

2016 HopgoodGanim

First Year

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Replace
weights with
Torts
textbook

Buy ticket
to law
retreat

Preemptively
plant trees to
compensate
for open
book exams

Develop
caffeine
addiction

Download all
five seasons
of Suits
(legally of course)

Drown
exam-related
stress in
SWOTVAC
snacks



HopgoodGanim

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Contents

President's Welcome	5
A Welcome from the Secretary	7
Meet Your First Year Representative	8
First Year Checklist	10
What's on Next?	11
What is the L Card?	12
Unleash Your Social Side	14
UQ Law Revue	16
Comps	17
Sport	19
Get Educated	21
You and Your Career	23
Publications	26
What is Obiter?	28
Graduate and International Advice	30
JATL (Justice and the Law Society)	32
Study Survival Guide	34
Contact List	54

WELCOME TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

A Message from HopgoodGanim Lawyers



Bruce Humphrys, Managing Partner
HopgoodGanim Lawyers

First and foremost, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your decision to study law.

Whether you want to be a lawyer when you leave university, or you're using your degree as a starting point to launch your career in another field, an education in law provides a solid grounding for the future and can open doors to a range of exciting opportunities.

You'll find that law is intellectually challenging, fast-paced and infinitely rewarding. Studying law will provide you with important and versatile skills – from problem solving, to persuasion and critical reasoning – that are highly valued by employers.

As you start your legal education, I would encourage you to take full advantage of every opportunity available to build skills and personal connections that may be useful throughout university and into your future career. Get involved in university law society events, take part in activities on campus and make the most of every opportunity you have to meet and network with others who are (or will be) part of the legal profession.

While grades are important, potential employers will also take into account your life experience, extracurricular activities and personal attributes such as enthusiasm and interpersonal skills.

Working as a vacation clerk or research assistant at a law firm while you are studying will also give you a great head start in your career. You'll get to know the ins-and-outs of the legal profession and gain practical experience that will be invaluable when you start looking for a full-time position.

HopgoodGanim offers vacation clerkships during winter and summer breaks. Our clerkship positions are open to current law students of all levels, not just penultimate and final year students and close on 21 March 2016 – visit www.hopgoodganim.com.au/careers for further information.

There is a world of opportunity out there for law students with a good education and a passion for the law, and I wish you all the best as you take the first steps towards what I'm sure will be an exciting and rewarding career.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Humphrys', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bruce Humphrys
Managing Partner, HopgoodGanim

President's Welcome

Hello first years! Welcome to Law School!

Congratulations on making it to the T.C. Beirne School of Law -- get keen for some of the most entertaining, challenging and enjoyable years of your life.



You've probably heard it a lot so far, but I firstly wanted to wish you a warm welcome to the T.C Beirne School of Law, and hearty congratulations for making it into this degree! Regardless of where you have come from, and where you wish to end up after your degree (whether you know that or not yet – and it's okay if you don't, because that would make two of us!), you are about to commence a very exciting adventure.

And yes, the study of law can be an adventure; you'll discover a whole new language of terms like ratio, stare decisis, and volenti non fit injuria, meet a host of wonderful characters in the form of your lecturers and tutors, and will navigate the UQ campus while the Law School is under renovations.

I won't lie to you – while this adventure will bring you some of the most rewarding and enjoyable times of your life, it probably won't be a waltz through a field of daisies (and if it is, please find me and tell me I was wrong, so I can ask how you did it). But I can let you in on a little secret: your fellow classmates, in this cohort and those above you, have all found it tough, and you are not alone.



Kate at 2015 Law Retreat

President's Welcome Continued

As a little tip to help you on your journey, I want to impart you with some advice that I was given when I started my degree, and read my Survival Guide: get involved at university.



An easy way to do that is to join the University of Queensland Law Society (UQLS), the biggest (and best) society on campus whose sole existence is to make your university experience the best it can be. The UQLS puts on an endless list of events, activities, initiatives, forums, and other kind of opportunities that cover a variety of different purposes. These range from being educational, career, competitive, or social-centred, and even extend to your general well being.

We've done our best to outline everything that we do in the following pages in this Guide, and will always keep you updated on our website and Facebook page. Chances are there will be something that might vaguely interest you, and if not, we are always open to new ideas.

And if you feel like you've ever lost your way, or want some guidance, or even just want to chat, feel free to venture to Seddon West, Level 4, Room 201 to our office. Otherwise, memorise our faces in this Guide, and don't be afraid to stop and have a chat (we all were first years once!). In any event, I look forward to seeing you around on campus, at our UQLS events, and at the renowned First Year Retreat.

Best of luck for the journey and studies ahead,

Kate Cincotta
UQLS President



A Welcome From the Secretary

Hello there!

Congratulations! You made it – UQ Law. You have joined us at an interesting time, one in which our famous sandstone façade has become just that – a façade – because, as you may have heard/seen, our long time home is now a construction site while it undergoes a facelift. This is an excuse to go beyond the law school if I've ever heard one, so this campus is your oyster now more than ever. See how many buildings you can learn of before Forgan Smith opens up for you to hibernate in again – it's been three years and I'm still asking UQ Nav where my tutes are this semester.

Beginning to study law is frankly quite a ride. Actually, the whole university thing is quite a ride. But in case it makes the ride a little smoother, here are some things I have learned from first year and beyond:

1. The 'J' after a judge's name is for Justice – they don't all have first names that start with J.
2. In case names, 'Anor' means another, as in another party to the matter, and is not some particularly negligent company that seems to get sued an awful lot.
3. Friends make law 100% better. You can study with them, exchange notes, laugh about hilarious law memes such as snails in bottles (it'll all make sense soon), weep together, and if you're lucky and they're older than you, you can get wisdom/more notes from them. These helpful souls can be found at lectures, tutorials, Retreat, UQLS events, the UQLS office, and places that sell coffee – don't be afraid to say hi, because we're all in the same crazy boat.
4. Get involved in competitions while you're a first year! Otherwise you'll end up like me – a fourth year and a complete moot rookie, facing the real possibility of signing up for the senior moot and getting schooled by second years. It might all seem daunting now, but this year you can only compete against other first years just as inexperienced as you, and there's no way to learn some law quite like mooting about it – you'll thank yourself later.
5. Try preparing for your tutorials even if you have nooooo idea what's going on, turn up, write down all your tutor's wisdom, and ask them questions either in person or via email if you don't understand literally any part of it. It sounds trite, but these things are all too often overlooked, and if you rinse and repeat these steps until you're feeling good, there's no reason why you shouldn't do well in the exam.
6. An Obiter editor once told me something that wasn't a joke (sorry to spoil the illusion), and that was that law students were often big fish in small ponds at school, only to find themselves as small fish in this big scary law pond now. But fish can swim anywhere, right? No, law doesn't get any easier – but you will get better at law.



Amy with barrister/former Australian Idol judge/national treasure Mark Holden at Law Dinner #touchdown

I may be the shady behind-the-scenes caretaker of this fine association with no visible role until the AGM comes around, but I do exist! The thing is, I love being at uni. So I'm always here – find me in the office/library finding new music to listen under the pretence of studying or buying/consuming food/coffee, and let's chat. Can't wait to meet you!

Amy Bergman
Secretary

Meet Your First Year Representative

Hey there new law students.

Congratulations, you made it. Now the adventure begins.

My name is Steele McMahon and I am the First and Second Year Representative of the UQ Law Society. It is my role to help connect you with the wealth of academic, social and cultural programs available to law students and assist your transition into university life.

Throughout the next few years there will be tough times and there will be fun times. If you read through this guide you will discover countless ways that the UQLS can help you on your journey. However I list here for your convenience six tips to give you a great start.



1. Don't be late to Signon. By the time you are reading this, it will have asked passed - but at least you know for next Semester! Most subjects have a Signon system to enrol for particular tutorial or lecture times. Make a timetable that works for you and be online when it opens to get the spot you want.
2. Go to Law Retreat. You are not alone. There is a cohort of like-minded folks just waiting to meet you. Law friends make law school much more enjoyable and Retreat is the perfect place to forge such friendships.
3. Make a study group. I met my study group on Retreat and it was a game changer. You will be going through many of the same challenges as your peers and you will find it immensely helpful and enjoyable to tackle law revision as a team.
4. Join the Buddy Program. Older students have been through this same ordeal before. They can give you invaluable tips and advice on how to get through your first year hurdles.
5. Join the 1st Year UQ Law, 2016 Facebook page. This page will contain information and updates about many opportunities tailored specifically to your class. It can also contain past exam answers, information on events and just general good banter.
6. Get involved with something. Make the most of your University experience by getting involved. UQ has countless programs, clubs and opportunities to cover all interests. Just find something that suits you and do it.

Once again I am here to help you, so please feel free to contact me anytime at s.mcmahon@uqls.com with any questions or comments. Throughout the year I will be working hard to make your year spectacular with many more events and opportunities. I wish you all the best for your law journey!

Warm Regards,

Steele McMahon
First & Second Year Representative



HopgoodGanim
First & Second Year
Law Retreat

19th - 20th March
Gold Coast Recreation Centre
Palm Beach

Under \$95



First Year Checklist

You've battled QCS, QTAC and the like, and won, by being accepted into law school. But as the beginning of your new adventure quickly approaches, a wave of panic sets over you – what do I do next?

Have no fear, as Equity is here with a handy checklist for what to do in your first few weeks at TC Beirne!

☑ **Make sure to stay in the law-loop!** Thanks to the ever-helpful social media, you can stay on top of all the exciting things the UQLS has to offer:

- Like the University of Queensland Law Society (UQLS) page on Facebook

- Join the 1st Year UQ Law, 2016 Facebook group (trust me, this page will become a source of guidance, and entertainment, for sharing past exam feedback and explanations of exam requirements, as well as general law lols

- If you're a first year graduate or international student – there's special pages for you too! Search on Facebook for the groups UQ O.W.L.S (for graduate entry students) and UQ Law International Students (for international students)

☑ **Head along to Market Day!** A specific day during O-Week where all the clubs and societies of UQ take over campus for a day, and promote membership. Try and see how much free stuff you can score while seeing all that UQ has to offer (like the L Card, your ticket to UQLS membership, we're bright pink, you can't miss us!) Don't forget to also attend your Law Orientation, and meet the friendly faces from the Law School and beyond that will help you on your university adventure

☑ **Get ready for the first day!** Sign on to your courses, and plan your timetable! (Top tip, if you're going to squeeze all your classes into a block, check to see where all your classes are, to try and avoid giving yourself only 10 minutes to walk the entire length of campus to get to your next class – there's nothing more embarrassing than your lecturer knowing you only as the late kid). Also, try and head in as early as you can to get your textbooks, to avoid missing out! (The UQLS can help you out, though, so watch out for the Textbook Loan Program and Textbook Market Place initiatives if you're interested).



☑ **Attend university!** Give yourself plenty of time to get to uni (being forgiving that public transport and parking are inevitably going to be a nightmare to begin with), and to navigate around.

☑ **And last but not least, Enjoy university!** The first year of law school is such an exciting time, even if at first it might seem daunting, or confusing, and that's why the UQLS is here to help!

So check out the following pages of this Guide to see all that's on offer for you, and get keen for first year!

Sophie Seneviratne
Vice-President (Equity)

What's On Next?

Keep up to date with all the exciting things on offer from your friends in Equity!

First Year Feasts

What is the one thing better than the feeling of having finished a 2 hour law lecture? Food! In week one, we will be serving up some scrumptious FREE feasts after some your lectures. This is a brilliant opportunity to debrief about your first impressions of the law and the adorable Russell Hinchy. So make sure you come along to mingle with your new peers and celebrate getting into UQ law while you munch on our delicious BBQ spread.



How To Law Session

“What is law? Baby don’t hurt me, no more.” Those words may have been running through your mind during the first couple of law lectures. Fear not, first years, for the TC Beirne have teamed up with the UQ Law Society to present you a “How To Law” Session, featuring tips on preparing for tutorials, getting through that mountain of case readings and preparing for exams. There will also be time for Q&A. Don’t be shy - the question you are brave enough to ask is probably the same question the rest of the cohort wanted to ask!

Buddy Program Sign Up

Has the beginning of law school got you feeling like a lost little owl who’s just left the nest? Find your metaphorical feet by joining the UQLS Buddy program! The UQLS Buddy Program pairs one to two first year students with an older student. The Program aims to build a bond of friendship with a first year and bolster the sense of community in the TC Beirne, breaking down what would otherwise be quite insular year levels. For first years, their older buddy is a friendly face that they can approach, particularly in their first semester of uni when everything can seem quite daunting.

Law Retreat

The first few weeks of law school can be pretty hectic, for anyone. After the cut-throat 6am sign-ons, scraping money together to buy the \$100+ textbooks, and then having to navigate campus amongst the chaotic crowds... It’s a pain just thinking about it! So how about an escape for a weekend featuring fun in the sun at the beach, sport, food, crazy games, amazing views, and the chance to meet the friendly other faces of TC Beirne, make new friends and dance your troubles away at the themed party! The HopgoodGanim First and Second Year Retreat is a must and will be held on the weekend of March 19th!



To find out the details for these events, watch the UQLS and 1st Year UQ Law 2016 Facebook pages!

What is the L Card?

‘The height of human achievement, and a triumph of the creative spirit.’ – UQLS Socials Team 2016

‘I picked the wrong profession.’ – UQ Medical Student

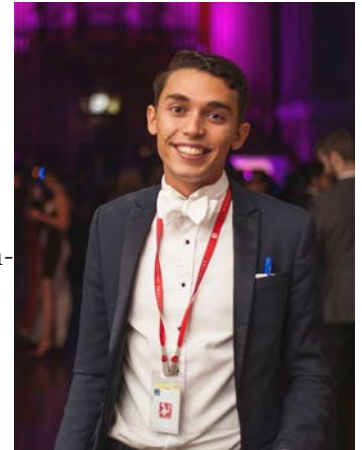
‘I want to build a wall...to keep the L-Card in!’ – Donald Trump

‘I wouldn’t say no if s/he whips it out tonight.’ – Potential Bae, 2k16

‘Definitely the best thing about the bar.’ – Law School Saviour and Judicial Iconoclast Justice Michael Kirby AC KMG

Wait! What are all these quotes about? What’s going on?

Welcome, sweet, innocent first year.



Liam Weate

The L Card is unlike anything you’ve ever experienced before. No, seriously; a student-made, student-run and student-centred membership card, not only giving you access to the widest variety of events and activities that any UQ society has to offer, but also scoring you massive discounts and great deals at pubs, clubs, restaurants and retail outlets all across South East Queensland.

If you’re looking for a Bonnie to your Clyde, a Robin to your Batman, or a pair of RM Williams boots to your Ralph Lauren Polo, look no further than the L Card - not just a guaranteed way to attract the highest quality baes this side of Sir Fred Schonell Drive, but also your essential partner in crime when taking on law school and the world.

Sounds good. Why should I get one?

Some people say that size doesn’t matter. It does to us. The L Card is the largest student discount card in Australia and this year we’re pulling out all the stops to make it the biggest and best one yet. With a weapon that size, you won’t be able to resist the urge to whip it out – in front of your friends, your proud parents and local purveyors of fine wines and meats, inter alia (a legal term you’ll need to know – look it up).

Perhaps most importantly, buying an L Card is the only way to become a member of the UQLS. This unlocks the chance for you to get involved in competitions – like the first year and faculty moots, client interviewing, negotiation, advocacy and paper presentation competitions – as well as all of the sporting and social events run by the UQLS.

PLUS with an L Card you gain access to tickets to our most popular events like Law Ball, Law Dinner, the Law Revue, and, of course, the most prestigious slopfest of them all - Pub Crawl. Attending just one of these events means your L Card has just paid for itself. What a bargain, are we right? We’re definitely right.

What is the L Card?

Wow - is there more? I suspect there's more.

Oh there is. So much more fun (and value for money) in the L Card beyond UQLS initiatives. You'll find many great establishments all across South East Queensland recognise the inherent superiority of L Card holders over regular folk. Whip it out for them, and you'll cop the best discounts on food, drink, retail and entertainment. Top user tip: Just a quick flash of your L Card gets you free entry at major nightclubs around Brisbane.

Keen. How do I L Card?

Don't worry - we've made getting an L Card even easier than Law and Society. Just pop down to the UQLS stall in the Great Court on Market Day (Wednesday 24 February) and pick one up for the exceptionally reasonable price of \$10.

Golly! That is exceptional value.

It is - and you're welcome. You'll also be able to pick one up anytime throughout the year from the UQLS office in Seddon West Block, Room W201 on Level 4. And if you're a young whippersnapper who likes to get on "the Internet," we've been assured that it will be able to sort you out with all your L Card needs.

Wait! I have a confession to make. I'm not actually a Law student.

Really? But you're reading the first year guide? Eh, whatever. We don't discriminate - and neither does L Card. Anyone can grab one - students and non-students alike; law, engineering, occupational therapy, TAFE, or just 'working on a novel' - anyone with 10 bucks and the right attitude can capitalise on the cornucopia of perks on offer.

Yeah look... I didn't follow any of that.

Don't worry! If you've got any questions, or just want somebody to talk to, reach out to the UQLS' Vice-President of L-Card, Liam Weate, at l.weate@uqls.com. He's there to listen when no one else will. And! Be sure to throw us a like on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LCardOfficial>), along with the UQLS Facebook Page to keep up to date with all things L Card. We hope you're as excited as us to whip it out in 2016. #whip-itout #whipoutwhat? #theLcard #oh,ofcourse #LCard2k16



Unleash Your Social Side!

“Hi, my name is Izzy and I like to party.” – Izzy Belonogoff, 2016

“Hi, my name is Imogen and I like to party.” – Imogen Inglis, 2016

It’s a good thing those statements are actually true – not just because it offers a defence for an inevitable copyright claim from the makers of Hot Rod, but also because we are your UQLS social convenors for 2016.



Now we know why you came to TCB - for ‘the law’. And sure, we love *Don’tknowHugh v Stephenson* as much as any wide-eyed fresher, but here’s a promise: after your first L Card Launch Party, socials will be the reason you stay. Because when, slowly but surely, each of us emerge from our respective cocoon of statutes, long blacks and ghastly 12 contact hour weeks, carrying with us the most expensive piece of paper ever to exist, we won’t be remembering how to reference an unreported case according to AGLC 3. Instead, we’ll remember fondly our first Law Ball love (and, perhaps, the second), the year we only made it stop 3 on Pub Crawl, and that final, Final Year Fling, fling. Not following? Allow us to break it down for you...

UQLS SOCIAL EVENTS - 2016

1. Law Ball

Remember your year 12 formal? You won’t after this. The annual UQLS Law Ball has long been revered for its sophistication, elegance, and generous hospitality (including an after-party at Friday’s that never disappoints). Forget the Logies, this is the real night of nights. All that’s left to do is for you to suit up and join us. And just an insider scoop; this year, we’re putting an awe-inspiring twist on the evening that will truly leave you in a state of wonder.



2. Pub Crawl

What always begins a simple Sunday stroll around Brisbane’s finest and most reputable establishments, always snowballs into something...much more. One of our most relaxed and inclusive events is a guaranteed way to make new best friends and get closer to old ones. Perhaps a little too close. (Don’t worry, neither of you will remember it anyway.)

3. Bands Night

Forget The 1975 or John Farnham - this is the gig everyone will be talking about. Rally the groupies or get the band back in the garage for one more practice of ‘Wonderwall’. This is your chance to be crowned the new ‘Chumbawamba’ of the Brisbane music scene.

Unleash Your Social Side!

4. Law Dinner

A glamorous send off to those who did the impossible – graduate from TCB. A night of fine dining, and extra fine black-tie attire. With all the traditional UQLS social perks (read: bulk drinks), and the chance to mingle with some of the more game of your Law Professors, the Valedictorian Law Dinner always ensures a moving speech given by an esteemed member of the legal profession, filling our hearts with hope for our own future (and our stomachs with a delicious three-course meal).

5. Croquet

By far the most fashionable of all the UQLS events, croquet will see an adventurous mix of paisley and gingham, leather and linen, hats both floppy and panama hats. Did I mention an almost irresponsible amount of booze? Oh yes, and we'll probably play croquet at some point.

6. ... And all the rest

We top and tail each semester with L Card parties – several hours of generous 'hospitality', on the house. And if that's not enough to keep you busy readying yourselves for the big ones, we've got so much more – UQ v QUT Rugby and Football Grudge Matches, the quickly escalating Staff v Student Cricket Match, chill times at Meet the Exec, and the piece de resistance, Final Year Fling amongst many others. Keep your eyes peeled throughout the year, because you never know what else we might throw on to help you procrastinate from that Principles of Public Law study.

And we want you to be a part of it all! Just get your hands on an L Card on Market Day in O-Week!



UQ Law Revue

Dear First Year reader, I would like to take this opportunity to point out something about this guide that you may not have noticed thus far – it is called a First Year Survival Guide. Not First Year Enjoyment Guide, or First Year Utopia Guide, but Survival. This is the kind of word used to describe the journey of a person who has their arm stuck under a rock in the desert and has to saw through their own nerve endings with a toothpick. I want you to reflect on that for a moment. You see, law school is a bit of a hard slog. You don't really get to do an Elle Woods, and become valedictorian by answering a question on hair care without displaying any discernible legal knowledge. I tried that in my Torts final, and didn't get too far. Law school can be really hard, really dry and sometimes super boring. Which is why you need UQ Law Revue.



To give you a brief introduction, Law Revue is a stage show put on by law students each year, with an exclusive focus on comedy and music. Think Saturday Night Live meets Glee. We write parodies of our professors, of politics, or pop culture, and sometimes even of Monks. No, really, if you want to get an idea of what Law Revue is like, YouTube “Uptown Monk” right now and feel the burning desire to be a part of what we do. It is so much fun for anyone involved and it truly is the highlight of the degree. Well, for me at least. I personally would not still be in this place without Revue.

I think it's important to say that Law Revue is a very supportive and friendly environment. I was pretty terrified to audition in First Year because I didn't think I had the chops for the job, but when I started in Second Year I wished I hadn't gone a year without it. So even if you have the slightest inkling for theatre or music or just having fun, come along and audition. We want to see as many people as possible and especially want to meet a whole lot of new first years. We want writers, actors, singers, backstage hands, costume designers, and just generally enthusiastic people to sign up for the job. I promise you, it really is the time of your life.

So please give Law Revue a go, in whatever capacity you want. Come along to our writing meetings, even if you've got no ideas. Audition for the show even if you've never set foot on a stage before. There are so many opportunities to get involved and you really won't regret putting your hand up to have a go! Oh, and if you want a little more information about it, your legendary First Year Rep, Steele McMahon, was a cast member last year, and he will be more than happy to chat to you about the Revue. Otherwise, feel free to shoot me an email if you want some advice – I'm the 2016 convenor and I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Hit me up at k.wheatley@uqls.com and who knows, maybe we'll become lifelong penpals.

Law Revue auditions will commence in Week 5, after the Easter Break. Audition applications will open at the beginning of Semester. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for information about auditions and writing meetings.

Katie Wheatley
Law Revue Convenor

Competitions

Hello Firsties!!!

Welcome to TCB! You've all worked so hard to get here, so congratulations! Four years – or more – of law school can seem daunting, especially if you want to skip ahead to the part where you get to throw paper around like Harvey Specter or strut through a courthouse like Annalise Keating. Luckily, UQLS Comps have got you covered.

My name is Emily McClelland and I am the Competitions VP for 2016. I've got my best mates in tow: Sangeetha Badya, Michael Chen, and Helen He, and together we run the five types of competitions offered by the UQLS. Competitions offer you a chance to develop your practical legal skills and make some friends along the way! Each competition consists of two preliminary rounds before the top eight teams move forward into the quarterfinals and beyond. The Grand Final is held at either a law firm or the Queensland Supreme Court and is judged by a mixture of students, lawyers, and even court judges. Students who excel in internal competitions have the opportunity to represent UQ in various external national and international competitions. Internal competitions are the best place to start preparing for these. To start you off, the UQLS runs several junior competitions that are only open to first-years, and by second semester students are ready to compete in some of the senior competitions.

The UQLS holds a 'how-to' session for every competition. An experienced student will run through the basics and also deconstruct a typical round of the competition. This is a great opportunity to sign up for comps! Additionally, for junior competitions, teams will have the (strongly encouraged) opportunity to participate in a 1:2 seminar with a student judge. You will receive feedback on drafts, speaking skills, and tactics, and answers to any burning questions you may have before the first round.

Semester 1

Junior Moot

How-to: Week 2

Sign on closes: 13th March

Seminar: 19th March

For those of you harbouring aspirations of being a great orator like Cicero or Obama, mooting is the competition for you. Mooting is a simulation of a courtroom scenario involving teams of two or three arguing opposing sides of a fictitious appellate case. The problem remains the same throughout the competition as each week you improve your case. Teams are required to research the law, prepare brief written submissions, and answer questions posed by a judge relating to the law and facts of the moot problem. UQ mooters have experienced great success at national and international competitions, including winning the prestigious Phillip C. Jessup International Mooting Competition in 2014. Consequently, mooting is one of the more popular competitions, especially in first year as it can give you a head start for Torts!

Junior Negotiation

How-to: Week 2

Sign on closes: 13th March

Seminar: 12th March

Negotiation involves two teams of two acting as solicitors for opposing clients. Each team receives a brief, detailing their client's account of the dispute as well as their client's desired outcomes. It is the aim of the solicitors to negotiate an outcome that achieves your client's aims and is accepted by the other side. Negotiation is a fundamental skill frequently employed by solicitors and is a core component of any lawyer's skill set. Negotiation problems are highly enjoyable and for students looking to try out a competition, this is a great place to start.

Junior Paper Presentation

How-to: Week 8

Sign on closes: 8th May

Seminar: Week 1 Semester 2

A competition for the budding academics and jurists, students will have the opportunity to submit an essay to the UQLS who, along with substantial input from T.C. Beirne academics and firm representatives, will judge the entries. The best three entries then present a ten minute presentation of their paper to a panel of judges in the grand final. Despite only reinstating the paper presentation in 2015, students excelled with an extremely high standard of entries encouraged by UQ's grand final success at the ALSA competition.

Competitions

Witness Examination

This is one to keep on the backburner for the moment, as it is strongly recommended that students have completed some criminal law and evidence subjects. However, witness examination is extremely popular as it allows for students to live out their Elle Woods 'perm' moments. Witness Examination involves a simulated civil or criminal trial. Competitors are required to act as counsel by examining and cross-examining witnesses, and presenting opening and closing arguments to the bench. The objective is to lead your witness through their testimony and expose the deficiencies of the witness for the opposing side. Participants are able to put their knowledge of the law of evidence into practice as well as develop their public speaking and quick thinking skills.

Semester 2

Junior Client Interviewing
 How-to: Week 2
 Sign on closes: 7th August
 Seminar: 13th August

Client interviewing simulates an initial consultation between a prospective client and their solicitors. The purpose of the interview is to gather all the relevant facts and circumstances of your client's predicament. Teams are judged on how well they identify the legal and non-legal implications of the problem,

develop a solution to the client's problem and interact with the client. Client interviewing requires minimal preparation and provides law students with the opportunity to practice the skills that form a substantial part of a solicitor's work.

What next?

If any of the above take your fancy, keep an eye out for dates, times, and locations for all our how-tos! If you have any questions at all, feel free to email competitions@uqls.com

Sneaky Comps Tips:

- L Cardo: Only UQLS members can compete, so make sure you grab an L Card on market day, or pop in to the UQLS office in Seddon to pick one up
- Many hands make light work: Often when receiving a problem students make the mistake of splitting the work down the middle, however your approach and teamwork will benefit if you work on it together!
- Try before you buy: Junior competitions are great because you compete only against other first years with the same amount of experience. Sample each competition in first year before you graduate to the Senior competitions.
- Give yourself a hand(book): Keep an eye out for the 2016 Competitions handbook, which will be available on the UQLS website. It contains all of the best tips on how to get the most out of comps

The Competitions Team



Emily McClelland
VP Competitions



Sangeetha Badya
Convenor



Michael Chen
Convenor



Helen He
Convenor

Have a Ball with UQLS Sport!



Hi, I'm Jane Hall, your female sports convenor. Grudge match was the highlight of my first year, and I look forward to seeing you all at this year's match! I can't wait to meet you, and give you a great reason to escape from the library!

I'm Lach Glaves, Sports Convenor! I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the field, on the track or just wandering around UQ pondering who the hell this Forgan Smith guy is anyway.

And my name is Gabbi! I am the Sports VP (Spodradically Vexatiously Physical) for 2016. Come along to running club if you can! It's a great way to make some law friends and I promise we'll only do burpees very occasionally.

This year, we are trying to make sure that students are taking care of themselves, both physically and mentally. By now you have all got the "you thought high school was hard?! Just wait for law school!!" Usually given by people who never went to law school and just want to be melo-dramatic.

I love dramatic melons as much as the next person, and this next year will indeed be hard. However, part of being an adult(ish) is learning to work through challenges in a team, keep a good balance of relaxation and work, and keep ACTIVE so your body is happy.

That's why every sporting event and initiative this year will be focused on fulfilling all of these areas: social health, relaxation and physical health. There will also be some which are tailored to just one of these.

This basically means that we will have the coolest events, the friendliest people, the best brain breaks, bone breaks and breakfast breaks.

If you're looking to continue your team sporting career, or to meet some kind and equally uncoordinated students, UQLS team sport is the best way to make friends and boast to attractive strangers about your physical prowess.



Have a Ball with UQLS Sport!

Note: There is no need to be good at the sport you sign up to. YouTube and WikiHow have great tutorials on particularly difficult sports such as netball and running. Team sports is open to all and every skill level.

If your prowess potential only comes out within positive packs and pointed practice times, there is a running club. This is extremely popular and will be making a special effort this year to be ATAP: As Themed As Possible.

And for those prowess parodies we are introducing this year by popular demand a walking club! Also themed!

Finally, this year there will also be a healthy eating initiative (aka free food), a team sport end of year dinner party (over-excitement for the already endorphin-enhanced) and a Tough Mudder team (harder than Jes-sup. And way better for your mental health).

These are just some of the amazing things your sports team has planned for you guys this year.

We are super excited and love talking about sports and physical stuff so feel free to chat us up if you see us around.

Best wishes for the start of your law school experience.

May it make you wildly happy.

Love, The 2016 Sports Team.



Get Educated

Congratulations, you have made it! Not quite to the hallowed halls of Forgan Smith, but you are so close you can probably taste the sandstone. The first year of university (or law) is a special time: study, beers ... study beers. The Education team mostly helps with the study. If you have any issues with or questions about your studies, get in contact by emailing us at education@uqls.com. At page 34, you will find an incredible Study Guide with more detailed information on what we do and how to succeed at law school.



WHAT WE DO:

Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS)

Law school, huh? That is a question you might have frequently during your first year of study. PALS is here to help. Other questions you might ask: how do I law? What is this 'ratio decidendi' – nobody said there would be maths in law school. Come to PALS for advice from experienced students about how to study, how to tackle exams and general advice on surviving your first year of law.

Notepool

Fortunately for you, people who are much more diligent, studious and wise than you often write notes for courses. These be helpful sometimes (read: often). The Education team has collected the wisdom of these sages into a database for your use. Find them here (<http://www.uqls.com/np>).

Sir Harry Gibbs Lecture

Since 2012, the Education team has organised an annual lecture in honour of highly distinguished alumnus, Sir Harry Gibbs. Past speakers have included the Hon. Justice Patrick Keane of the High Court of Australia and Julian Burnside AO QC. A highlight of the year, it is not to be missed.

Advice, Complaints, Ideas, Complaints

The Education team, and the Education Board (a separate student panel), are responsible for liaising between you and the law school to ensure that your LLB is worth the blood, sweat, tears and toil. If you need advice on getting assessment remarked, you would like to make a complaint about some facet of a course or you would like to share an idea for improving the law school, then we would like to hear from you. We also represent the interests of law students on university committees and in policy development. Every year we produce an Education Report based on your concerns and student surveys.

Harry Smith
Vice President (Education)

You and Your Career

Aaron Hua (Vice-President of Professional Sponsorship and Careers), Larissa Harrison and Zach Schafferius (Careers Officers) comprise the Sponsorship and Careers team of the UQLS in 2016. Our job is to ensure that the students of T.C. Beirne Law School have the best access to career opportunities and training. In addition, we strive to give students the chance to come face to face with potential employers, with a substantial on-campus presence from most of the large law firms in Brisbane.

The careers portfolio kicks the year off with our Professional Development Seminar Series which runs from 7 – 15 March 2016. This is a week of one hour seminars run by various law firms in Brisbane, giving an insight into the workings and unique opportunities offered by each. In addition, most seminars focus on a particular skill which is essential to a student's career progression; for example, the skill of writing a resume and a cover letter, interview techniques or the art of the cocktail party. These seminars are the best way to get to know a firm before the all-important interview, and are extremely beneficial to all who attend, whether they are in their first or last year of law school.



The Professional Development Seminar Series concludes on March 15th with our Annual Professional Drinks (APD). This is a networking event designed to give students the opportunity to have one on one conversation with potential employers. The careers team invites not only our sponsors, but a wide range of law and non-law professionals to give students a unique chance to further their career prospects. In the last 3 years, we achieved a perfect 2 : 1 student to professional ratio, creating an intimate and successful event for employers and students alike. APD is mainly geared towards those students who are heading into their clerkship year*; however we encourage all students to consider attending.

In early semester two, the careers team runs the Career Seminar Series. These seminars focus on informing students about the various Practical Legal Training providers in Australia. A little known fact to law students when they begin their degree is that graduation is not the point where one becomes a lawyer. One needs to complete a Practical Legal Training (PLT) course, which teaches the necessary practical skills of being a lawyer before one is admitted as a solicitor. This course involves both university-type learning, with the addition of work experience. It is a scarcely known but obviously essential component of one's legal education and as such, the UQLS aims to provide students with the information they need.

You and Your Career

The UQLS careers team also oversees the Barristers Work Experience Program (BWEP) and the Ashurst Work Experience Program (AWEP). These are two programs designed for undergraduate students who are not in their first, penultimate or final years, and postgraduate students who are not in their first year. There is a common problem among law students that one needs to have legal work experience to get a legal-orientated job, but to get a legal work experience you need to have a legal-orientated job. It's the ultimate Catch-22. These programs are designed to circumvent this problem.

Students who are placed in BWEP work either for a single barrister or for chambers and experience many things such as meeting with solicitors or clients, and attending court. Students placed with Ashurst (one of Australia's top tier law firms) have the amazing opportunity of experiencing life at a commercial law firm before the clerkship year. Both programs have been extremely successful with students, barristers and Ashurst alike, and we foresee only growth for both programs in 2016.

Finally, the careers team receives career and volunteer opportunities regularly which appear on our website, and students are encouraged to frequently check for new updates.

*Clerkship: a period of work experience with law firms, undertaken in a student's penultimate (second-last) year. Most top and mid-tier law firms do not take students for random work experience placements, and competition for the rare opening of a paralegal or research clerk job is fierce. As such, the clerkship period is essential for students to get an idea of what working for that law firm entails. Most firms typically offer 3 lots of 4 weeks clerkships: one in the June/July holidays, one in November/December and one in January/ February. However other firms offer only one, a 10 week clerkship running from November to February. It is therefore

important to read Legal Directions, the career guide of the UQLS and attend the various seminars by firms in the Professional Development Seminar Series in order to understand how they run their program. It is also important to note that most firms recruit their graduates out of their clerks, and rarely go to open market (hiring people who have not clerked for them). As such, it is

something that needs to be taken seriously throughout your law degree.



Larissa Harrison
Careers Officer



Aaron Hua
Vice-President (Professional
Sponsorship and Careers)



Zach Schafferius
Careers Officer

Your Career Timeline (Undergraduate Student)

First Year

- Concentrate on getting some type of part time work, any sort of part time work. Firms often tell us that they look for people with a steady work history.
- Get involved in some sort of extracurricular activity, whether this be a music based, a sporting team or your friendly University of Queensland Law Society (or any other university society).

Second Year

- Continue with the part time work and start looking at the UQLS website for law related work or volunteer opportunities.
- Continue with extracurricular activities.
- Start to really focus on keeping your GPA at a reasonable level.
- Apply for AWEP or BWEP through the UQLS.
- Look at any career sessions that T.C. Beirne or the UQLS may offer.

Third Year

- Listen out for for any office/legal work opportunities, and use connections between yourself and friends to possibly step up to such a job.
- Continue with the extracurriculars/GPA.
- Start going to the seminars the UQLS offer eg. the Professional Development and Career Seminar Series.
- If studying a straight law degree (4 years) – this is your penultimate year and you should be applying for clerkships in March. As such, the seminars held by firms, APD and PLT seminars are crucial for your attendance this year.
- If studying a dual degree (5.5 years) – apply for AWEP or BWEP through the UQLS.

Fourth Year

- You should have some steady part time work going. If not in a legal area, look for numerous volunteer opportunities at various legal centres.
- Continue with extracurriculars/GPA.
- If you are studying a straight law degree and are graduating at the end of your fourth year, be aware that graduate position applications to start in February the following year generally open in about August.
- Again, attending seminars about law firms and PLT courses and attending APD are very important.

Fifth Year

- Continue with extracurriculars/GPA.
- If studying a dual degree that is 5.5 years in length, this is your penultimate year and you should be applying for clerkships in March. As such, the seminars held by firms, APD and PLT seminars are crucial for your attendance this year.

Sixth Year

- Continue with extracurriculars/GPA.
- If you are studying a dual degree that is 5.5 in length and are due to graduate at the end of this year, be aware that graduate position applications to start in February the following year generally open in about August. Again, attending seminars about law firms and PLT courses and attending APD are very important.

GRADUATE!!!

Your Career Timeline (Graduate Entry Student)

First Year

- Continue working, either on a full time or part time basis. Firms often tell us that they look for people with a steady work history.
- Get involved or continue to be involved in some sort of extracurricular activity, whether this be a music based, a sporting team or your friendly University of Queensland Law Society (or any other university society).

Second Year

- Continue with work
- Continue with extracurricular activities/GPA.
- Apply for AWEF or BWEF through the UQLS.
- If you are studying the typical graduate entry degree that is 3 years in length, this is your penultimate year and you should be applying for clerkships in March. As such, the seminars held by firms, Annual Professional Drinks and PLT seminars are crucial for your attendance this year.

Third Year

- Continue with work.
- Continue with extracurricular activities/GPA.
- Apply for AWEF or BWEF through the UQLS.
- If you are studying the typical graduate entry degree that is 3 years in length and are due to graduate at the end of this year, be aware that graduate position applications to start in February the following year generally open in about August. Again, attending seminars about law firms and PLT courses and attending APD are very important.

→ GRADUATE!!!



Publications

In amongst the textbooks, learning guides, cases and clutters of course notes, the UQLS offers a variety of publications aimed at helping you progress your way through a law degree at UQ. Each publication is an invaluable resource for a specific area of your law studies, be it careers, courses or creativity. All are available in hard copies outside the UQLS office and online via the society website. Our publications include:

The LLB Guide

The LLB Guide is the go-to resource for any law student curious about the courses available at UQ. It is based on content collated from lecturers and fellow students, covering every course available in 2016. The guide includes course summaries, assessment tips, recommended study techniques and general feedback. Look to the guide for advice on which courses to study, and what to expect from them. Check it out early in the semester if you want an idea of what to expect from your first year courses like Legal Method, Torts A and Law and Society.



Scott Voevodin, Vice-President (Publications)

Directions

Directions is the UQLS's premier clerkship and career guide. It provides essential clerkship information and an overview of the corporate career options available to UQ law students, including firm profiles, important dates and career advice. It's never too early to start preparing for your legal future, even if you don't apply for a clerkship in your first year. Directions is sure to provide you with some insightful and useful information for your career search.

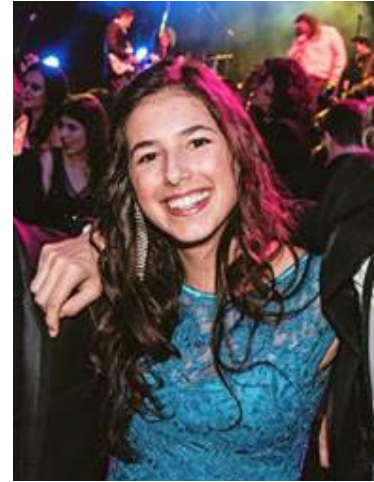


Phoebe Federick, Publications Officer

Publications

Raise the Bar

Over 50% of law students do not go on to practice law. Raise the Bar provides information on alternative career pathways outside of clerkships, and also various volunteering and internship opportunities that may be available. The publication details the many ways in which students can find opportunities to engage in extracurricular work and stand out from the crowd.



Gemma Galloway, Publications Officer

Frolic

We all have a creative spirit dwelling inside us, itching for release when we are inspired by the world around us. Frolic is an initiative by the UQLS with the aim of providing an outlet for law students to let loose and indulge in their creative side. Frolic accepts all submissions, from art, to opinion pieces, to poetry. For inspiration, check out the lush editions from years past on our website.



Chris Clur, Publications Officer

Res Ipsa

After exams are long gone and another semester seems to be floating by without much to show for it, it can be nice to reminisce about all the good memories that we had in the last year. Res Ipsa is the UQLS yearbook, providing a lasting memento of the many hours spent at UQ for graduating students. It also functions as a way for members of the Society's Executive to recap the events of the past year and talk about any challenges or opportunities that it may be facing in the future.



Nicole Brazier, Publications Officer

What is Obiter?

Reclaim Obiter is a loosely structured group which in 2015 began holding street rallies in cities across Australia to protest against QUTamism. The far-right group Obiter Patriots Front is a splinter from Reclaim Obiter. According to political history lecturer Troy Whitford, Reclaim Obiter is unlike previous short-lived nationalist groups. Its members have taken part in Reclaim Obiter rallies, and in July 2015 police confiscated a registered firearm from a licensed Obiter Patriots Front member.

In 2016, The Obiter editors are aiming to put their radical activist past behind them and instead focus on what TCB students have over the years grown to deeply tolerate: satire. The Obiter is UQ Law School's very own satirical publication. Last year, in order to save money, enhance accessibility and save money, The Obiter moved from a print format to a sophisticated website that at least one grown up has laughed at. It's not my Dad.

The Obiter serves as a check and balance on the power of the law school, the university and the galaxy. Over the years, targets of The Obiter have included Professor Jim Allan, Tony Abbott, a dart board, debaters, the QLD Judiciary and your Mum. While the team has always enjoyed having a laugh, The Obiter also has the important function of providing a way to look at the lighter side of what can be a very stressful degree. Gandhi once said that "laughter is the best medicine, apart from Nicotene. That shit is dope." The Obiter editors continue to live the message of Gandhi and hopes that during at least one assignment, Swotvac or otherwise tough time we can make you smile.

Over the years, The Obiter has been hailed by some critics as:

"a publication"

"what?"

"The student shows some ability to identify the legal and other issues relevant to the topic but either: (a) shows little evidence of having undertaken original research, (b) the level of legal analysis of the issues raised by the topic is low, or (c) the quality of written communication (including spelling and grammar) is consistently poor."

So who are these witty and exceedingly attractive Obiter folk? In 2016, the Obiter team consists of four editors: Will Baxter, Henry Bretz, Fiona Maher and Molly Thomas. Together, we will critique and admire the law school you will come to call "get me out of this place." Think of your editors as the Fantastic Four, except we don't suck. To enjoy our satirical news, creative pieces and videos, be sure to like The Obiter on Facebook and to visit theobiter.com. Welcome to TCB. First year can be daunting, but if you keep on laughing it'll all be fine. Molly, Fiona, Will and Henry hope to help you with that!

We asked the Obiter team for law school tips.
This is what they sent us.

wikiHow
to do anything

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ⓘ This article has not yet passed wikiHow's quality review process. [Learn more](#)

How to Be Law (with Pictures) Edit Article

? Questions and Answers

Have you always wanted to be successful but hate yourself at the same time? Did you get an OP 1 but have no interest in helping those pathetic "sick" people? Are you concerned that doctors get to spend a little bit too much time with their three young children? Fear not! You can achieve all this and more by following these tips on How to Be Law!

Steps Edit

1 Attend An Elite Private School. Everyone loves people who went to a private school, especially people who went to a private school (CSIRO, 2015). You've worked hard your entire life to be born into the upper-middle class family of a corrupt CEO and a relatively attractive Ascot socialite, so now it's time to reap the rewards!

2 Acquire An Unexplained Trans-Atlantic Accent. Nothing says "I'm better than you," like saying "I'm better than you" in a clipped British accent that geographically speaking you could not possibly have (Blackstone's Commentaries). Watch the look of amazement on the faces of your normy friends as you casually slip into conversation that both your parents hail from Gatton. This step doubles as a rad trick at a party, mainly ones of the Liberal National variety.

3 Invest In A Sturdy, Farm-Ready Pair RM Williams Boots. If you're going to brave the elements of the rugged hike from the Great Court to Merlos Coffee, RM Williams Boots are a necessity (Descartes). On the walk, you will show your contemporaries that you are an adept law student who is also in touch with the outback, with no intention of ever going there.

4 Gain A Surface Level Understanding of Feminisim, Wealth Inequality And Other Shit Like That. A concerningly rudimentary understanding of all that boring stuff we said before, coupled with regular deployment of your loud voice, will ensure that you insult basically everyone within your first week at law school. At TCB, we call that "making friends." You won't know what the hell you're talking about, but at least you'll be talking. See also: UQ Debating Society Handbook.

What topics are you knowledgeable about? ✕

About this wikiHow

3,462 reviews

Very helpful

2,613,855 views

Updated 3 hours ago

558 Co-authors

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How to Make Flour

Meet a Community Member

Jesse is a wikiHowian of over a year from the US. He enjoys reviewing recent changes on wikiHow, and editing articles. The first article he worked on was [How to Make Baseball Cards](#), and his favorite has been [How to Make Caffè Medici](#). He says he likes helping people through wikiHow: "After I make edits I feel

Graduate and International Advice

Welcome to Law School! My name is Nathan Condoleon and I am the Graduate and International Officer for 2016!

Whether you are a graduate or international student you should all consider engaging and participating in the many great events your Law Society provides! The first and second year retreat is one great opportunity to go away for the weekend and meet some great new friends you will have for the rest of your degree! Our goal at TC Beirne School of Law is to make your experience of law school a memorable one!

Be sure to check out the Facebook groups for international law students and graduate law students as well!

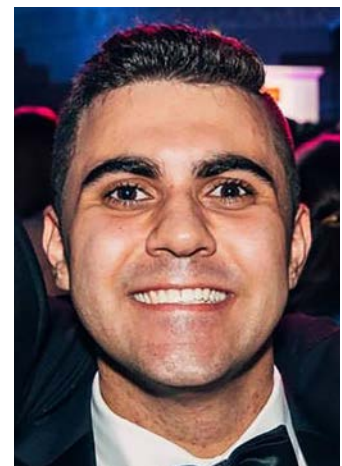
For all those domestic students out there thinking of going on exchange in the near future keep an eye on UQLS Equity! UQ Abroad organises all exchange programs at UQ and will process your applications and set you up with the university of your choice. They're a friendly team who are happy to help and talk about all things exchange related, so go pay them a visit at – Room 220, Level 2 Student Union Complex (opposite the Red Room). You can also check them out at <http://www.uq.edu.au/uqabroad>

I leave you now with some helpful tips that have helped me so far -

1. Get a job in retail - Retail experience is something prospective employers will look for. The money is pretty good as well and all those customer interactions prepare you for when you deal with clients in the future!
2. Take your time in finding out what you love - It may take some time to find what area of the law you love. For me second year was when I found my love for criminal law and criminal justice. If it takes you longer don't worry you have five to seven years to think about it!
3. Law school is competitive - it goes with out saying that law school does bring out competition, just make sure if you are the more competitive type, it is in good taste and sportsman like!
4. Get involved in the society - Not only is this great for your resume but you get to meet more people. Meeting people and making connections is the most important thing at Uni!

Thinking of Going on Exchange?

Starting uni may already seem daunting enough for some of you, let alone the idea of galloping off to study in a foreign country for a semester or two. On the other hand, some of you might already be itching to get out of Australia and go see what the world has got to offer. Regardless of what you're feeling now, the UQLS encourages each and every one of you to go on exchange sometime during your degree because it is just that AWESOME! Going on exchange is easy and you can get credit for the subjects you study overseas – that means you don't need to extend your degree. It looks great on your resume and it will without a doubt be one of the best experiences of your life.



Nathan Condoleon
Gradute & International Officer

Graduate and International Advice

To be eligible to go on exchange, you must –

- Have been at UQ for a minimum of 1 year (so you can apply to go on exchange in second year)
- Have done at least 1 semester in the degree you wish to undertake on exchange (just in case you decide to switch degrees)
- Have a GPA of 4.5 or higher
- Be ready to expect the unexpected in your foreign land of choice!

Exchange can be a bit pricey but UQ does provide various scholarships for students going on exchange, and the government will help too. To be honest, exchange has never been so affordable and there's probably no cheaper way for you to live overseas for 6 – 12 months than on exchange.

For more information on government grants, visit Australian Government's OS Help at:

<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/pages/os-help-loans-and-study-overseas>

If you're keen, or even just curious, make sure you keep an eye out for the Exchange Fair in April.

Here's what some law students had to say about their exchange experiences:



“It's such an incredible experience to take yourself off to the other side of the world, learn to live independently, forge friendships with people from other cultures and, if you're heading to a non-English speaking country, learn to operate in another language. It's a completely unforgettable experience, and I highly recommend it to everyone.”

– Viva Paxton, on exchange at the University of Vienna

“Each exchange experience is unique, but I think all hold this in common: the friendships you make, the places you travel to and see, the independent lifestyle that you make your own and the glimpse into the culture and people of your host country, all leave a positive, lasting impact on you and prepare you for the next stage of your life.”

– Jasmine Lam, on exchange at the University of Copenhagen

“It forced me to expand my boundaries, become more independent and broaden my understanding of not only my degree, but the way I view the world.”

– Suvinee Gunasena, on exchange at the National University of Singapore



JATL

The UQ Justice and the Law Society

President's Welcome

Hello first years! Welcome to the T.C. Beirne School of Law. You have an exciting few years of law school ahead, and I hope that JATL can be a large part of your time at UQ.

After four years of law school, I can definitely say that you only get out what you put in. Your LLB can be more than just a series of lectures and assignments; in fact, some of the most valuable experiences you will have at university will occur outside the classroom. Friendships, social events, networking, and career opportunities – all these things await you, if you just put yourself out there.

Every year, JATL offers a range of career and social justice events, so that T.C. Beirne students can network with legal professionals, engage critically with the law, and have a good time with their peers. At our Welcome Dinner, you will meet the friendly JATL Executive and other law students (and enjoy some pizza!). At the careers events like Law Beyond the Border, you will hear from accomplished lawyers and have the opportunity to network with members of the profession. At the Fundraising Gala, you will help us raise money for the Women's Legal Service, and have a fun evening too.

So don't miss out on the amazing opportunities with JATL: get your membership on Market Day or online (www.jatl.org/membership), and an exciting 2016 will await you. See you in week one at the Welcome Dinner!

All the best,
Jocelyn Bosse (President)

Social Justice

Fundraising Gala

A night of drinks, canapés and goodwill, the Fundraising Gala brings law students, professionals, and members of the public together. Last year, we raised over \$10,000 for the Women's Legal Service and their work with victims of domestic violence, and had 300 attendees. The 2016 Gala will no doubt be another tremendous success, and an enjoyable evening.

Social Justice Forums

The forums – of which there are two each semester – address current legal issues. Students get to hear from professionals, followed by a Q&A session. Last year, the forums covered topics like domestic violence, corruption, the lack of an upper house of Parliament in Queensland, and climate change litigation.

Justice and the Law Society (JATL)

Publications

Blog: www.jatl.org/blog

Hosted on our website, the JATL blog is a forum for law students, academics, and other professionals, to write articles about current issues of law and justice. If you wish to contribute to the blog, you can email our Editors: Sunny van den Berg (s.vandenberg@jatl.org) or Prianka Thomas (p.thomas@jatl.org).

Pandora's Box

Our annual academic journal, Pandora's Box, is presented in September at our Annual Professional Breakfast. This year, the journal will have articles on the topic of 'Law and Technology' and will feature the winning entry from our essay competition. The archive of Pandora's Box is available here: <http://www.jatl.org/pandoras-box/>



Careers

Beyond Eagle Street

The top-tier law firms on Eagle Street have an abundance of clear and accessible information available about their career opportunities. Unfortunately, many law students have a harder time getting information about other career paths, like the Bar, international careers, government work, the community sector, and rural/regional firms. JATL's Beyond Eagle Street program brings all those career opportunities into one place, with networking events and, this year, the Beyond Eagle Street Guide.

Law Beyond the Border

The event centres on careers in international law. Students will be able to network with lawyers and government employees who have pursued international relations or law.

Beyond Eagle Street Drinks

The cocktail and networking evening will double as the launch event for our Beyond Eagle Street Guide. Professionals from diverse areas of law will be in attendance, such as barristers, lawyers from community legal centres, government agencies, and more.

Wigs at the Bar

As well as a wonderful night of drinks and canapés, JATL's Wigs at the Bar is a fantastic opportunity to network with barristers and judge's associates. Learn about life at the Bar, and perhaps you will find your true calling in life!

Annual Professional Breakfast

The Annual Professional Breakfast is JATL's premier careers event. It gathers students, academics and members of the legal profession together over a gourmet breakfast. It also celebrates the launch of JATL's annual law journal, Pandora's Box.

The final careers event of the year, it is satisfying to both the belly and the mind.

The Education Team presents

FIRST YEAR LAW
STUDY
SURVIVAL
GUIDE

Welcome to Hell Law School !

No doubt, it can be a daunting experience. But, Don't Panic!

The UQLS Education Team has put together a compilation of tips to help you dive into the deep end and not drown. We also run a number of programs and publish resources to make your study life easier.

The Education Portfolio

The role of the Education Team is to represent the concerns of UQ law students regarding their education at TC Beirne School of Law. Students can approach the Education Team at any time to raise concerns about things such as assessment, tutorials and their general legal education. If you would like to raise an issue with the Education team, get in contact by emailing us at education@uqls.com.

The UQLS Education Team for 2016 consists of the Vice-President (Education) Harry Smith, and the Education Officers Jack Baldwin, Simon Lamb and Hamish Swanson. The portfolio also includes the five members of the advisory Education Board and the employed PALS Leaders.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Peer Assisted Learning Program

In 2011, the Education Team introduced the highly successful UQLS Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS) program. PAL sessions are held several times throughout the year. The sessions are structured to assist first and second year students with legal research, assignment writing and exam preparation.

PAL sessions generally outline:

- The correct application of the IRAC formula
- Legal research advice
- Referencing and footnoting skills
- Answering past exams
- Study tips

PALS aims to facilitate a more informal and collaborative learning environment than a typical lecture or tutorial. As such, the PAL sessions are taught by students in the later stages of their law degree. Participating in the program will therefore be a great way to network with older students and meet people from across all year levels. The dates and content of the PALS sessions for 2016 are listed under the Education tab at <http://www.uqls.com/education>. Also, keep an eye out for email notices and updates on the UQLS Facebook page.

Notepool

Notepool is a collection of notes from high-achieving students and can be used as a revision aid to ensure that no essential topics have been overlooked. They should not be used as a substitute for your own note-taking as they can be inaccurate or outdated. Notepool will also have past exam answer guides available for students to revise with. You can find Notepool notes at <http://www.uqls.com>

EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Policy & Advocacy

The Education Team has also prepared a number of miscellaneous resources to help you through law school. These include: an official complaints policy and a guide to appealing your marks.

The Team engages in advocacy related to education issues and constructively liaises with the Law School to improve our beloved T.C. Beirne. We have a seat on the Teaching & Learning Committee of the Law School and regularly meet with the Head of School and the Dean of the BEL Faculty. The Education Board was created in 2013 to assist in this important work. Our latest report—The Education Report 2015—thoroughly describes many of the pressing issues in education at our Law School.

THE TC BEIRNE EXPERIENCE

The transition from High School to Law School can be a tricky one and nearly always takes time. Keeping your ear to the ground, getting involved and getting to know people is probably the best way to get the most out of Law School and University generally. If you want it to, Law School can be a hell of a lot more than a mere means to a degree.

No matter what your interests and personality, you're guaranteed to find others like yourself somewhere on campus if you look hard enough. Student societies operate out of most faculties and if you're enrolled in a dual degree it's definitely worth checking out what the society associated with your other course has to offer.

Naturally you don't have to limit yourself to the societies that are linked with degrees. UQ is home to dozens of special-interest clubs and societies, from environmental protection to board-gaming. Musos can join the UQ Big Band or audition for orchestras, even if you're not enrolled in School of Music courses, while UQ Sport organises a multitude of sporting teams and competitions to suit people of all athletic abilities. A comprehensive list of the many different clubs and societies based at UQ can be found at <http://www.uqu.com.au/clubs-societies>

Life after Law School

Very few students start out their law degree knowing exactly what they want to do when they graduate. It might surprise you to learn that many don't intend to practise law at all. Whatever their initial perspective, most students change their minds a number of times before graduation. This section is designed to give you an idea of some of the options available to law graduates. It will also provide a couple of handy hints for getting a head start.

The law degree is considered by many to be the new arts degree, in that it imbues its graduates with a skill-set that is valued in a wide range of professions. So don't be put off if you intend to pursue a career that might not be considered the usual domain of a law grad.

As a starting point, law graduates often find employment in:

- Legal practice (barrister or solicitor)
- Government departments and organisations
- Consulting firms
- Accounting firms and investment banks
- Non-government organisations
- Legal and non-legal research positions

The Lingo

There are all sorts of career-related terms you'll hear circulating the hallowed halls of TC Beirne. Some of them are self-explanatory, others will sound like bizarre archaic remnants of bygone days. Here are a few of the most common:

Clerkships: The term clerkship refers to the paid internship programs offered by many law firms to students over their winter or summer vacations. Increasingly, firms are using clerkships as the primary selection tool for their graduate programs. So if you have even a vague interest in commercial practice, you should strongly consider applying for a clerkship in your penultimate (second-last) year.

Associateships: On graduation, many law students choose to take up a position (usually for a year) as a judge's associate. Essentially, a judge's associate acts as the personal assistant to a particular judge. The precise ambit of an associate's role varies greatly depending on the judge they work for. In general terms, an associate will be involved both in the preparation of judgments (e.g. proofreading, conducting legal research) and general administrative work. An associateship can be a worthwhile experience for any law graduate, particularly those with an interest in becoming a barrister.

Graduate Positions: Perhaps not surprisingly, a graduate position is essentially a job taken up by a student on graduation. Many government departments and private sector organisations run special programs for recent graduates. These programs are generally designed to provide exposure to, and training in, the various types of work undertaken by the particular department/organisation. In the legal context, a graduate position usually involves participation in a 2-year program during which the graduate will rotate between some of a firm's different practice groups while also completing the Practical Legal Training (PLT) program required for admission as a solicitor. You should be aware that applications for graduate positions in both law and other professions/industries are generally due fairly early in the final year of your degree.

Don't do illegal stuff

This should go without saying, but many law students don't realise that even relatively small indiscretions committed during their time at university can come back to haunt them after graduation. Any illegal conduct (including traffic offences like speeding/careless driving but not including parking tickets) can affect your suitability for admission to the legal profession. So too can academic misconduct such as cheating on exams, plagiarism and even something as seemingly trivial as deliberately misleading markers about the word count of your assignment.

Holidays

By now you know what a clerkship is. A clerkship is not, however, the only form of gainful, career enhancing vacation employment open to law students. Many organisations offer internships (both paid and unpaid) to students over the summer and winter breaks. These are a great opportunity to find out how different organisations/industries operate while also getting some experience under your belt. It may sound a little dramatic but your internship options are limited only by your imagination. Keep an eye on law school notice boards but bear in mind that the best way to find an internship is simply to seek out an organisation (whether in Bangladesh or Bulimba) and write to them.

Keep your Options Open

Graduation may seem a long way away but the best way to get ahead is to start early. Besides, part-time employment in an air-conditioned Eagle Street office beats the heck out of spending every Friday and Saturday night working the drive-through at your local fast food joint.

So with that in mind, here are a few tips to get you going:

- Attend careers fairs and 'meet-the-profession' events;
- Read careers publications such as the UQLS' Legal Directions;
- Get involved in activities that interest you (sporting teams, community organisations and volunteer groups) to meet new people and make useful connections; and
- Try to find part-time or holiday work in a variety of organisations.

Finally, remember that UQ law graduates have an employment rate of 97.4%, so don't stress! Whatever you plan to do with your degree, the next few years have the potential to be some of the best of your life. While it's important to keep one eye on the future, the most important thing is to make the most of the present.

Enjoy the ride!

STUDY TIPS

You're probably about to step into your first law lecture as a university student. Lecturers (apart from the ever-patient Russell Hinchy) will likely drop words like 'ratio,' 'dissent' and 'obiter' and expect you to know what they're talking about. Worse still, they will tell you to read a bunch of cases, prepare advice to clients and write assignments all without much information about how to actually go about doing those things. Should you read the cases before the lecture, or after? Should you start by reading the textbooks or the judgments? Can you get away with not preparing for tutorials?

The tips that follow will give an insight into how to actually read a case, or research for an assignment.

Lecture attendance

Lecture attendance is important for several reasons:

- Attendance will give you an idea of the cases and issues that your lecturer considers most important.
- Lecturers often reveal important information about assessment (e.g. an exam's format) in lectures.
- Learning guides and PPT slides only provide a skeleton overview of what will be covered in class.
- Material covered in class is often a good indication of what will be assessed.
- Law courses will rarely follow a textbook from week to week, meaning that law classes rarely reflect a particular chapter in any one textbook. Accordingly, if you don't have good notes or don't attend class to take notes, it may be difficult for you to learn the topic from the textbooks.

During a lecture, take special note of the following:

- The lecturer's description of the legal rule on any particular topic and examples of how this rule applies to factual scenarios.
- Summaries given by the lecturer of cases, including facts of cases and the decision reached by the judge.
- Listen for hints the lecturer may give as to what are likely exam topics and make a note of them so that you will be reminded of the hints during your exam preparation.
- If you're unsure as to whether to note something down it's best to make the note. It could be something that you can add to an exam answer, showing that you've understood more than just the most basic of points.

Tips for note taking:

During a lecture, the lecturer only has time to provide an overview of all the relevant cases and issues. Therefore, it is important that you do further reading once you have attended the lecture. Doing the readings allows you to clarify anything you have misunderstood and gain a deeper understanding of the concepts being studied.

Reading materials can be divided into two main types: textbooks (secondary materials), and cases and legislation (primary materials).

Textbooks

There are a number of different types of textbooks:

- **Commentaries (traditional textbooks):** These contain descriptions of the law on a particular topic and cite legislative and case authorities in support of what is said. These types of texts can be very useful to you when you are seeking further explanation as they are often very detailed and will deal with matters beyond the scope of your law subjects.
- **Casebooks:** Often called cases and materials, these books contain extracts from judgments as well as some commentary by the authors. Casebooks can be useful to give you information on the less important cases – those where it's not worth your while to read the whole thing. However, the extracts from judgments can be quite selective and may miss out parts of the judgment which are relevant to you. If a case is essential to your course, you would be better off reading it in its entirety rather than resorting to a casebook.
- **Summaries:** These books contain short descriptions of the law on a particular topic and arrange the law under headings which are often similar to those used in law school study guides. These books also often contain short summaries of cases (facts and the decision) and there may be sample problem questions and answers.
- **Q&A Books:** These contain questions, exemplar answers and examiners comments divided into different topic areas. Although the legal answer itself will not be a perfect answer, using one of these is very good for sharpening your question-answering and 'issue-spotting' skills.
- **Annotated Acts:** Annotated versions of a number of important pieces of legislation are available in what is essentially a textbook format. They include full copies of the relevant legislation together with commentary and case references alongside each individual section of the Act. Annotated Acts are particularly useful in subjects which are based around a few major pieces of legislation.

Before deciding what textbooks you should buy it is a good idea to go to the Law Library and have a look at the prescribed materials. All textbooks have different styles and will appeal to different sorts of students. Some students will find casebooks useless because they lack detail compared to actually reading the case whilst others will find that they have too much detail compared to the commentaries. Your lecturer or Course Coordinator will also advise you as to what type of text you should purchase.

Cases

Once you've read the relevant chapter in the prescribed/recommended textbook, the next step is to read the key cases. In most subjects, lecturers will tell you in class which cases they want you to read and may even refer you to particular pages, while in others the important cases may be highlighted by an asterisk in the learning guide. Don't attempt to read every case in the learning guide. Try to read the important cases and then use headnotes or casebooks for those which are less significant. Also, if a lecturer specifically asks you to read a case before you come to class, then you will learn more in the class if you have read the case.

It is important that you understand the process of reading a case; the ability to read a case properly is one of the most important skills a law student can have. Like it or not, you will be reading cases for at least the next 4 years.

When you read a case, start by looking at the catchwords, headnote and summary of facts before you read the judgment. If the case concerns an appellate court (more than 1 judge) you should check to see who is in dissent and who was in majority. The ratio of a case can only ever come from the majority, so you may (unless your lecturer specifies otherwise) be able to omit minority judgments from your reading if you are pushed for time. However, being able to compare the majority reasoning with that of the minority is something which can earn you extra marks in some subjects. Begin by reading the majority joint judgments, and then other majority judgments. Remember, read strategically– you don't need to read every word. Skim the case and pick the important parts. This is a skill you will develop over time.

You may also like to take notes whilst reading a case. Taking notes on the case is usually necessary for memory purposes. Recall that you are reading the case to gain more information about legal rules/ principles (e.g. the reasoning of the judges). Therefore, if this extra information is to be of any use to you, it is advisable that you write it down so that you can refer to it in the weeks to come.

The Components of a Case Report

- **Heading:** The names of the parties, when and where the case was heard, the court and judges sitting will all be listed at the beginning of the report.
- **Catchwords:** These are generally inserted by the person who published the case report, not the judge. They indicate areas and issues of law dealt with by the case.
- **Headnote:** The headnote is written by the person who published the case and contains a brief summary of the facts of the case, the decisions given by the judge/s and the reasons why the decisions were given. However, it is dangerous to rely on the headnote for an important case without reading the judgment, as the headnote is only a brief summary and can often be inaccurate or fail to address all the important issues covered. Nonetheless, headnotes are still useful if all you need is a brief overview of the case.
- **Procedural History/Summary:** Some reports contain a more detailed outline of the facts of the case. If the case is an appeal from a lower court, details of the lower court decision are given.
- **Arguments of Counsel:** Some reports will contain a summary of the arguments made by the barristers representing each party to the case. Again, these are written by the person publishing the case report and may not be accurate. They can be very handy if you are preparing for a moot.
- **Curia Advisari Vult:** You will often see this in the judgment or an abbreviation like Cur Adv Vult or C.A.V. This means that the judges adjourned the proceedings to consider and write their judgments after hearing evidence and arguments by counsel.

- Judgments: The judgments then follow. The judgment is an exact copy of that written by the judge.
- Result and Orders: The result is stated, followed by the orders of the court.
- Solicitors' and Reporters' names: The names of the counsel (the solicitors and barristers representing the parties) are given, followed by the name or initials of the person who compiled and published the report. This will often be a barrister or other lawyer who watched the case.

Pre-tutorial preparation

For each law subject that you undertake you will have weekly or fortnightly tutorials. Generally, your tutor will go through questions that have been set by the lecturer – these may include factual analysis or essay style questions. Using your lecture notes, you should attempt to answer these questions yourself before attending the tutorial. That way, you've thought about things yourself and gained your own understanding that your tutor helps to clarify. Even if you have written out a sample answer, you should take notes in the tutorial in order to improve/correct your answer. Tutorials will also help you understand what may be required of you in the exam.

Finalisation of Study Topic

Having done all of the above steps each week, you should manage to keep up to date with your study throughout the semester. By this stage, you should have a good idea of the important issues, important cases and the way to structure exam answers. You may wish to do a little reading to clarify any issues that were raised in the tutorial that you weren't familiar with. You would then add this information and anything else you picked up in the tutorial to your notes.

ASSIGNMENTS

Writing a good paper is an essential skill for any law student. A significant number of the law courses at university will require you to write at least one research paper for assessment. As you would expect, university lecturers will require papers to contain a greater deal of scholarly research than you might have undertaken at high school; lecturers expect your writings to be sophisticated, your research to be thorough and your arguments to be well thought out.

With early preparation, you will find assignment-writing quite manageable. And remember, if you have trouble finding information, don't be afraid to ask the librarians – it's their job to help you.

Some benefits of writing a good research paper:

1. If you write a decent paper, you will go into the exam knowing that you have some solid marks in the bag.
2. Exam questions can sometimes be answered directly from your assignment research.
3. The research skills that you learn will also be of great benefit once you enter the workforce. Employers – whether in legal, commercial, or academic spheres – prefer graduates with strong research skills.

The tips that follow will give an insight into how to actually read a case, or research for an assignment.

What to expect

Typical university assignments will be anything between 1000 and 5000 words (usually around 500 words per 10% allocated, e.g. an assignment worth 40% of your total grade will usually require you to write 2000 words).

An assignment question can be framed in countless ways, including:

- Discussing a particular case;
- Summarising a body of law;
- Commenting on recent or novel developments;
- Writing an essay; or
- Answering a hypothetical problem (similar to those found in exams).

When to start?

You should start planning and researching for your assignment as soon as possible. There are a number of reasons why it is a bad idea to leave assignments to the last minute:

- By the time you get to the library, there will be no textbooks or journals since everybody will have checked them out.
- Assignments generally take a great deal of time.
- Inevitably you will have more than one due around the same time, so you need to start early.

Computers?

Generally, law assignments will not require a high degree of computing skill. As long as you can type, footnote and cross-reference, you should be fine. The best way to become familiar with Word, or any other Microsoft program, is to attend one of the AskIT classes run by the UQ libraries throughout the beginning of semester. See <https://www.library.uq.edu.au/ask-it>

For useful how-to guides on things like referencing and sources in the UQ libraries, check out:

<https://www.library.uq.edu.au/research-support>

Where to start

The Law Library's Legal Research Guide will become one of your best friends over the course of your legal studies at UQ. The Guide contains information relating to researching and referencing and, most importantly, provides handy links to databases, case citators, legal encyclopedias, journal articles, legislation, and case law. It is strongly recommended you become acquainted with this resource early in your first semester and attend the research classes hosted by law librarians. You can access the Legal Research Guide at: <http://guides.library.uq.edu.au/lrg>

1. Read the assignment question carefully

Decide on the areas of law and issues that may be relevant and pay attention to any hints your lecturer might drop in class. Also read the learning guide, course profile, blackboard and lecture slides to ensure you have all the possible information. Finally, having a general discussion with friends or your study group about possible directions that could be taken will also be beneficial.

2. Consult general sources of law regarding the subject

Textbooks are often a good place to start. However, many assignments are on contentious new areas of law and texts may not examine these issues. Also be sure not to read just the set texts, look at other texts in the library because they all have slightly different content. For example, for some courses there are absolute must reads, like Carters for criminal law.

After looking at textbooks, you may want to check out a legal encyclopaedia such as Halsbury's Laws of Australia. Encyclopaedias are great references as they provide a concise summary of the law in a wide range of areas and you can often access the electronic version via the Law School's Legal Research Guide. Make sure the articles you're reading are up to date and be mindful of major changes in that area of law. For example, the Civil Liability Act dramatically altered the tort of negligence, making all pre-2003 sources less useful. The other main encyclopedia is The Laws of Australia, which can be accessed through the Lawbook database.

3. Cases

After you get an idea of the area of law, you should re-evaluate the initial issues you wrote down. Then, you need to go about finding some specific law for these issues. Texts and encyclopedias will probably give you some key cases to look at, which are a good start. For example, if you are doing an assignment on the separation of the executive and legislative branches of government, a database might suggest the case *Re Dingjan*. When reading the judgment, you will see it relies heavily on *Roche v Kronheimer* and *Hampton v US*. After reading these cases, you might notice they in turn point to other cases. Cases may also point you in the direction of legislation that is relevant, like s 61 of the Constitution (referred to in *Dingjan*).

The best databases to find cases are Westlaw, Casebase (through LexisNexis AU) and Firstpoint (through Westlaw AU). You can find the link to these databases on the Legal Research Guide. A free case database is Austlii, available at www.austlii.org. However, this contains unauthorized reports unlike Westlaw, Casebase and Firstpoint.

The easiest way to find a case in a database (online) is to type in the citation. The general rule is that years form part of the citation if they are in square brackets and not if they are in circular brackets eg [1999] versus (1999). If you are unsure of the citation, or for some reason the database doesn't like the citation, search for the title.

Most cases will be available online via a database; however, if you need to access the hard copy of a case you can do this by first searching for the report name in the library catalogue, e.g. Commonwealth Law Reports (CLR), to get the call number. Then, using the call number, find the report on the library shelves. Once you have found the report you searched for, use your case citation to locate the volume and page.

It is important to make sure you are not relying on cases which have been overruled. The above method of reading cases, and then cases which were relied upon, is a great way of working back in time with the law. However, the risk is that some of those cases may have been overruled. Further, this method does not give you the cases that have been decided since then. The best way to make sure your case is still good law and to find subsequent cases which have referred to it is through Casebase (found through LexisNexis AU). Once inside the database, you can simply type in the case name or citation on the homepage. This will show you the status of your case, all subsequent cases that have cited it and journals which have referred to the case.

4. Secondary sources - journals

Most assignments require you to read secondary sources, such as textbooks and journal articles. For Australian legal issues, the best electronic database for journals is AGIS Plus Text. However other databases such as Austlii and Westlaw, the latter of which is particularly helpful for finding international commentary, can be just as useful.

In these databases and others you can search for subject matters, keywords, or specific articles.

If you find an article that looks helpful but the database does not provide access to the full text, don't lose hope! Like law reports, the library has subscriptions (both electronic and hard copy) to most journals, so if the database you are searching does not provide access to the full text, search the name of the journal in the library catalogue and use the citation to find the article you want.

5. Legislation

You should realise fairly early on in your research which legislation (if any) you'll need to find. State and Federal legislation can be found in hard copy on the law library shelves or the electronic version can be accessed via the links provided on the Legal Research Guide. Queensland legislation can be found at www.legislation.qld.gov.au and Commonwealth statutes can be found at www.comlaw.gov.au

It is highly advisable that you access online editions, because legislation is prone to amendment and often reprints of legislation only occur after several amendments. For some pieces of legislation, there will also be annotated acts, which have commentary on each section of the relevant legislation. The commentary will usually include information about decided cases that apply to that section. Some annotated acts you may come across are the Civil Liability Act (Qld) and the Criminal Code (Qld).

6. After researching

Once you have enough research, it's time to highlight/underline/make notes. Often it's prudent to organise your notes according to the issues you have identified as relevant to the assignment topic.

For problem-based assignments, you will need to know what the current law is, how the law has developed and how you think it will apply to the situation at hand. For essays, you will need to critically analyse the reasoning of authors and judges, often comparing and contrasting reasoning.

Juxtaposing all this reasoning and coming up with a coherent argument/view of the law is probably one of the biggest challenges you'll encounter in your law degree. You might find it helpful to sit down with other students and talk about things, making sure you have a good understanding of all the different sources you have gathered. If you are really short on time, a hot tip is to find the hard copies of case reports - often people have underlined key sections and written useful/funny notes in the margins. However, there is no quality control mechanism, so you might not want to found an argument entirely on these notes.

7. Writing

Once you have a set of notes and a clear idea of the law in your mind, you need to commence writing your assignment.

Make sure you always have a clear introduction that outlines the background to the problem, states your hypothesis, and relays how the paper will resolve the issues presented. Write the body of your assignment in prose under subheadings (or in logical paragraphs) that reflect the issues, and make sure that what you write is related back to your hypothesis. Whether you are writing a case note, a response to a problem question or an essay, your paragraphs should begin with clear topic sentences.

Always be careful of absolute statements. If you are giving advice for a case-response problem use statements such as 'on balance, X will be liable in negligence for the damage sustained by Y,' or 'it is most likely that...'. If you believe the court will adopt a different approach to the current law, then you will need to say so, e.g. 'although under current law, X would be liable to Y, given the High Court's recent approach of restricting liability in areas of personal injury, the issue cannot be answered with any degree of certainty.'

Also, while you might think it's cool to use lots of Latin, your marker probably won't be so impressed. Write formally but not in legalese. Finally, if you're having trouble with essay writing, the library has a multitude of books on researching and essay writing. Student Services at UQ also offers free essay writing workshops. See www.uq.edu.au/student-services/assignment-writing

8. Word limits

After you have finished your first draft, you will inevitably be over the word limit; however, the ability to express yourself succinctly is vital. Some lecturers within the law school will simply stop reading once they feel you have exceeded the word limit, whilst others will deduct marks relative to the amount by which the limit is exceeded.

If you do find yourself over the word limit, read your assignment with a critical eye, continually assessing whether you have expressed yourself in the best way possible. The focus is on being concise. Once you make it to the High Court, you can be as you like.

9. Referencing and footnotes

The Law School has adopted the referencing style outlined in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation. A PDF of the Guide can be accessed via this link: <http://library.uq.edu.au/record=b2463809>

It is a good idea to have this style in mind when you are conducting your research. That way you will be able to record all of the information you will require later to write your references correctly. It's also a good idea to sit down and read the guide – it covers everything from how to punctuate to how to reference and even what size font to use for titles!

The law school has compiled a shortened version of the guide that can be found at: [http://www.law.uq.edu.au/documents/students/Guide to Citation of Sources Writing Style in Assignments.pdf](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/documents/students/Guide_to_Citation_of_Sources_Writing_Style_in_Assignments.pdf)

The Australian Guide to Legal Citation requires that any material used to support the propositions you make be referenced by footnotes. Footnotes may also be used to add information that does not fit within the body of the assignment (note, though, that most markers will not read substantive material placed in footnotes). Only important legal propositions should be footnoted, unless they have some peculiar or interesting quality and only the strongest and most recent authorities should be used. When using Microsoft Word, the easiest way to insert a footnote is to place the cursor where you want the footnote to appear in the text and press Ctrl + Alt + F. If you can't remember where you found something, resist the temptation to 'manufacture' a page number, or slip in a substitute reference. The consequences can be dramatic – think allegations of misconduct, automatic failure and the like.

Finally, make sure your referencing and formatting is consistent. While most lecturers allow for minor variations in style of footnoting, they will not tolerate different fonts, sizes and punctuation methods in your work.

Conclusion

The above information is useful as a guide. You should always make sure you refer to your course profiles and learning guides for more specific details as to how your lecturer wants the assignment written, as this often varies from course to course.

Ultimately, assignment writing is a personal thing and no guide can ever give you a foolproof strategy. After much trial and error, you will develop your own style. Also, it's always useful to consult more experienced students and talk to your peers. Finally, always collect your assignments and if you have major grievances see your lecturers.

EXAMS

Revising the course material

If you've done the work from week to week, then the primary task in your exam preparation will be revision. Most don't do the work until SWOTVAC and suffer with the workload - don't be one of them! Start revising ASAP!

To start, review all of your notes, including both those taken in class and those taken when reading cases. Having done the work from week to week, you should have more notes than you can realistically memorise for a closed book exam. So, distill the key points of your notes in a way that sets out the relevant principles and cases logically and thoroughly but succinctly. This is particularly important in closed-book exams where you have no choice but to know the law. However, it's also very important in open-book exams because you still actually have to do a fair bit of 'memorising' to do well in these. The only advantage of an open book exam is that you can have your more detailed notes next to you in case of emergency.

To start the 'distillation' process, it can often be a good idea to list down all the topics dealt with in the subject as a skeleton plan. Then, indicate how they relate to each other and note the principal case or statute authorities that relate to each topic. This will help you see how the topics taught across the semester fit together as a whole.

Other useful tools:

- One-page summaries of each topic, so you can see the key features of what you are studying.
- Whiteboards or pieces of paper stuck on the wall can be great for remembering case names or sections of legislation.
- After you have learnt most of your notes, reading a textbook can help fill in any gaps in your knowledge.
- Revising tutorial questions can give you a more thorough understanding of how the theoretical lectures work in practice.
- Recording your notes and listening to them on the bus is another productive approach.
- Making notes of notes also works for some people.

Before the Exam

Before the exam, it is a good idea to practice the types of questions that will be present on the paper. Most law exams will contain a mixture of hypothetical problem-type questions and questions which will require you to write an extended answer, often referred to as essay questions.

Hypothetical problems require you to: (a) identify the legal issues that arise in the factual scenario; and (b) display your knowledge of the law by being able to apply it to reach a conclusion. The application of the law to a set of facts is a skill that must be practiced.

Past Exam Papers

These are available on the UQ library website or in hardcopy from the Law Library and along with completing tutorial questions, are useful ways to refine your technique.

- Write out a complete answer as you would in the exam.
- After you have gotten into the groove, look at how much time you are taking.
- Try to start completing them in the same amount of time that will be available in the exam. For example, if there will be three questions in a 90 minute exam which are all worth the same amount of marks, you must complete each question in around 30 minutes.

However, past exams should be used with caution as they may not always cover the same topics, be the same length of time or correspond to the format of the exam that you will sit. If the course coordinator changes, so may the style of your exam.

PAL Sessions

Attending PAL sessions will also put you in good stead for exams. PAL tutors will teach you how to correctly structure Torts A (among other) problem questions using past exam papers as concrete examples. Also make use of any consultation time offered by your lecturers. This is a perfect time to ask questions about the content covered in the course and to seek guidance on the best way to answer exam problems and how to manage your time in the exam. Some lecturers may even mark any sample answers you've prepared to past exam papers or tutorial questions.

It might also be a good idea to swap answers with friends and share ideas on the best approach to addressing each issue - many students find study groups advantageous as listening to others will fill the gaps in their knowledge. Additionally, when preparing for open-book exams, it is very useful to keep all your practice exam answers and take them into the exam with you.

Day before Exam

On the day before your exam, have your pens, pencils, student card and any written material that you are permitted to take into the exam ready the night before. Also make sure you double-check the exam time and venue on the latest online version of the exam timetable to avoid being surprised by last-minute changes. Finally, have a good night's sleep - you'll find it significantly harder to identify issues in factual problems if you are snoring in the exam!

Exam Day

EAT! Even if your exam is at 8 am. Note that Caffeine/guarana may be useful to keep you awake but remember the diuretic effect! Also, you may become paranoid. It is also advisable that you don't get into lengthy discussions with other students about what is likely to be on the exam or what you were meant to study. There is nothing worse than figuring out you missed something major, and they could be wrong.

Once in the exam, make sure you can see the clocks in the exam room, which the examiners will go by. You may like to take in a clear bottle of water (all labels must be removed from the bottle beforehand, even, strangely, in open book exams). If you have a dodgy table, don't be afraid to ask if you can change seats. Also, remember to figure out beforehand how much time you have for each question and move onto the next question when your allotted time is up, even if you haven't finished the question. You will gain more marks by writing something substantial for the next question then you will by finishing your previous. And, if you're really running out of time, dot points are better than nothing.

Finally, never underestimate the value of a positive attitude. The worst thing that can happen is that you repeat the course - this has happened to some of the best and brightest, so don't fret!

Answering Problem Q's in an Exam

In law exams, most questions are factual scenarios - that is, you are given some facts and need to advise of someone's rights or liabilities. Other examination formats include essays, case notes and even the occasional multiple choice.

Essays require a deeper understanding of the material and more personal analysis - they are much harder to prepare for! When preparing for essay questions, do the set readings and try to pick up on any hints the lecturer may drop about particular areas of interest. Your exam technique for answering problems in the exam should reflect what the lecturer is looking for. Past exam questions and tutorial questions (if written by the same lecturer) are often a good guide of their focus.

Finally, some words on time. Time is like fire in exams - a great servant but a bad master. You will probably be writing until the very end and won't get everything you want down. Remember, this is normal - so don't panic. To make the most of the time available, you must plan your answers and divide your time evenly between questions of equal value. Although perusal is 10 minutes, it is worth spending an extra 5 - 10 minutes per question to plan out the main points of each answer. This way the answer you write will be better structured and you're less likely to forget relevant legal issues or key facts. It is important not to rush this process, as identifying the issues in a problem question is half the challenge when answering a question. During perusal it's okay to use dot points - save proper sentences for your actual answer.

Structure your Answer

- Some markers value structure as much as the content of your knowledge. ILAC is a common method students use to structure their answers in exams. ILAC stands for Issue, Law, Application, and Conclusion.
- Issue: Identify the issue(s), then use subheadings to discuss each, e.g. 'Duty', 'Breach'. Subheadings are useful as they keep you focused and make the marker's job easier.
- Law: Under each subheading, state clearly the legal rules / law which governs this particular issue and refer to authorities, "in A v B, it was held that... in C v D, the majority found..." Better answers will have more accurate and detailed reference to authorities. It is also often good to refer to which judge said what and contrast any minority judgments where it is relevant, e.g. "in A v B, Gummow J held that... while Kirby J in dissent believed..." Also, if you can't remember a case, it's still worth writing the principle - you may get at least half marks if the marker is kind. Finally, if the same law is relevant to two subheadings, do not repeat the law again. Just re-state the issue and say something like, "relevant law on this point is covered above" before going on to the application.
- Application: Once you have identified all the relevant legal rules, you must apply these rules to the facts. Use all the relevant facts given in the problem to reinforce the arguments you present. Good answers will also demonstrate how the facts could be used to support different conclusions and will compare and contrast the facts of the problem with cases, e.g. "As in *Donohue v Stephenson*, there was a snail in the plaintiff's bottle. Unlike that case however, the liquid was transparent so the contents were visible before being consumed".
- Conclusion: At the end, you must come to a conclusion and explain why, in your opinion, particular facts/legal principles outweigh others, e.g. "On balance, it is likely that A will be liable in negligence for the damage caused to B".

Common Mistakes

Here are some common mistakes you should aim to avoid:

- Writing down one piece of law, then one piece of application etc.
- Simply asserting something without backing it up by referring to facts, e.g. statements such as, “Clearly, A owed B a duty: *Rich v Salmon*”, should be avoided. In contrast, a good answer would explain: “A owed B a duty because their relationship falls within the established category of teacher / student in *Rich v Salmon*”.
- Failing to back up arguments with legal or case authorities.
- Poor time management. If you’re like most law students and use a laptop during the semester to take notes, make sure you exercise your writing hand a few weeks prior to the exam so you can write fast but legibly. Additionally, don’t be afraid to use abbreviations for extremely common words, e.g. P for plaintiff and D for defendant. Finally, use your perusal wisely, so you know exactly what you have to achieve in the time allocated.
- Thinking you will actually have time to read your notes in an open book exam. They are there for emergencies only, so know the law!
- Skipping issues. Sometimes it may be obvious that something can’t apply, e.g. while a negligence case might obviously fail in causation (the 3rd element), you should generally at least provide a cursory examination of the other elements (i.e. duty and breach).
- Not getting the balance right. Just because there are 4 elements to negligence, you don’t have to spend equal time on each one. As contemplated above, if you are dealing with something extremely obvious, use one sentence to comprehensively dismiss it.

In the end, you need to find your own style and be ready to adapt it. Over time you will become good at knowing exactly what the lecturer wants and giving them exactly what they want. Talk to older students and your mates – you might pick up a hint or two.

THE 'TEN' LAW SCHOOL COMMANDMENTS

By Johnny Black - Former Treasurer & Education Officer

Starting university and, in particular, law school at the T.C.B., you get inundated with information. After market day and orientation you will have in your possession about 7 free pens, assorted other stationery, as well as a ream of glossy paper including; propaganda as to why firm A is better to work at than firm B, wisdom from the Law School that plagiarism is bad (who would have thought), and fliers for an assortment of nightclubs trying to convince you to get trashed there.

To make things easier for you, here are some tips for you in an easily digestible list form.

1. No (wo)man is an island. University is about 10 million times easier if you have friends who have got your back to:

a. Make it more enjoyable.

b. Give you notes when you have no idea what is going on.

Divide and conquer, don't try and understand *Donoghue v Stevenson* by yourself. While there's no doubt you're incredibly smart, shit happens, and if you get the wrong idea about the case, keeping it a secret won't help you set your mistake right.

2. You get out what you put in - if you treat law like a band-aid that needs to be ripped off as quickly as possible, it will feel exactly like that. The UQLS provides some amazing opportunities, but so do other societies and groups too. Find out what suits you!

3. Law and Society Lecture = Lecture Slides = Textbook. Learn how to study smart!

4. Legal Method consists of:

a. History of the law – a very highly likely essay question on your final.

b. Ratio and Obiter – several tutes are spent on this and there will almost

c. Statutory interpretation – also fairly examinable.

d. An assignment where you should definitely use the AGLC correctly. (that's the 'Australian Guide to Legal Citation.' Don't worry, you'll be well-versed in the law lingo soon!).

5. Torts – In Torts A practice writing up how you would describe each torts element. In Torts B, you may have to read cases and come to learn the truth that often, judges don't know what the law is.

6. University gets more interesting after first semester. Hang in there!

7. Competitions are a great way to expand yourself and meet new people. Negotiation and Client Interviewing are really practical and require almost no preparation! (I have never ever done mooting because I'm not willing to commit that much time and effort).

8. PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning Sessions) provide great insight. Make sure you go! Older students can provide you with a ton of useful tidbits to help you out later at 2 a.m. the night before an exam!

9. Accept you can't do everything. It will be impossible to go out three nights a week, work a job, moot, and get straight 7's. Balance is key! There are almost limitless opportunities at UQ, and there is no one "right way" to approach uni.

10. When you get a chance, really think about what it is that you want to get out of university. Do you want to; enjoy it as some of the 'funnest' years of your life, pick up at the RE (or Beat) on a weekly basis, have reasonable employment prospects on graduation, or do you want to work your ass off to try and get a Rhodes Scholarship? Figuring out what your goals are will make your university experience make a lot more sense.

11. If your goal is to get a reasonable job on graduation remember that there's a plethora of ways to get there. Grades are just one part of your story. Work experience, competitions, society experience, sport, volunteering are all part of the package that makes up you in 4-6 years time when you graduate.

12. A law degree is a marathon, not a sprint. You're in this degree for 4 or 5.5 years. Hell, some of us are here for over 7! The point is that you should enjoy your time at uni, have a balanced life and not 'burn out' early on. Work hard on your subjects but don't let them become your life.

13. In fact, in high school you were likely on straight A's and maybe the odd B. Now, you're "fighting" against OP's 1-3 and mature age students who don't spend 70% of their study time on Facebook. Law school is extremely competitive so at the end of semester, don't be too hung up if you didn't get the marks you wanted. Not only is there next semester to improve; but given you won't go for a clerkship for several more years, employers are going to be a heck of a lot more interested in your grades in 3rd and 4th year than what you got in Law and Society. 1st semester is a massive learning curve, and I can honestly say that personally it wasn't until 3rd year that I discovered what worked for me in terms of study.

Good luck, and enjoy the journey!

Johnny

Want to know more? Just ask the UQLS Executive!

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