of those prescribed for VCE students (see under First year entry above).

Candidates are also required to demonstrate proficiency in English. This requirement can be satisfied by obtaining a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5, or a paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 577, or a computer-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 233 with an SA rating score of 4.5.

The Australian Government provides scholarships to international students who wish to undertake studies in Australia. These scholarships are generally available to students from developing countries. Current information and application forms can be obtained from your nearest Diplomatic Mission.

International students should make initial enquiries and lodge applications for admission to the Faculty of Law with the International Centre at the University of Melbourne before the end of December. International students who are residents of Australia should apply through VTAC for admission.

Full fee Australian students

From 1998 places in all undergraduate law programs have been available to Australian students on a full fee basis. Selection proceeds on the same principles as outlined above for first year entry and later year entry. The University Council has ruled that no full fee Australian student can be admitted to Law in 2001 with an ENTER score less than 95.00.

General information for students in the Faculty of Law

All Bachelor of Laws students are required to study 300 points of Law, comprising eight compulsory Law subjects and a specified number of optional subjects including 12.5 points of legal theory subjects. Combined course students are required to complete 300 points of Law, and approximately 200 or 300 points of the other degree, depending on the combination.

Credit issues

The Faculty may, in accordance with the powers granted by Statute 11 of the University, grant such credit as it thinks fit to a candidate who enrolls in the course for the degree of Bachelor of Laws and who has passed such subjects in another institution which, in the opinion of the Faculty, are equivalent to subjects prescribed in the course for the degree of Bachelor of Laws; provided that no candidate may be granted credit for more than 150 law points in an LLB course; and provided that credit transfers shall be granted in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Faculty from time to time for that purpose.

Credit for non-Law subjects

A candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Laws who has completed a standard full-time year of study or who holds a degree from a recognised tertiary institution but not in the study of law may be exempted from the requirement of obtaining 100 non-Law points. The Faculty may also determine that a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Laws who has not completed any tertiary study may be exempted from some or all of the 100 non-Law points normally required of each candidate. Details of the application procedure, and of the criteria employed in determining such applications, may be obtained from the manager, undergraduate studies.

Credit for Law subjects

- Applications for credit transfers shall be made to the manager, undergraduate studies, in the manner and form determined by the manager in consultation with the Associate Dean, Undergraduate. The manager, undergraduate studies, shall convey all requests for credit transfers to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate, for decision.
- The Associate Dean, Undergraduate is empowered by the Faculty to consider all applications for credit transfers for all subjects of an LLB course and to grant such credit transfers as he or she deems fit, subject to the requirements of these guidelines.
- Subject to the following rules, credit for law subjects in an LLB course may be granted to applicants who have been admitted to a university

course in another institution and who have passed the final examinations in one or more of the subjects prescribed by that institution for a degree.

- For the purposes of these guidelines the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, must be satisfied before granting a credit transfer that the other institution concerned is generally recognised as a tertiary level institution and that the standards of teaching and examination are substantially similar to those in The University of Melbourne Faculty of Law.
- For the purposes of these guidelines the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, must be satisfied before granting a credit transfer that the subject for which credit is sought is substantially similar to the content of the subject for which credit will be given or, the subject is of such academic quality as to justify the granting of credit.
- No applicant will be granted credit transfers in more than 150 of the 300 law points prescribed for a University of Melbourne law degree. Subject to this limit, applicants should, as a general rule be granted the maximum possible credits. In particular, credit transfers may be given notwithstanding that the credits concerned have been counted towards a degree previously conferred by another University.

Subject credits for exchange students

Students enrolled in the LLB course who participate in an approved exchange program and who obtain credit in the other institution for any approved subject in that institution's LLB curriculum will be given equivalent credit towards his or her University of Melbourne LLB degree. Scales of equivalent credits will be determined in advance for specific exchange programs.

Honours degrees

The LLB degree may be awarded with honours to students whose performance in final assessment is of the required standard. The Faculty publishes the regulations governing the award of honours on its web site at: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/ugrad/honours.html>.

Honours points for exchange students

Subjects studied at institutions other than the University of Melbourne are generally not included in the calculation of a student's honours points. This includes subjects studied on a complementary course basis at another institution, subjects studied whilst on exchange, and/or subjects for which credit transfer has been awarded. A formula has been developed to ensure that the calculation of honours points is not inequitable on this basis. This formula is available at <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/ugrad/honours.html>.

The Final Honours Board may exercise their discretionary power to take account of the performance of a student in an exchange program for the purpose of ranking that student and making an honours award.

LLB combined with honours in another discipline

If you enrol in a combined degree, you may obtain honours in the other discipline by taking an extra honours year. This might add an extra year of study to the combined degree.

Part-time studies

It is possible for LLB students to undertake their studies on a part-time basis. Because part-time students take longer to complete all the subjects required for admission to the degree, it can take a long time, especially in the case of combined degrees. Many part-time students endeavour to do at least one or two years of full-time study.

The LLB degree must be completed within 10 years. Periods of approved leave of absence are included in the 10 years of maximum degree length. If you are contemplating part-time study, you should discuss your intended program with the manager, undergraduate studies. Part-time students should be able to attend scheduled day-time classes as there are generally no evening classes.

Summer program

A number of subjects will be offered in January and February 2001. They will include Civil Procedure, Evidence and Professional Conduct (including Trust Accounts). These subjects may be taken as part of the LLB degree. Where the subjects are not taken as part of the LLB degree, a Community Access Program fee will be payable in respect of each subject taken. A timetable for the summer program may be obtained from the Undergraduate Studies office. Further information on the summer program may be obtained from the manager, undergraduate studies.

Leave of absence

The Faculty has resolved that:

- leave of absence should not be granted for a total of more than three years during the enrolment of a student for the LLB;
- leave of absence should be granted only for one year on each application;
- no more than one year's deferral before initial enrolment for first year studies should be permitted;

- deferral before initial enrolment should count as leave of absence for the purpose of computation of three years.

Applications for leave of absence must be made in writing to the manager, undergraduate studies.

Single subjects

It is possible to enrol as a Community Access Program student in single subjects offered by the Faculty of Law if you satisfy the subject prerequisites. Special rules apply. Interested students should apply for information about undergraduate and graduate subjects to the manager, undergraduate studies, and the program manager, graduate studies, respectively. Overseas practitioners seeking admission to practise in Victoria are permitted to enrol on a Community Access Program basis in those subjects required by the Council of Legal Education.

Languages and the law

National policy encourages multi-lingual professionals in Australia and there is an increasing demand for law graduates with language skills. The Faculty of Law strongly encourages the development of language skills among its students. Combined Arts/Law degrees with language majors have been established for over 20 years, but less well known are the opportunities to use foreign languages in the LLB curriculum itself.

Among the optional subjects offered in the LLB are some exciting comparative law subjects covering Europe and Asia. Students may do written research assignments as part of their assessment in these (and other) subjects and students with the necessary language skills are encouraged to work with the primary sources of law. Advanced Legal Research is a subject in the curriculum which also provides an opportunity to work on topics drawn from Europe or Asia, with the assistance of specialist Faculty of Law staff. If you have, or are developing skills in a European or Asian language, please ask about opportunities to use those skills in your course.

Student exchanges

The Faculty of Law is continuing to develop opportunities for student exchanges in Europe, North America and Asia. At present, exchange schemes operating include those with the University of British Columbia, McGill University and Queen's University in Canada, the University of Texas at Austin and Boston College in the USA, University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Universite Jean Moulin-Lyon III in France, University College, Dublin in Ireland, University of Glasgow and University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. The Asian Law Centre can advise you about the many opportunities in Asia. Credit for The University of Melbourne degree can be obtained for subjects completed during an approved exchange visit. A leaflet on exchange programs is available from the Undergraduate Studies office. Students interested in participating in an exchange program should see the manager, undergraduate studies, who will, where appropriate, refer them to academic staff qualified to advise on legal study in other countries.

Student progress

Each year the progress of students in the Law course is reviewed and consideration is given as to whether action should be taken over any student who has:

- failed in half or more than half of his or her enrolment in that year (either in number of points or subjects), excepting a student whose enrolment comprises one or two law subjects and one or more subjects in another faculty, and who passes all subjects in the other faculty but fails one law subject and this failure is the first failure in a law subject; or
- has failed a subject on two or more occasions.

Apart from the exception set out in (a), the relevant subjects are those which can be counted as subjects of a Law course. Students whose progress is of concern to the Faculty are notified and invited to make a written submission to the Progress Committee. Arrangements are also made for each student to be interviewed by the Progress Committee.

At the interview the student is given the opportunity to be heard and any information before the Committee is made known to the student. After considering the student's case the Committee may:

- report to the Academic Board that, in its opinion, the student should be suspended from the course; or (b) decide that the subjects for which the student may enrol in the forthcoming year should be specified; or (c) take no action.

Students reported to the Academic Board are advised of their right to appear before the Board and copies of relevant regulations are provided.

Any student, in respect of whom a report has been made to the Academic Board that the student be suspended from the course, is given the opportunity to make an explanation to the Academic Board which may either suspend the student, limit his or her future enrolment, or permit the student to continue in the course without restriction.

For the precise rules relating to unsatisfactory progress students should consult Statute 11.5 in the University Calendar.

Admission to practise law

The admission of barristers and solicitors in Victoria is regulated by the rules of the Council of Legal Education administered by a Board of Examiners appointed by the Supreme Court.

The academic requirements for admission are satisfied by passing the compulsory subjects of the degree, and the following: Corporations Law, Evidence, Civil Procedure and Professional Conduct, or the subject Dispute Resolution and Legal Ethics incorporating Civil Procedure and Professional Conduct.

The Council of Legal Education introduced revised requirements for admission to practise law in Victoria from 1994. The following are required areas of knowledge for admission from 1994:

- criminal law and procedure
- torts
- contracts
- property both real (including Torrens system land) and personal
- equity (including trusts)
- company law
- administrative law
- federal and state constitutional law
- civil procedure
- evidence
- professional conduct (including basic trust accounting)

Practical training

After completing an LLB degree, and before applying for admission to practise, certain practical training is required. You can either serve a 12-month period as an articulated clerk in a solicitor's office, or do a full-time practical training course at either the Leo Cussen Institute from March to October, or Monash University. A further six months in legal employment is required for a full practising certificate.

Student information

Students should be aware of their rights and obligations while at the University. Essential information on matters such as enrolment, assessment, special consideration in the event of illness or other difficulties etc., is contained in the *Student Diary*, issued to every student on enrolment.

The Law Students' Society

All law students are automatically members of the Law Students' Society, an incorporated student association which provides important services, publications and events for students. The officers and committee members of the Society are elected annually from amongst the student body, and include representatives from all year levels. The Law Students' Society is generously sponsored by law firms and other employers of law students, and also receives some funding from the Law Faculty and the Melbourne University Student Union Inc.

The Law Students' Society has four sub-committees: education, careers, activities and equality. These committees meet regularly to discuss issues of concern to students, and to organise the provision of services and events. These initiatives include educational services such as the Taped Lecture Service and the Student Tutorial Service, guest speakers and debates, Careers Fair, Work Experience Program and student bursaries. The LSS also produces a vast range of publications which are free to students, including the annual *Counter Handbook*, *Women's Handbook*, *Careers Guide* and *Careers Info Pack*, as well as a Society periodical, *Purely Dicta*. The hectic social calendar includes an Orientation Week Program, Law Camp, Law Ball, Law Revue, Valedictory Dinner and lunchtime BBQs.

The society runs a number of competitions such as mootings, witness examination, client interview and letter writing which are a valuable practical complement to the LLB curriculum. Through these competitions students are able to acquire and enhance their oral presentation skills. Teams of competitors are sent to the Annual ALSA Conference each July, to compete with law students from throughout Australasia.

LSS representatives also play an important role in liaising with the Law Faculty. The executive meets regularly with the Dean and Faculty staff on matters of immediate concern to students. Elected students also sit on the Faculty and each of its sub-committees. The Society thus represents student interests on matters such as curriculum, study conditions, assessment, course design and library facilities. The Society also maintains links with the legal profession and the wider community. It provides career information to students, and represents student interests to the profession on matters such as articles guidelines and professional admission requirements.

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The Law Students' Society aims to help students attain their goals, be they academic, career, social or equality based. To that end, the Society seeks to function as a first point of contact for students who are unsatisfied with any aspect of their experience of Law School. When a complaint is received, the LSS attempts to either take action itself to remedy the situation, or if this is not possible, to direct the complaint to other Faculty or University departments that may be able to offer assistance.

As members of the Law Students' Society at the University of Melbourne, all students gain membership to the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA), the peak body of law students in Australia, currently 33 law schools from around the country. ALSA is best known for its Annual Conference, featuring Australasian Championships in mooting, witness examination and paper presentation, and its publications, the ALSA Reporter and the ALSA Careers Journal. All students are encouraged to involve themselves in ALSA activities. In 1993, the Australasian president for ALSA was located at the University of Melbourne, and each year, the LSS sends two members to ALSA as council representatives.

For further information about the Law Students' Society, or for assistance on any matter from the LSS representatives, contact the LSS office, room G-12 (in the south-west corner of the Law Quadrangle), telephone 8344 6179 or email info@lss.unimelb.edu.au.

Information is also available on the Law Students' Society web site, at: <http://www.lss.unimelb.edu.au>.

International Law Students' Society

The International Law Students' Society (ILSS) is an affiliated body of the Law Students' Society. It was established to promote and assist the welfare, status, social, educational and cultural activities of international students. It aims to foster a support group for students adjusting to their new environment, to encourage interaction between international and local students and to inform students of changes or developments in legislation or work opportunities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Society has an active program of social and educational activities for its members to fully experience the many facets of university life. Its events include an annual corporate dinner whereby students are given the opportunity to network with representatives from commercial and legal firms. Law courts and parliamentary tours expose the students to the Australian judicial and legislation making process. A student mentor program assists new students adapt to the Faculty of Law, the University of Melbourne and Australia. All international students automatically become members of the International Law Students' Society. However, the ILSS welcomes as members any other students interested in international issues and work opportunities abroad.

Further study options

The University of Melbourne Faculty of Law offers graduate and continuing education programs designed to meet the particular needs of both busy practitioners and those pursuing more scholarly traditions.

Graduates may obtain a masters degree (LLM) by writing a thesis on a research topic, by completing a specified number of postgraduate subjects or by completing a lesser number of postgraduate subjects and a minor thesis. Specialist master degrees in commercial law, comparative law, health and medical law, intellectual property law, international tax, labour relations law, public and international law, and tax, are also available.

Alternatively, specialist graduate diplomas are available in Asian law, banking and finance law, construction law, corporations and securities law, dispute resolution, energy and resources law, government law, health and medical law, insurance law, intellectual property law, international law, international tax, labour relations law, media, communications and information technology law, taxation law, and transnational law.

Higher degrees include the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), based on submission of a major thesis prepared under close supervision, and the Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD), based on coursework subjects and a major thesis. The degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) may be conferred on someone who submits a particularly distinguished or important piece of writing which makes a significant contribution to the field of law.

For further information on graduate diplomas or degrees, contact the program manager, graduate studies, in the Faculty of Law.

Careers for law graduates

Law is a versatile qualification which provides an excellent basis for a wide range of careers. For those students combining law with another degree, options are expanded. Career outcomes will be dependent on particular interests as well as opportunities available at the time. For instance, students combining law with studies in economics and commerce may find that they are more interested in pursuing a career in business than in the law. In this case studies of law and legal principle will provide an excellent background and basis for engaging in commercial transactions.

Practising lawyers

Once admitted to practise law, you are eligible to be a Barrister or Solicitor. To practise as a Barrister requires a nine month readership course, including an initial three month full-time 'readers' course.

Solicitors work directly with clients, such as members of the public, companies and banks. Some firms specialise in the work they do, while others maintain general practices. They offer advice on legal matters; negotiate and represent clients in criminal prosecutions and civil actions; and prepare and process contracts, agreements and other documents relating to companies, land transactions, and a wide variety of business and family matters. Solicitors assist people with divorce or adoption or with immigration or social security problems. They also draw up wills; handle people's estates; and prepare and administer trust deeds; or work with companies on commercial or tax matters.

Barristers, on the other hand, are engaged by solicitors and do not deal directly with clients. They usually write opinions for solicitors on doubtful points of law or procedure; draft documents involving difficult legal issues or the pleadings which prepare a case for trial; and appear in court in criminal prosecutions or civil trials.

Government lawyers

Many opportunities exist in government service. You can draft Acts of Parliament in the Parliamentary Counsel's Office; give advice to government departments in the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office; and prepare criminal cases for trial and prosecute them in court in the Director of Public Prosecution's Office. You could work on environmental protection problems in the Environment Protection Authority; help the Guardianship and Administration Board look after the interests of people in institutions; work on occupational health and safety problems; or help administer the Family Court of Australia.

Community lawyers

Many lawyers now look for ways of using their special skills to help less privileged people in the community. In the 1970s a number of community legal services sprang up to offer free legal advice and practical help to people in trouble with the police, their landlords, their employers, their families etc. These services now often have full-time lawyers. Many lawyers also work with the Victorian Legal Aid, providing legal services to those who cannot afford to meet the full cost. You will find opportunities in immigration advisory services, citizens advisory services, adoption and foster care agencies, consumer credit services and the Australian Council of Social Services.

Corporate lawyers

Most major banks and companies have their own legal departments. If you work for an oil company, you may be called on to do anything from negotiating major joint ventures for exploration to buying service stations and writing leases for their operation. If you work for a bank, you could put together large international financial deals or draft standard overdraft or mortgage documents. Invariably such lawyers eventually find themselves involved in developing policy and often move into management positions.

Policy formulation

Policy analysis and planning are developing areas of independent study. There are more opportunities for lawyers with these skills and interests than there are trained people to fill them. Opportunities exist in Law Reform Commissions, as ministerial advisers, as consultants to or employees of government, in universities, and in industry or commercial lobby groups.

Research and teaching

Good graduates often look forward to doing postgraduate work overseas. Melbourne law graduates have great success in obtaining scholarships (most recently two Rhodes Scholars in 1997) and are highly regarded in Britain and North America. Law graduates are also highly sought after in secondary schools because of the popularity of commercial and legal studies subjects. There are always opportunities for qualified researchers in the University of Melbourne Faculty of Law and the Faculty is also keen to involve good graduates in its teaching program, at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level, either as full or part-time teachers.

Other careers

Law graduates have successfully developed careers in areas such as merchant banking, accounting, management consultancy, industrial relations, the media, and editing and publishing. Many diplomats have law degrees. Some corporations recruit law graduates and give them specialist training. The same is true of statutory authorities and public services.

Careers and Employer Liaison Unit

The Careers and Employer Liaison Unit at the University offers a career information and counselling service to students. Information on part-time and vacation employment, clerkships and career information for law students is available from the Unit. The Unit's extensive library provides information on legal firms and relevant government bodies as well as suggestions for alternative careers for law graduates. Regular workshops are also offered, and students looking for graduate work can submit their resumes to GradMatch, a new computerised matching service offered by the Unit. The Careers and Employer Liaison Unit is located on the first floor of the Baldwin Spencer Building, telephone (03) 8344 6686.

Planning your Bachelor of Laws (LLB) course

The Faculty of Law offers students a wide range of law subjects. Students who enrol in an LLB course must complete the compulsory subjects and a specified number of optional subjects, including one legal theory subject. The subjects you choose depend on your own interests and on what you hope to do when you have completed your degree. If you want to become a legal practitioner, certain optional subjects must be chosen; otherwise you will not be eligible for admission to practise. The length of time it takes to complete a degree depends on the structure of the degree course. Basically, there are two courses leading to an LLB degree: the (five or six-year) combined degree, and the four-year LLB degree.

A feature of the law course at Melbourne is the seminar format of teaching in first year subjects. Students are taught in small groups, which allows the maximum degree of student-teacher and student-student interaction.

Legal theory subjects

To satisfy the requirements of the LLB degree, students must complete one 12.5 point approved legal theory subject. The approved legal theory subjects are available from the following web page:

<http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/ugrad/current.html#legaltheory>

Changes to points

The University has approved a change in the points structure for all degree courses to standardise workloads across faculties. From 1999 the standard year will be 100 points divided into semester units of 12.5 points. The following table indicates the sequence and points value of the compulsory subjects from 1999.

Sequence	Points
TPL	25 points
HPL I	12.5 points
HPL II	12.5 points
Criminal law	25 points
Con. and admin.	25 points
Contracts	25 points
Property	25 points
Equity and trusts	12.5 points

There will be no retrospective changes to points already earned for completed subjects prior to 1998. Please consult the manager, undergraduate studies, if you have any queries about the sequence you should follow in 2001.

LLB course objectives

This course has as its objectives that graduates:

- understand, and can identify, use, and evaluate rules, concepts, and principles of law, their derivation, and the various theories that attempt to systematise them;
- have acquired the techniques of legal reasoning and argument, in oral and written form;
- understand the institutions of the law, and their social, economic and political context;
- have learnt to find the law, to carry out independent research and analysis, and to think creatively about legal problems;
- have a continuing interest in law and obtain satisfaction from its study and practice;
- develop a critical interest in the reform of the law;
- can appreciate the responsibilities of lawyers to the courts, the legal profession, the community and individuals within it; and
- are committed to promote justice.

The four-year LLB degree

If you do not wish to do a combined degree, you can enrol in a four-year LLB course. You will need to study the same compulsory and optional law subjects as in a combined degree. In addition to these law subjects, you must complete a specified number of approved non-law subjects.

If you already have other tertiary qualifications or have completed at least one year of full-time tertiary studies you may complete the degree in three years. You are required to complete the same law subjects as in the four-year degree but you are not required to complete any non-law subjects.

Year	1	2	3	4
TPL	25			
HPLI	12.5			
HPL II	12.5			
Non-Law subjects	50	50		
Criminal		25		
Con. and admin.		25		
Contracts			25	
Property			25	
Equity and trusts				12.5
Law options			50	87.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100

Planning your combined degree

Five and six-year combined degrees

- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (BA/LLB)
- Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws (BCom/LLB)
- Bachelor of Computer Science/Bachelor of Laws (BCS/LLB)
- Bachelor of Creative Arts/Bachelor of Laws (BCA/LLB)
- Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Laws (BEng/LLB)
- Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws (BSc/LLB)

The majority of our students choose to study law in combination with another degree. Combined degrees can be completed after five or six years of study. Students normally study a combination of subjects from both faculties during the first four years. During this initial period you will complete the compulsory law subjects, some optional law subjects and most, if not all, of your non-law subjects. During the last year of the course, you complete the remaining number of optional law subjects. When you have completed all the required subjects you are admitted to the two degrees.

Combined Arts/Law degree

The objectives of this combined course can be gleaned by referring to the objectives for both the LLB and the other degree forming part of the combined course. For the objectives of the LLB see *LLB course objectives* (p.690). For the objectives of the BA refer to the Arts Faculty entry on *Faculty objectives* (p.35).

Year	1	2	3	4	5
TPL	25				
HPL I	12.5				
HPL II	12.5				
Arts subjects	50	50	50	50	
Criminal		25			
Con. and admin.		25			
Contracts			25		
Property			25		
Equity and trusts				12.5	
Law options				37.5	100
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Please note that for BA/LLB students, an Arts course with two majors would require the completion of two extra subjects beyond the 200 points required for the Arts component of their combined degree (and extra HECS/fee liability). See the *Faculty of Arts section of the University Handbook for more information*.

Combined Law/Commerce degree

The objectives of this combined course can be gleaned by referring to the objectives for both the LLB and the other degree forming part of the combined course. For the objectives of the LLB see *LLB course objectives* (p.690). For the objectives of the BCom see *Course objectives* (p.385).

Course requirements

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Commerce component

A minimum and maximum 200 points of Commerce subjects, which must include:

- at least 50 level-100 subjects
- at least 50 level-300 subjects
- the following compulsory subjects
 - 316-101 Introductory Macroeconomics
 - 316-102 Introductory Microeconomics
 - 316-129 Quantitative Methods 1

and one of

- 316-205 Introductory Econometrics
- 316-206 Quantitative Methods 2
- 325-210 Managerial Decision Analysis
- 325-212 Market Research

The 200 Commerce points may include up to 25 points of non-Commerce level-100 subjects (replacing 25 Commerce points).

Year	1	2	3	4	5
TPL	25				
HPL I	12.5				
HPL II		12.5			
Commerce subjects	62.5	62.5	75		
Criminal		25			
Con. and admin.			25		
Contracts				25	
Property				25	
Equity and trusts					12.5
Law options				50	87.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

As part of the BCom/LLB degree, students must pass at least 200 points of approved Economics and Commerce subjects. This is also the maximum number of Commerce points allowed.

First year

- 730-104 Torts And The Process Of Law (p.693) Points 25
 730-105 History and Philosophy of Law I (p.693) 12.5

A total of five Commerce semester subjects (62.5 points) including:

- 316-101 Introductory Macroeconomics (p.405) 12.5
 316-102 Introductory Microeconomics (p.405) 12.5
 316-130 Quantitative Methods 1 (p.405) 12.5

plus two additional 100-level Commerce subjects or approved non-Commerce subjects (maximum 25.0 points)

Second year

- 730-115 History and Philosophy of Law II (p.693) Points 12.5
 730-102 Criminal Law And Procedure (p.693) 25

A total of five Commerce semester subjects (62.5 points) including one of:

- 316-205 Introductory Econometrics (p.405) 12.5

or

- 316-206 Quantitative Methods 2 (p.406) 12.5

or

- 325-210 Managerial Decision Analysis (p.416) 12.5

or

- 325-212 Market Research (p.416) 12.5

Third year

- 730-204 Constitutional & Administrative Law (p.693) Points 25
 75 points of 300-level Commerce subjects

Fourth year

- 730-202 Contracts (p.693) Points 25
 730-203 Property (p.694) 25
 730-357 Equity and Trusts (p.694) (or in fifth year) 12.5

Law options

Fifth year

- 730-357 Equity and Trusts (p.694) (or in fourth year) Points 12.5
 Law options

Note: Varying the above structure has implications for Commerce (Honours) eligibility. Students wishing to vary this structure are advised to first consult a Commerce course advisor.

Note: Combined Commerce/Law students are not permitted to take any of the business law subjects taught within the Faculty of Law (that is, 732 prefixed subjects) with the exception of 732-307 Law and Labour Relations in East Asia which may be undertaken as a subject in the optional LLB program.

Combined Law/Computer Science degree

For further details please see *Faculty of Engineering* (p.481).

Combined Law/Creative Arts degree

The objectives of this combined course can be gleaned by referring to the objectives for both the LLB and the other degree forming part of the combined course. For the objectives of the LLB see *LLB course objectives* (p.690). For the objectives of the BCA refer to the Arts Faculty entry on *Faculty objectives* (p.35).

Year	1	2	3	4	5
TPL	25				
HPL I	12.5				
HPL II	12.5				
Creative Arts subjects	50	50	50	50	
Criminal		25			
Con. and admin.		25			
Contracts			25		
Property			25		
Equity and trusts				12.5	
Law options				37.5	100
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Combined Law/Engineering degree

For further details please see *Faculty of Engineering* (p.481).

Combined Law/Science degree

The objectives of this combined course can be gleaned by referring to the objectives for both the LLB and the other degree forming part of the combined course. For the objectives of the LLB see *LLB course objectives* (p.690). For the objectives of the BSc see *Faculty of Science* (p.755).

Year	1	2	3	4	5
TPL	25				
HPL I	12.5				
HPL II	12.5				
Science subjects	50	50	50	50	
Criminal		25			
Con. and admin.		25			
Contracts			25		
Property			25		
Equity and trusts				12.5	
Law options				37.5	100
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

Science component of the Combined Law/Science degree

A minimum of 200 science points is required, which must include:

- between 50 and 125 points at the 100-level;
- completion of 50 points of a prescribed science major at the 300-level. For detailed information on Science majors, refer to the Faculty of Science section *Majors* (p.762).

Note that:

- There are no specific requirements at the 200-level.

- Science points are awarded for the completion of *Science* subjects listed in the Faculty of Science section of this Handbook. The majority of subjects listed in this section earn Science credit, although there are exceptions. Some subjects offered by the Department of Information Systems, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and School of Earth Science do not earn Science credit. If a subject does not earn Science credit it is labelled as *non-Science* in the subject description. Any subject that does not appear in the Science section of this Handbook is a *non-Science* subject.

Students who commenced prior to 1999

Students who first enrolled in the combined Law/Science course before 1999 must complete the requirements set out above with the exception that they do not need to complete a prescribed Science major, but rather 50 points at 300-level made up of *Science* subjects of their choice.

Selection of Science subjects

Students are normally able to enrol in any subjects earning Science credit where they have satisfied the prerequisite and co-requisite requirements. These requirements are included in individual subject descriptions. Note that some Science subjects are quota-restricted as the demand for the subject exceeds the number of places available. Selection into quota subjects is based on academic merit. Refer to the Faculty of Science section *Quota subjects* (p.760) for more details.

Honours in Science

The Faculty of Science offers a Bachelor of Science (Honours) program. It involves advanced research and coursework and results in the award of an honours qualification. This will add an extra year to the combined degree. Refer to the Faculty of Science section *General Faculty information about honours* (p.883) for more details.

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