

Application for Postgraduate Research Project or Dissertation

As a general rule, students cannot undertake research projects/dissertations in their first semester of study. Further, students must have a minimum UQ GPA of 4.5 to enrol in a #2 supervised research project, and a minimum UQ GPA of 5.5 to enrol in #4 and #8 dissertations.

Before seeking to enrol in a Postgraduate Research Project or Dissertation, a student must identify a viable research topic and discuss the proposed project with a prospective supervisor who must be a full-time or part-time member of the academic staff of the Law School. Approval of the project will be contingent on the availability of a suitable supervisor and there is no obligation on the part of a member of academic staff to undertake supervision of a project.

Both the selection of an appropriate topic and the selection of an appropriate supervisor are largely up to the student, however the following steps will act as a guide:

- Think about your own areas of interest.
- Examine the research profiles of the school's academic staff and make an appointment to discuss specific research topics with the relevant staff members - www.law.uq.edu.au/academic-staff.
- Discuss options about specific research topics with other research students.
- Review previous work/assignments worked on while completing undergraduate or previous postgraduate study.

When you have identified an appropriate supervisor and topic, you should (in consultation with your supervisor) develop a **Research Proposal**.

The attached application form must be addressed to the Director of Postgraduate Coursework Programs and be accompanied by the Research Proposal, signed by the applicant and counter-signed by the member of the academic staff signifying approval of the project and the availability to supervise. It is to be received by the Director of Postgraduate Coursework Programs **no later than two weeks prior to the commencement of the semester** during which the project is to be undertaken.

The **Research Proposal** must contain the following information:

- provisional title of the project;
- a statement of the legal issue(s) to be investigated (approximately half page);
- the theoretical and/or practical significance of the project (one page or more);
- an explanation of the methodology to be used (approximately half page); and
- proposed chapter or section headings with brief outlines of proposed contents.

NB The suggested length of each of the sections is intended to be a rough guide only.

Applications will be considered by the Director of Postgraduate Coursework Programs. Students will be notified of the outcome of their application, and if successful, will be placed on a permission list to enable enrolment in the course.

The final paper shall be no more than 10,000 words in length for a 2 unit course; 15,000 words in length for a 4 unit course; and 25,000 words in length for an 8 unit course. The paper should be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the ECP.

Students should note:

LAWS7701 is an #8 one-semester course.

LAWS7706 is an #8 two-semester course commencing in Semester 1.

LAWS7707 is an #8 two-semester course commencing in Semester 2.

LAWS7825 is a #2 one-semester course.

LAWS7826 is a #4 two-semester course commencing in Semester 1.

LAWS7904 is a #4 two-semester course commencing in Semester 2.

LAWS7944 is a #4 one-semester course.

