

FIRST
YEAR
GUIDE
2018



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PART I

YOUR SOCIETY

*Meet the UQLS Exec and find out
how they can help you.*



WELCOME

Hello and Welcome to UQ Law and Congratulations on making it this far. I'm going into my second year of a dual degree in Law and Arts having started law straight out of high school just a year ago. I know the (combination) of excitement, trepidation and pure confusion which comes with such a daunting transition. This guide exists to hopefully answer your questions, quell your concerns, and channel your enthusiasm into a productive and fruitful 2018.

The UQLS is a student society run by and for UQ Law students. It organises fantastic social events, arranges opportunities in sport and legal competitions, provides mentoring and assistance programs, and generally exists to support and enrich you throughout your time at TCB. I encourage you to peruse this guide for the insights it offers both for these offerings and your Law studies in general.

As for me, I'm your First Year Representative for 2018, which means my job is to ensure your transition into law is as smooth and welcoming as possible. This means I'll be arranging a number of events, socials and programs which are outlined below. If you have any questions, concerns or fears please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone else in this guide via email.

FIRST YEAR FROLIC

The First Year Retreat is a great opportunity to spend a day away with your new friends and perhaps even make some more. Held on 11 March, before work piles up and exams loom, make sure you block this day off to ensure you can attend!

BUDDY PROGRAM

Sign up [here](#) to be paired with a senior student who can answer your questions and address your concerns. This is an optional service, but a great way to make a friend to talk to at events or to get study tips.

FIRST YEAR SOCIALS

It can be frustrating for under-age first years when you can't go to lots of events. Luckily, it's my job to make sure there's options for you, so look out for First year Social events throughout the year.

Please enjoy perusing this guide and I look forward to a fruitful 2018!

Thomas Choo

First Year Representative



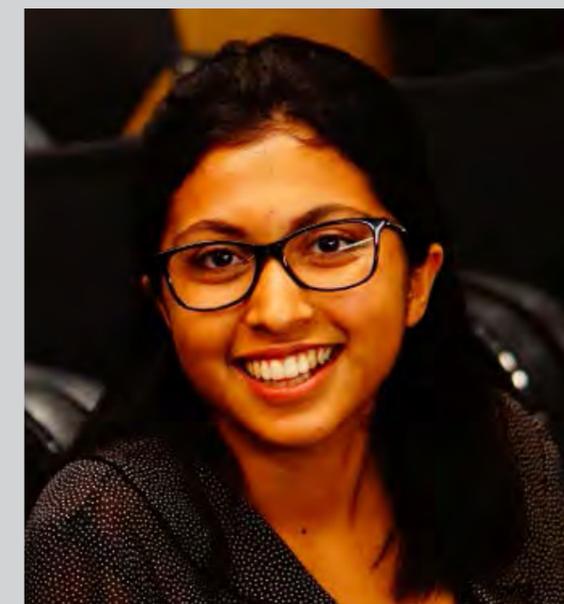
president

Welcome from everyone at the UQLS! I hope you're looking forward to the year ahead. It can be exciting and daunting starting university, but we're here to make the transition easier. Whether you want to know what the best L Card deal is or where the nicest bathrooms are in the law library, or even just need a nap on the UQLS couch, drop into our office (W209) and say hey.

If you ever need advice, coffee or a recommendation on the best trash tv to watch, hit me up. Otherwise have fun this year and I look forward to seeing you around!

Sangeetha Badya

President
University of Queensland Law Society Inc.



SANGEETHA'S TOP TIPS

GET INVOLVED:

First year is the best time to try things out. Whether you volunteer, do a competition or join the UQLS – get involved. You'll pick up a lot of useful skills. Social sport? Great for showing that you can work in a team!

ASK QUESTIONS:

This is the year to ask all of the 'dumb' questions you can think of. Go to class and ask your tutors and lecturers for help. You're rarely the only one in the room without an answer. A lot of people are waiting to help you, especially the UQLS.

MEET NEW PEOPLE:

Unlike high school, you might not have classes with the same students and it can be harder to make new friends. An easy way to meet new people is to come to UQLS and Law School events. I've met some of the most interesting people I know through the society.

BECOME A PART OF THE TEAM:

Law can feel very competitive at times. One of my favourite things about joining the UQLS was that it made me feel like I was part of a team. Become a part of the broader team that is your cohort too. You'll find that you save a lot of time by working in groups and helping each other.

BE YOURSELF:

Embrace the things that make you different. Don't orient everything you do around your degree and make sure you enjoy what you do. You'll be surprised by how many times an interesting activity will be appreciated over something you've done for the sake of your CV.

treasurer

Hello there,

Let me start by saying welcome to TCB and I hope to get to meet as many of you as I can over the coming weeks.

My name is Matt, and I am the UQLS Treasurer for 2017-2018. My role is managing the accounts and ensuring all portfolios receive the funding they need to operate. I will be your point of contact for any money related matters to do with the UQLS this year, so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Personally, I am in my fifth year of law/economics and have spent each of those years being involved in a wide variety of activities, in particular sport and competitions. I am also happy to be your point of contact for any coffee and/or cheese related questions, as I love both of those things.

The university experience may at first seem daunting for many of you, but very quickly those feelings will hopefully dissipate and morph into excitement and exuberance. I found the best way to settle in was finding a nice quiet spot in the library with my morning coffee and just easing into the day. Certainly, if you intend on driving into university, you're dreaming if you think you're getting a cheap park after 8:30am so you'll need the coffee.

Matthew Singer

Treasurer
University of Queensland Law Society Inc.



secretary

Hello, all!

Congratulations on being accepted into UQ Law. By way of brief introduction, my name is Ben, and I am the UQLS Secretary for 2018. If you have any questions about your UQLS Membership or the Society more broadly, don't hesitate to contact me. Further, if you have any queries or concerns about anything in the Society, please make me your first port of call and I can direct you to where you need to go or deal with it on your behalf.

As you will read in this guide, there is an amazing array of opportunities awaiting you at the TC Beirne School of Law (or TCB). From meeting world-class members of the legal profession to engaging with problems surrounding access to justice, your time at TCB will shape your life's direction.

But studying law can be stressful and daunting. During your time at TCB, you may face anxiety, depression, or other health concerns. Also, many of you will be questioning or discovering your identity. If you are feeling overwhelmed at any point during your studies, know that this is a common experience that you don't have to bear alone.

Talking to someone always helps, and talking to them early is ideal. UQ have a variety of services, most notably SHOC, that can assist you. The University is attentive and willing to help all those who seek them out. But that process can be intimidating too. In that case, the UQLS Executive is here to assist you. If you need someone to talk to about what services you can access, we can lead you in the right direction.

Further, if you feel unsure about approaching UQ or TCB, the UQLS can also assist you – for example, talking to an older student about my worries about one of my first-year subjects helped me get through my first year unscathed.

I wish you all the best of luck in your law degree,

Benjamin Gibbons

Secretary
University of Queensland Law Society Inc.

equity

Hello everyone!
Welcome to the TC Beirne School of Law. Each and every one of you has worked hard to be here and you should take a moment to let it all sink in and be proud - university will be a really rewarding experience and I'm so excited for you!

I am your Vice President (Equity) on the UQLS this year. Equity is here to help you feel you can participate in all the different aspects of law school, from accessing textbooks to attending events like First Year Retreat and Law Ball. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Maggie Hawkins (VP)



GRADUATE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Without a doubt, many international students face additional challenges such as acclimatizing to a new culture and sometimes to a new language. The good news is Kamand is here as a member of the Equity team to advocate the interests of international and graduate students within TCB School of Law. Look out for the UQLS and TCB events run for international students, and if you have any questions or concerns about starting law school, Kamand is just an email or a phone call away!

TEXTBOOK LOANS AND EQUITY GRANTS:

Money is something that people find it really difficult to talk about, but if you're struggling it can leave you feeling isolated and defeated. The Equity Portfolio is committed to helping you out where we can - if you can't afford your textbooks or to come our events, then hop onto the UQLS website and apply for a textbook or an Equity ticket discount.

WELLNESS AND DIVERSITY:

Mental health and diversity are two very broad areas which encapsulate key issues faced by a very significant number of law students at UQ. In this space, Equity aims to raise awareness on issues like anxiety, stress, and homogeneity in the law school. We also have an annual Wellness and Diversity Survey and following report through which we collect data from students directly to learn where the UQLS and TCB can improve. We follow up through our subcommittees, who do research and make recommendations which we can take on board or present to TCB.



ELLIE HILSTON

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

Thomas, the First Year Rep, is going to take really good care of you this year. He is your direct line to finding out everything and anything you need to know about starting life in the law school. Look out for the First Year Initiatives like First Year Retreat, and the buddy program- these will help you get settled in and ready for an excellent semester.



MICHAEL CRAWLEY

competitions

On behalf of the Competitions portfolio, welcome to the 2018 Competitions program!

Whether you want to negotiate deals, interview clients, or present submissions, the UQLS has the competition for you. Put your study to practice in your first year by trying one of our junior competitions. Tailored for first time competitors, participating in the junior program allows you to learn the ropes before you compete against more senior students.

By competing as acting-solicitors and barristers, you will build on your legal research, communication and oral presentation skills. You'll make friends with teammates and peers and build networks with older students and professionals. Competing in the UQLS program may even provide you with a platform to represent UQ domestically or internationally.

If you're excited to begin your journey as an advocate, make sure you check out the 2018 Competitions Handbook and all of the Competitions opportunities outlined in Raise the Bar. Join the UQLS Competitions group on Facebook and regularly check uqls.com for updates.

Together with the Competitions Officers, we look forward to watching you find your feet in the UQLS Competitions program.



Aimee Griffin
(VP)



Jonathan Hohl
(officer)



Craig Land
(officer)



Sophie Prium
(officer)

NEGOTIATION

Do you watch Suits in awe of Harvey Specter's ability to close million dollar deals? Enter the Junior Negotiation competition and put yourself in Harvey's shoes. This competition simulates negotiations and tests your ability to think strategically at the table.



MOOTING

If you have ever wanted to embrace your inner Cleaver Greene, make sure you register for the Junior Moot. Advocating for your client will allow you to focus on fine points of law and test your ability to argue their position persuasively.



The client interviewing competition simulates an initial consultation with a "client" (a volunteer student). As an interviewer you are tasked with uncovering a client's problem and finding a solution. If you've ever wanted to be put in a situation where you need the fast-paced thinking of Saul Goodman, try client interviewing. After competing, you will have learnt a skill required in the day-to-day practice of law.

CLIENT INTERVIEWING

PAPER PRESENTATION



This is your chance to demonstrate your legal research skills, critical thinking and present a policy proposal to a panel of lawyers. If you have dreamt of being in the Law Reform Commission, try the policy proposal competition and test your ability to think practically about topical legal issues.

publications

Welcome to your first year!

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 online via the society website.

Our best wishes for your time at UQ from the Publications & Marketing Team,



Eline Beijsens (VP)



Julius Moller



Rachel Moss

THE EDUCATION GUIDE: The Education 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 2018. 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 such as Contracts, Foundations of Law and Principles of Public Law.

COMPETITIONS HANDBOOK: The Competitions Handbook provides an overview of the internal, external and intervarsity law competitions you can participate in to add to and improve your legal education. It contains comprehensive guides for each competition, as well as relevant dates, dress codes, testimonials and example problems.

LEGAL DIRECTIONS: Directions is the UQLS's career guide. It provides an overview of the career options available to UQ law students, including firm profiles and career advice. It's never too early to start preparing for your legal future. Legal Directions is sure to provide you with some insightful and useful information for your career search.

CLERKSHIP GUIDE: When it is time to prepare your clerkship applications, the Clerkship Guide provides you with essential clerkship information, including firm profiles, important deadlines and helpful tips and guides for your application.

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 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 it may be facing in the future.

OBITER



Obiter Editor-in-Chief
Joseph Dwyer

The Obiter is the UQLS' best, and only, online satirical news publication. Written by law students, for anyone, about anything, it takes aim at anything that it possibly can. Intriguingly, The Obiter was founded by George Brandis in the 1970s as a serious analysis and opinion publication. However, since The Obiter's switch to being comedy-focused, we have avoided analysis and opinion like the Black Death; the greatest sin of an Obiter article is to be serious. Law can be an oft-dry and heavy degree, and it's worthwhile seizing any opportunities you can to lighten up. If Australian Crawl had written a song about The Obiter, it would be called 'The Boys Lighten Up,' - of course, lightening up is not limited to 'the boys,' it is freely accessible and encouraged for all who wish to lighten.

Ultimately, if you have any interest in comedy, politics, sports, life, law, and Australiana, there will be an Obiter article for you. Equally, if you wish to get involved, we desperately encourage articles and ideas. Message our Facebook page with an idea if you have one, and if you wish to join our writing team on a more consistent basis, email us at obitereditor@uqls.com. Have a brilliant first year and see it all.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. Ob Iter.

PART II

YOUR COMMUNITY

*Discover the places to be to make
friends and have fun in law.*



L Card and socials

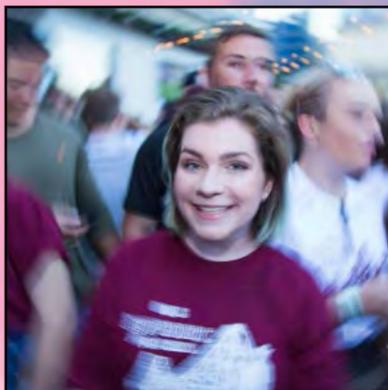
Law school is nothing without the people you meet and the friendships you build. There is simply no better opportunity to make new friends and lasting memories than attending a UQLS social event! Be sure to keep up to date with when and where our events will be held by liking the UQLS and L Card Facebook pages. Alas, most social events are 18+, so if you're not quite there yet then definitely check out the events run by your First Year Rep and the Equity Portfolio.

An annual feature in every law student's wallet, an L Card gives you access to events, exclusive deals and special offers. When you buy an L Card (for just \$10!) you automatically gain membership of the UQ Law Society - which you need in order to attend any of our events.

I'm in my fifth year of Arts/Law, I've been involved with the UQLS, L Card and Socials since 2014. I'm always around for a chat, and if you've got any questions or have any suggestions please get in touch - j.townsley@uqls.com.

All the best for the year ahead,

Joel Townsley
Vice President (L Card and Socials)



AYANNA POCOCK
(socials officer)



VIMAL SINGH
(socials officer)

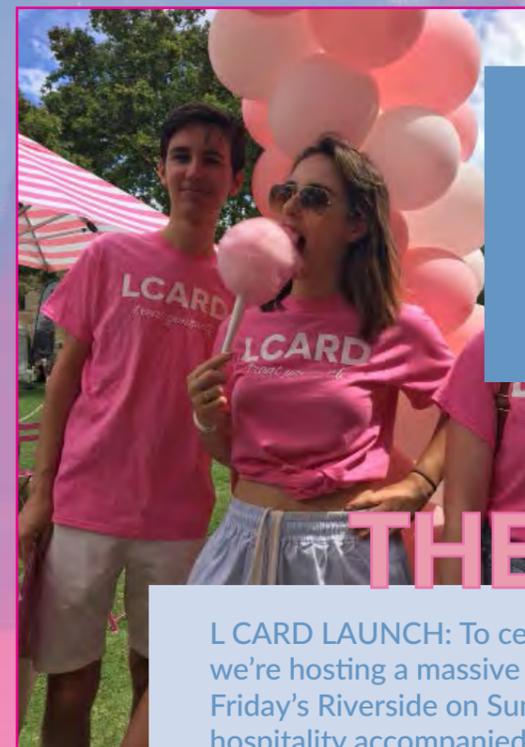
L CARD[®]

2018

Friday's
bar | restaurant | club
FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT EVERY NIGHT
EXCLUDING SPECIAL EVENTS

THE L CARD

The L Card has hundreds of deals all across south-east Queensland, including free entry all night every night to Friday's, as well as a free upsize on every coffee you buy on campus at Merlo. You can check it out at thelcard.com or on the official Facebook page. Pop by the UQLS Market Day Stall on 14 February to get yours!



THE LAUNCH

L CARD LAUNCH: To celebrate the life of the new 2018 L Card, we're hosting a massive party with QUT, Griffith and USQ at Friday's Riverside on Sunday 18 February. The free-flowing liquid hospitality accompanied by some inter-University rivalry makes for an amazing day. The cost? Absolutely free if you have an L Card.

socials events

PUB CRAWL There's something magic about roaming the city in silly shirts with a bunch of your new best mates. Starting at the Fox Hotel Soho Sundays, we will make our way through town, often with a detour through the Court precinct to make for an interesting game of 'who is going to do something that will stop them getting admitted?'. Be warned though - tickets are cheap and usually sell out for the event held before Easter.



LAW BALL Quite simply the hottest ticket in the University social calendar, Law Ball promises a chance to wear a dinner suit or ball gown, a full night of cocktail-style drinks and food, a dance floor you won't forget, and maybe even more... Law Ball is undoubtedly our biggest and best event of the year and is held towards the end of Semester One.



LAW DINNER An elegant special event, Law Dinner celebrates the year that was, and congratulates the graduating class and valedictorian. In the company of staff from T.C. Beirne, guests from top-tier law firms, and our keynote speaker, we have the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful sit-down meal and top-class musical entertainment - until after dessert when all bets are off!



CROQUET An annual favourite, croquet is a beautiful afternoon of barbeque, sangria and plenty of croquet. If your new profile picture from Law Ball or Law Dinner already seems out-dated, then Croquet is your best option for a new one! Pull out your best linen shirts and tie up your boat shoes, for an afternoon of not taking anything too seriously.



+ MORE We're often hosting start, middle and end of semester drinks so you don't have to wait more than a few weeks between any given UQLS social!

sports



JULIA EGARR (officer)

Welcome to UQ, and law school, from the UQLS Sport portfolio! My name is Matilda, your Vice-President of Sport for 2018. I'm a sixth-year BA/LLB student (help) who has found sanity in having a kick-around and a laugh at UQLS sport events.

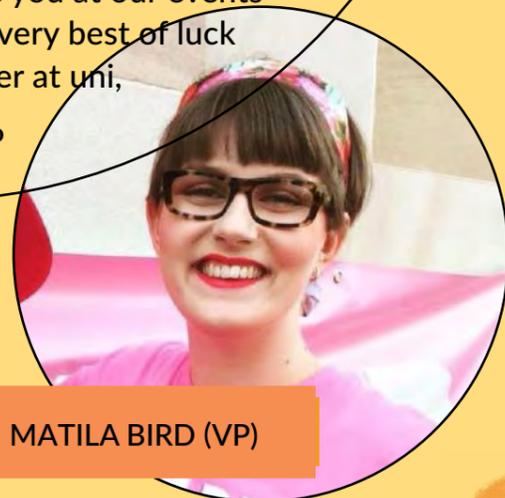
A fantastic way to make friends, have fun and unwind while at law school is to get involved in our sporting program. Don't stop and think "I haven't broken into a run since 2016". Take it from me, probably the least-sporty law student, that you don't need to be an athlete to have a go. Besides, you'll need a break from figuring out what exactly a contract is, anyway.

Myself and the Sports Officers, Chris Clur and Julia Egarr, are super excited to bring you a diverse range of events and programs this year. Each semester we enter teams into the UQ Sport Social Sport competitions and host many different matches between students, staff and even lawyers! We can't wait to see you at our events this year, and wish you the very best of luck in your first semester at uni,

Matilda, VP



CHRIS CLUR (officer)



MATILA BIRD (VP)

social sport

Each semester. These weekly social matches are a great way to play sport without committing to a competition team. In the past, sports available have included netball, touch football, dodgeball, soccer, water polo and basketball. The way I made heaps of my uni friends was by joining a soccer team on a whim when they needed more female players on the field! So, keep an eye on our Facebook page UQLS Sport for information on how to sign up in the first few weeks of semester 1.

walking club

A new introduction in 2018! For those more up for a chat than cardio, join us at 6pm on Thursday evenings for a relaxing walk around campus.

running club

An old favourite of the UQLS. We meet weekly for a 5km run (give or take) around our beautiful campus. In semester one we will be running Wednesdays at 6pm. If you can't make it every week, don't worry, we also do charity runs together like Darkness to Daylight and Bridge to Brisbane!

Fancy a dip? In 2018 we're bringing back the Swimming Club with some casual pool games and a paddle at the UQ Aquatic Centre on a monthly basis. Pop onto UQLS Sport on Facebook during semester to find out when we're meeting.

swimming club

The Suri Ratnapala Cup

A student v profession cricketing match early in semester one. Grab your bat and join our student team, or come spectate on the day with a snag and cold drink in the shade.

law cup

A huge carnival day held at the beginning of semester two with round-robin games of netball, touch footy and beach volleyball. Join one of our UQLS teams as you battle it out against rivalling teams from QUTLS, GULS and legal firms!



We host a number of soccer and rugby matches against QUTLS, UQMS and UQES throughout each year. 2017 saw the iconic victory of our soccer exhibition team over the QUTLS team - help us create a winning streak this year and sign on to the team!

grudge matches

spice up your sport

I've talked a lot about say netball and soccer, but what about ballet and table tennis? In 2017 we introduced Spice Up Your Sport, and brought more niche sports to law school. This year we're bringing back more free and easy sporty afternoons - plans are already underway for table tennis!

REVUE

Hello fresh first years and welcome to TCB!

No doubt you have been heaped with praise since being accepted into UQ Law, and I add my own hearty congratulations ("CONGRATULATIONS!"). However, as Day 1 of Law School you are perhaps now considering how to moderate your sense of pride - at least outwardly to fool people into thinking you are a "balanced individual". This is a delicate task, signalling to others that you can be self-deprecating without sacrificing the sweet confidence boost that you are now used to. Luckily for you, there is a neat co-curricular that will enable you to be made fun of while still enjoying the limelight. It is called the UQ Law Revue.

The Revue is a comedy stage show featuring sketches, songs and videos. It includes social commentary on politics, news and current affairs handled with the wit and nuance that only privileged, inexperienced students can provide. It also includes those same students doing impressions of iconic law lecturers and bizarre videos about Arnotts™ Shapes.

To make this show happen we need a cast of jokers, a pack of writers, a chorus of songsters, a band of toe-tappers, a backstage of lifters, a design-team of crafters, a makeup-team of contourers, a front-of-house of ushers, and a partridge in a pear tree. Even if your ego doesn't drive you, as it evidently does for me, there are still plenty of ways for you to be part of the show.

All jokes aside though (yes that first indulgent paragraph was comedic in tone), this kind of biting satire is what got me Convenorship (that's a joke too I'm not very funny), the Law Revue has been the most worthwhile part of my time at Law School. This will be my sixth and final year of doing Revue, and the people I have met through it will continue to be some of my closest friends. I echo past Convenors in saying that this show has kept me in this degree. Law is sometimes tedious, but the like-minded people you meet in this challenging degree really makes it all the more rewarding and Revue people might just be the like-minded people for you.

But if that sappy spiel now makes you repulsed at the idea of ever being in Revue and you think we are a bunch of losers, please do still buy a ticket and come see the show in August - at the very least it will give you the opportunity to openly point and laugh at us.



If you have any past writing, theatre, music, acting, comedy experience then good for you, Revue will be a great way to stretch your creative muscles and we would love to have you on board. This is by no means a pre-requisite to being a part of the show though, all that you need is a sense of humour so if you like to have a laugh then get involved in any capacity you're comfortable with. In my first year I agonised over the decision to audition, not thinking I was talented or old enough to be in the cast - six years later I am urging you to just give it a crack!



1 Come to writing meetings from week 2; even if you don't have any ideas it's a good way to meet Revuers.

2 Sign up to audition for cast, chorus and band from week 1.

3 Explore our catalogue on YouTube in the name of "research", I did this a lot in first year it kept me entertained.

4 Finally, and most importantly, you can keep up with all the aforementioned by liking our Facebook page "UQ Law Revue", and watching for updates on the UQLS page too.

If you see me around campus or in the UQLS office (my name is Joy) please feel free to have a chat about anything and everything. Don't hesitate to email me on lawrevueconvenor@uqls.com if you have any questions at all.

Joy Qin
Revue Convenor

clubs and societies

UQLS is just one of the 220+ clubs and societies affiliated with the University of Queensland Union. Student societies operate out of most faculties and if you're enrolled in a dual program it is worth checking out what the society associated with your other program has to offer. There are also societies for things such as cultural backgrounds, political activism, cultural activities, competitive sport and hobbies. No matter what your interests and personality, you're guaranteed to find like minded people somewhere on campus if you look hard enough. There are also a number of other Law oriented societies which cover a more specific or niche area than UQLS.



Justice and the Law Society (JATL)

As the lawyer awoke from surgery, he asked, "Why are all the blinds drawn?" The nurse answered, "There's a fire across the street, and we didn't want you to think you had died."

Lawyers often (and might I say unfairly) get a bad rap; portrayed as egotistical corporate robots, never happier than when they have a dollar in their hand. Here at JATL, we break down those stereotypes. Our focus is on social justice initiatives and exposing students to the many and varied career paths available to them.

We provide students with opportunities to network with international lawyers and diplomats at our Law Beyond the Borders event, barristers and judges at Wigs at the Bar as well as governmental, defence force, community legal centre and in-house lawyers at Beyond Eagle Street Drinks.

JATL further aims to explore the intersect between social justice and the law. Our forums gather esteemed members of the profession to discuss topical legal issues while our fundraising events strive to raise money for local community legal centres.

Last year, we raised over \$10,000 for the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service at our annual Fundraising Gala and hosted a Trivia Night to support the LGBTIQ Legal Service.

If you're interested in giving back to the community or exploring the wide array of legal paths before you, JATL is the society for you! Membership is available on Market Day or online at www.jatl.org/membership.

Warm regards,
Rubaina Sehgal
President
JATL

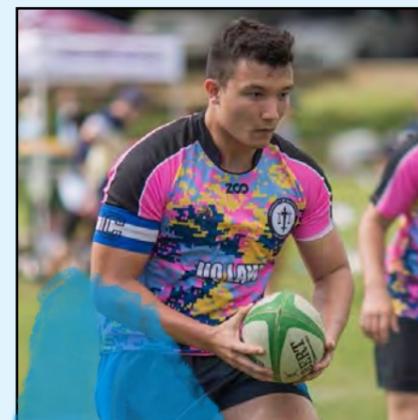
Australian Legal Philosophy Student Association (ALPSA)

Hello there!

You've signed up for a law degree – but have you ever actually asked yourself the question, "what is law"? The answer may or not seem obvious, but it's one that has been debated for literally centuries. Is there a necessary connection between law and morality? Is law merely a linguistic exercise, or is there something further that compels us to act in certain ways? This is where our society steps in. The Australian Legal Philosophy Student's Association aims to give students different perspectives on the nature of law, and to get you thinking about the law in a different way. We host seminars, discussion panels, and competitions for our members.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at alpsa@law.uq.edu.au. Most importantly, we have pizza at all our events.

Hope to meet you soon,
Ewan Raeside
President
ALPSA



UQ International Law Society

Since 2016 the UQ International Law Society (UQILS) has been working to make the diverse and developing field of international law more accessible to UQ students. Whether you are interested in public international law, human rights and diplomacy or international commercial law, UQILS is a great society to be involved in.

Our events include mootings and essay competitions, career events, panel discussions and more. Throughout the year we work closely with the Law School, the UQLS, JATL and ALPSA to bring these events to members.

The UQILS is also lucky enough to benefit from the expertise and generosity of an impressive number of UQ alumni working in international law. These past students include those who regularly appear before the International Court of Justice and often drop into campus to share their career journeys with UQILS members. In addition to hosting events and competitions, the UQILS is focused on connecting students with existing international opportunities including internships, mootings competitions and overseas study or work openings.

Membership is open to all UQ students, regardless of program, year level and prior experience or education in the field. We hope to see you at an event soon!

The UQILS Exec

PART IV

YOUR DEGREE

Learn tips and tricks to help you survive and make the most of your studies.



education

Congratulations, and welcome to Law School!

University is such an exciting stage of your life – gaining independence, meeting new friends and finding out where your passions lie. Throughout your time at UQ, the Education Team is here to help you through on the study front from the moment you enter Forgan Smith. To get you started, you will find the invaluable Study Guide in this section of the guide which contains some detailed information on what we do and how to succeed at law school.

The Education Team strives to represent the concerns of UQ law students regarding their education at the TC Beirne School of Law. If ever you have a concern about assessment, feedback or your general legal education, please do get in contact with the Education Team, either by visiting us in the UQLS Office or emailing us at education@uqls.com. Zoe, Lizzy and Pragadesh cannot wait to meet you, and field your inquiries to ensure that you can enjoy all that the TC Beirne School of Law offers.

Zoe Cornwell (VP), Lizzy Brown and Pragadesh Sukumar



Lizzy Brown
officer



Pragadesh Sukumar
officer



Zoe Cornwell
VP

PEER ASSISTED LEARNING SESSIONS (PALS)

Whilst, sometimes you'll be thinking you are taking a Latin and French class instead of studying the law, the PALS team is here to explain the meaning of stare decisis, ratio decidendi and force majeure. Most importantly, PALS is designed to help you approach the seminars, assignments and exams that await you. Throughout first and second year, the PALS sessions will run through structuring answers to legal problems, researching effectively, referencing correctly and answers to past exams, as well as general study and wellness tips. PALS aims to facilitate a more informal and collaborative learning environment than a typical class. As such, the PALS sessions are taught by students in the later stages of their law degree and provides an excellent opportunity to meet people from across all year levels. The dates and content for this year's PALS sessions will be published on the UQLS Facebook page, as well as via email notices.

Working out how to organise lecture notes into a concise and helpful summary can be challenging, especially when you've missed class or the exam is tomorrow! Luckily, Notepool gathers past high-achieving law students' notes from most subjects into an online database available at <https://www.uqls.com/education/notepool/>.

NOTEPOOL

GENERAL ROLE

The Education Team and the Education Board (a separate student advisory board) are responsible for liaising between you and the law school to ensure that you can get the most out of your LLB. Every year we conduct a survey and further research which we use to produce the Education Report. The Education 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 and Learning Committee of the Law School and regularly meet with the Head of School and the Dean of the BEL Faculty.

The Naida Haxton Lecture is named after the first female barrister to practise in Queensland, and provides an exciting opportunity to explore advocacy and legal history with a prominent member of the State's judiciary.

NAIDA HAXTON 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 Honourable Justice Patrick Keane, the Honourable Michael Kirby, and Julian Burnside AO QC. A highlight of the year, it is not to be missed.

SIR HARRY GIBBS LECTURE

study guide

Why should I attend Class?

Learning Guides and powerpoints only provide a skeleton of what the course covers. Textbooks rarely align exactly with the course contents, especially on a week to week basis. The most important way to gain the best understanding of your content and prepare for exams, is by attending classes weekly and immersing yourself in the discussions. Lecturers also often reveal important information about exam format, and you can tell what is likely to be assessed based on what your lecturer deems important in the class. In the seminar format, you also gain the opportunity to engage in class discussions which refine and clarify your understanding of the topic.

Welcome to law school! You might feel right now as if you are a small fish in a big pond, but the thing to remember is that you are still a fish, so all you have to do is swim. This Study Guide will include our tips to help you dive into the deep end and swim with success.

The transition from high school to law school is a tricky one and affects everyone in different ways. 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. Studying law at UQ, even though it is academically rigorous, has much more to it than just your degree.

From your first law class, lecturers will likely use 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 go about doing those things. You may be wondering whether you should read the cases before the class, or after; whether you should start by reading the textbooks or the judgments; and maybe more realistically, whether you can get away with not preparing for classes.

This section of the guide is written by students who've been there before and survived to tell the tale, and contains practical tips for your studies that we wish we'd known when we started.

What should I do before going?

Generally, you will go through questions that have been set in advance by the instructor – these may include factual analysis or essay style questions. Using your notes, you should attempt to answer these questions yourself before attending class. That way, you've thought about things yourself and gained your own understanding that your instructor will help to clarify. Even if you have written out a sample answer, you should take notes in the class to improve and correct your answer. Not only does Seminar Preparation prepare you for dealing with questions and working in an exam format, but it may contribute significantly to your grade in some courses!

How do I make the most of them?

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. In particular, note down where the lecturer describes or explains a legal rule and its application, summaries of case facts and judgements, and any hints about likely exam topics.

Before deciding which textbooks you should buy, hire or borrow 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.

READING A CASE

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 specific pages, while in others the important cases may be highlighted by an asterisk in the learning guide. 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! 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) 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.

ANNOTATED ACTS

Annotated versions of several 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.

CASEBOOKS

(cases and materials)

Contain extracts from judgments as well as some commentary by the authors. Can be useful to give you information on the less important cases, but not essential cases as the extracts from judgments can be quite selective and may miss out parts

COMMENTARIES

(traditional textbooks)

Contain descriptions of the law on a topic and cite legislative and case authorities in support of what is said. Useful when seeking further explanation and detail beyond the scope of your law subjects.

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.

SUMMARIES

These books contain short descriptions of the law on a 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.

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. Remember, you are reading the case to understand the reasoning of the judges which forms legal rules and principles. Therefore, if this extra information is to be of any use to you, it is advisable that you take notes whilst reading a case so that you can refer to it in the weeks to come.

HOT TIP

Don't attempt to read every case in the learning guide. Try to read the important cases and then use headnotes or case-books for those which are less significant.

- Zoe, Vice President (Education)

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.

JUDGEMENTS:

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.

What should I expect?

Typical university assignments will be anything between 1,000 and 5,000 words. Law assignments, especially early on in your degree, are traditionally worth around 30% of your final mark.

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

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

Why is this important?

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 writing to be sophisticated, your research to be thorough and your arguments to be well thought out. Writing a decent paper gives you a decent foundation of marks to go into later exams with, and can even involve research that directly helps with exam questions. Good research skills are worth developing because they are of great benefit once you enter the workforce. Employers – whether in legal, commercial, or academic spheres – prefer graduates with strong research skills.

When should I start work?

You should start planning and researching for your assignment as soon as possible. Law assignments take a great deal of time and research - likely considerably more than any research assignment you have encountered in the past. Not only this, but if you leave it too late, it will begin to weigh on other assignments and exams you have, and any useful resource in the Law Library will have been checked out by more diligent students.

Where should I 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 encyclopaedias, 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>.

How do I approach the assignment?

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. Read the learning guide, course profile, Blackboard and other materials to ensure you have all the possible information. Have a general discussion with friends or your study group about possible directions that could be taken will also be beneficial.

HOT TIP

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 - they are here to help you.

- Zoe, Vice President (Education)

CONSULT GENERAL SOURCES OF LAW REGARDING THE SUBJECT

2

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 Carter's looseleaf 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. The other main encyclopaedia is The Laws of Australia, which can be accessed through the Lawbook database.

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.

3

FIND AND READ 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 encyclopaedias 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.edu.au. However, this contains unauthorized reports unlike Westlaw, Casebase and Firstpoint.

4

READ SECONDARY SOURCES

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.

CONSULT THE LEGISLATION

5

You should realise 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 encounter are the Civil Liability Act (Qld) and the Criminal Code (Qld).

ASSEMBLE YOUR RESEARCH NOTES

6

Once you have enough research, it's time to highlight, underline and make notes. Often it's prudent to organise your notes by 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 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 short on time, a hot tip is to find the hard copies of case reports – often people have underlined key sections and written useful 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

WRITE THE ASSIGNMENT

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 for breach of contract due to the loss 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: www.uq.edu.au/student-services/learning/assignment-writing.

8

ENSURE YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS WITHIN THE WORD LIMIT

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 expansive as you like.

CHECK YOUR ASSIGNMENT FOR FORMATTING

9

The Law School has adopted the referencing and formatting style outlined in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation. A PDF of the Guide can be accessed via this link: http://guides.library.uq.edu.au/ld.php?content_id=8173700.

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! Keep the guide's styles in mind when you are conducting your research so that you record all the information necessary for writing your references correctly.

The law school has compiled a shortened version of the guide that can be found at: http://guides.library.uq.edu.au/ld.php?content_id=8174006.

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.

studying

REVISION

If you've done the work from week to week, then the primary task in your exam preparation will be revision. Some 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 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, distil 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 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.

STUDY TECHNIQUES

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 in-class questions can give you a more thorough understanding of how the theory works 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, 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 identify the legal issues that arise in the factual scenario and 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 in-class questions, are useful ways to refine your technique. Write out a complete answer as you would in the exam and crucially try to complete the answer 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. Attending PALS sessions will also put you in good stead for exams. PAL tutors will teach you how to correctly structure Contracts I and Foundations problem questions using past exam papers as concrete examples.

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 in-class 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.

THE DAY BEFORE THE EXAM

- Have your pens, pencils, student card and any written material that you are permitted to take into the exam ready the night before.
- 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.
- 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!

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

- Make sure you eat (even if your exam is at 8 am) and drink water. Keeping well fed and hydrated will keep your mind powering through the exam!
- 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 or request some cardboard to balance the uneven table legs.
- 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 than you will by finishing your previous.
- If you're really running out of time, dot points are better than nothing.
- 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 questions

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 in-class questions (if written by the same lecturer) are often a good guide of their focus.

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 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.



STRUCTURING ANSWERS

Some markers value structure as much as the content of your knowledge.

IRAC is a common method students use to structure their answers in exams. IRAC stands for Issue, Rule, Application, and Conclusion.

ISSUE

Identify the issue(s), then use subheadings to discuss each, e.g. 'Offer', 'Acceptance' and 'Consideration'. Subheadings are useful as they keep you focused and make the marker's job easier.

RULE

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 - part marks are better than no marks! 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 *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball*, there was an advertisement which 'promised' something to the world at large. Unlike that case however, the language in this advertisement was vague and amounted to a 'mere puff'.

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 there was never a contract between A and B as the advertisement did not amount to an offer".

mistakes

COMMON

Simply asserting something without backing it up by referring to facts, e.g. statements such as, "Clearly, there is a presumption of undue influence from A to B: Allcard v Skinner" should be avoided. In contrast, a good answer would explain: "It is presumed that A exerted undue influence over B because their relationship falls within the established class of parent and child from Allcard v Skinner (per Cotton LJ)".

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 must achieve in the time allocated.

Thinking you will 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 contracts case might obviously fail in consideration (the third element), you should generally at least provide a cursory examination of the other elements (i.e. offer and acceptance).

Not getting the balance right. Just because there are multiple elements to a contract, 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.

Not reading the question and/or exam instructions correctly. Don't overdo it and answer both questions when asked to just answer one question!

grades

There is no denying that there no better way to put yourself 'ahead of the pack' than to get good grades. To give you a bit of context, a law GPA of 6.0+ is considered by most to be excellent, a 5.5+ is very good and a 5.0+ is above average. However, if you spend too much time enjoying your new post-school freedom during first year, or if it takes you a little longer for the 'law stuff' to click and you get nothing but 4's if you first year, do not despair. Firms are always interested in the growth trajectory of your grades. If (for example) you get 4's in first year, 5's and 6's in second year and 6's in your third and fourth year it will show firms that you have worked hard and matured during your time at University. You should try and avoid getting 4's where you can, but you will all soon learn that no matter how much you stress about your GPA there is no point fixating on a bad grade for a prolonged time period. All you can do is work hard, have a reasonable and do-able study plan (can you really study for 10 straight hours every Saturday?), do not leave things to the last minute, attend all classes, get enough sleep and look after your mental health (i.e. by exercising regularly [even if you don't consider yourself to be very sporty exercise works wonders in tackling stress and anxiety] and use the University's free counselling service if you find yourself being worn down). This may sound simple, but I can guarantee you that anyone who does all these things will eventually get very good grades. Finally, if you fail a subject, it is not ideal but if you have a good enough explanation it probably won't matter too much in the long run (for example, if your parents get divorced, a family member is ill, you are sick or you have to work full time to support yourself/your family, recruitment teams will understand - they are people just like you and me).

HOT TIP

No matter how many older students say 'oh yeah, I never attended contracts and got a 7', they are either a genius or more far likely, they are lying

- Matt, Treasurer

PART IV

YOUR CAREER

*Separate fact from fiction and
discover the reality of where
law can take you.*



careers



GEORGIE BILLS



MIA REIMERS



JEREMY SABA

Mia Reimers (Vice-President of Professional Sponsorship and Careers), Georgie Bills and Jeremy Saba (Careers Officers) comprise the Sponsorship and Careers team of the UQLS in 2016. Our job is to ensure that the students of TC Beirne School of Law have the best access to career opportunities and training. In addition, we strive to give students the chance to meet face to face with potential employers, with a substantial on-campus presence from most of the large law firms in Brisbane, as well as connections with more diverse legal and non-legal opportunities.

In 2018, you will be able to engage with the Careers team by attending one of our events, following the 'UQLS Careers Space' facebook page, or popping into the UQLS office during our weekly office hours.

If you have any questions about the incredibly diverse array of directions you can go with your law degree, clerkships, work experience or anything career-related, please feel free to send an email to careers@uqls.com or to message us at UQLS Careers Space. Remember, we were all once beginning our foray into law school and are always happy to help!

Regards, the UQLS 2018 Careers Team,

Mia Reimers, VP Professional Sponsorship & Careers
Georgie Bills & Jeremy Saba, Careers Officers

CLERKSHIP NIGHT

An evening of brief 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- as well as the graduate experience at a particular firm. These brief points of advice 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.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DRINKS (APD)

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 recent years, we achieved a perfect 2:1 student to professional ratio, creating an intimate and successful event for employers and students alike.

The APD is mainly geared towards those students who are heading into their clerkship year; however we encourage all students to consider attending.

PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING SEMINARS (PLT)

Seminars run across both semesters one and two, with our PLT partners which 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.

UQLS CAREERS SPACE

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

BARRISTERS WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (BWEP) + 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 2018.

career pathways

Law school is never just about academics, it's also a time to develop a broad complement skills and attributes in order to be ready for the workplace. Below are two suggested career development timelines for undergraduate and post-graduate law students, designed to emphasise the attributes sought after in a well-rounded and practice-ready graduate.

Most importantly – never forget that there is no right way to do a law degree! Some of us blast through them in 3-4 short years, and others spend close to a decade studying. The most important things to remember are to take law school at a pace that suits you, to make the most of the time that you are here and to grasp every opportunity with both hands. There is no one right path to a happy and fulfilling career!

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 – and we all need to start somewhere.

Get involved in some sort of extracurricular activity, whether this be creative, volunteering, a sporting team or your friendly University of Queensland Law Society (or any other university society) – find a way to get involved and make a network in your uni community.

Find balance! Find an activity that helps give you 'zen time' away from work and study, and which contributes to your overall wellbeing. It might be something like finding time to read for leisure, sports, camping, music, art...

Enter a UQLS competition – this is not only a fantastic way to make new friends and to learn about different areas of the law, but also helps you to begin developing the practical skills necessary for a life in the law.

third year

Listen out 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 and GPA.

If studying a straight law degree (4 years) – this is your penultimate year and you should be applying for clerkships in March. As such, Annual Professional Drinks, Clerkship Night 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.

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, competitions and finding your balance.

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 TCB, BEL Student employability Team (BEL SET) and the UQLS may offer and make sure you attend – learning outside the classroom is a great way to give context to your studies!

After studying 8 units of law you are eligible to volunteer with the Pro Bono centre - check out the meaningful and educational projects on offer.

Start going to the careers events the UQLS and other societies offer eg. Annual Professional Drinks.

second year

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 Clerkship Night, PLT courses and APD are very important.

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. Again, attending Clerkship Night, PLT courses and APD are very important.

fifth year

Again, attending Clerkship Night, PLT courses and APD are very important.

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.

Continue with extracurriculars/GPA.

sixth year

graduate!

“It’s the
vibe of the
thing”

- Dennis Denuto, *The Castle* (1997)

HOT TIP 

Come along to our first International Student Movie Night where everyone is welcome to witness the comedy classic Australian film, *The Castle* - one of the most quoted movies in the Law School.

- Kamand, Graduate and International Officer

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 in some sort of extracurricular activity, whether this be creative, volunteering, a sporting team or your friendly University of Queensland Law Society (or any other university society) – find a way to get involved and make a network in your uni community.
- Enter a UQLS competition – this is not only a fantastic way to make new friends and to learn about different areas of the law, but also helps you to begin developing the practical skills necessary for a life in the law.
- Find balance! Find an activity that helps give you ‘zen time’ away from work and study, and which contributes to your overall wellbeing. It might be something like finding time to read for leisure, sports, music, art...

life after law school

Very few law students begin their degree knowing exactly what they want to do when they graduate. If this is you, don't panic. Not all who study law intend on practising law and for those that do, the legal industry has much to offer.

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

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

SECOND YEAR

- Continue with work.
- Continue with extracurricular activities/GPA.
- Apply for AWEP or BWEP 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, attending Clerkship Night, PLT courses and APD are very important.

clerkship

THIRD AND FORTH YEAR

- Continue with work.
- Continue with extracurricular activities/GPA.
- Apply for AWEP or BWEP 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 Clerkship Night, PLT courses and APD are very important.

HOT TIP 

To get a better idea of our enormous ~range~, please search UQ Law Revue on Youtube, last year's show entitled 'Fantastic Priests and Where To Hide Them' is fully available online!

- Joy, Revue Convenor

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.

associateship

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.

Finally...

It is perfectly normal to be unsure about your career pathways at this stage, or harbour hesitancy about commercial law. The most important thing is to keep your options open. A clerkship is not 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 and 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, along with opportunities promoted by BEL SET, 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.

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

- Attend careers fairs and 'meet-the-profession' events, for example UQ Careers Fair and QLS Legal Careers Expo;
- 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.

One part of keeping your options open is to protect your future. 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 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.

graduate position

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 department or organisation. In the legal context, a graduate position usually involves participation in a 1-2 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.

