

T1 2026

TRIMESTER GUIDE

Listed (Elective) Unit information

The Trimester Guide is prepared by the UNE Law Students' Society with the generous support of the School of Law, our sponsors, and contributors.





Acknowledgement of Country

The University of New England Law Students' Society respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture.

In doing so, UNELSS values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

As we share our own knowledge and learning within the University, we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.



Message from

Deb Russell

UNELSS President

Hi everyone,

A very warm welcome (or welcome back!) on behalf of the UNE Law Students' Society (UNELSS). Established in 2010, the UNELSS is run by students, for students.

We produce publications, run workshops, and host social and academic events to foster a collegial and supportive environment while supplementing your legal education. Highlights include the annual Law Ball, online Trivia Nights, AGLC4 workshops, career events, Practical Legal Training information sessions, Trimester Guides, and our Annual Conference.

This year, I'm participating in some of UNE's orientation and O-Week activities. Meeting some of our new cohort has made me reflect on my top 5 lessons learned as a law student, and I'd like to share them with you –

1. Ask the 'stupid question'. It's just a question.
2. Law and etiquette go hand in hand. They are your friends.
3. Check your work. Check it again.
4. Take up or ask for opportunities to connect and learn from people around you. Collegiality is important, and everybody has one or two respected mentors.
5. Remind yourself: you've done well to be wherever you are at this point.

Our events this trimester include the Law Ball and Annual Conference in Armidale from May 2-4. We are delighted that Judge Troy Anderson SC of the District Court of NSW is joining us to speak at both events. The theme of this year's Annual Conference is 'Regional Practice'. It is my hope that the sessions will inspire you to consider spending some time practising in a regional or rural area, and provide practical insights for those of you who already are. We are also looking forward to a special event with The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, hosted by the School of Law and UNELSS on campus and via Zoom, on 5 May.

Whether this trimester is your first, last, or somewhere in between – I hope you have a good one. I look forward to seeing you online or in-person at this year's UNELSS events.

See you out there,
Deb



Message from

Sharad Goodfella **Publications Director**

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the T1, 2026 edition of the Trimester Guide!

The main purpose of the Trimester Guide is to provide you with information about Listed Units, all in one place.

Whether you are undertaking the Bachelor of Laws, Diploma in Paralegal Studies, Advanced Diploma in Paralegal Studies, or Bachelor of Legal Studies, information about Listed Units is relevant to you.

Always check the requirements of your specific course.

This trimester sees the return of –

LAW201: Sports Law;
LAW315: Criminal Sentencing & Punishment;
LAW319: Children's Law; and
LAW336: Local Government Law.

Warm regards,
Sharad

HELLO FROM YOUR LSS!

UNELSS Executive Committee



Deb Russell
President



Tianaha Willson-Baker
Vice President



Jaimie Harrison
Secretary



Kirsti Nunn
Treasurer



Emmy Turner
**Communications &
Social Media Director**



Kirsti Nunn
**Student Affairs
Director**



Meg Watson
**Social Justice &
Equity Director**



Vacant
**Sponsorship
Director**



Hayley Ryman
Events Director



Sharad Goodfella
Publications Director



Shannia Cathcart
Careers Director



Sarah Kurian
Competitions Director



Pamela Mery
Merch Director

LSS Officers

Madeline Allen - Comms & Socials
Helen Mundy - Student Affairs
Ella Amati - Social Justice & Equity
Brayden Armour - Publications
Matt Raftis - Sponsorship

ESSENTIALS

Student Resources

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/student-resources>

Note: The 'Law School Student Essentials' is always updated near the start of trimester.

UNE Handbook

<https://handbook.une.edu.au/>

Note: Undergraduate students enrolled in the Bachelor of Laws may be able to enrol in some LLM listed units with permission from the School of Law. Please check your course requirements first, and complete the waiver of prerequisites form:

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/school-policies/waiver-of-prerequisites>

Law School Unit Offerings

To help with forward planning, the Law School provides a visual schedule to show when the Core and Listed units are offered in the current year and the next year.

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-law/current-students/law-unit-offerings>

Note: Units in the next year can be subject to change.

PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

**"My favourite
thing about PLT?
How real it is."**

No essays. No written exams.
No rigid class times. Just real
legal tasks that get you
practice-ready on your terms.



Get the guide

Chelsea Donoghue
PLT Graduate



UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR
6**

Welcome Trivia (via Zoom)

Books down, brains up! Join us for a friendly battle of wits to welcome in the academic year.

**MAR
24**

AGLC4 Foundations (via Zoom)

Master your AGLC4 referencing with the UNELSS and UNE Academic Claudia Barbosa.

**MAY
2**

Law Ball (Armidale)

A highlight of the 2026 UNELSS calendar. Held in Armidale, this is a special evening that is not to be missed.

**MAY
3-4**

LSS Conference (Armidale + Zoom)

Our award-winning academic event is back. Speakers include special guests and UNE Academics.

**MAY
5**

Special Event (Armidale + Zoom)

Save the date for this special event – an afternoon with The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, hosted by the School of Law and the UNELSS.



Join us for Welcome Trivia!

Play along via Zoom in this friendly battle of wits with the law staff to welcome in the academic year. Register a team or go solo and meet new friends.

No legal knowledge necessary!

\$5 tickets available now ➡
<https://lss.unelife.club/>



Law and First Peoples of Australia

Unit Coordinator: Guy Charlton

Credit points: 6

40%

Assignment

60%

Exam

Co-requisites:

(LAW100 or LLM533) and LAW101.

About this unit:

The First Peoples of Australia have a unique position in Australian society as the traditional owners and custodians of land and sea country.

This unit will introduce you to First Peoples systems of law and the interaction between these laws and the Anglo-Australian legal system as well as critically examine the impact of Anglo-Australian law and policies on First Peoples.

You will also explore the complex legal, political, social and cultural factors that contribute to current debates on legal issues of significance to First Peoples and develop skills in cultural competency to assist you to work effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Message from the UC:

I have been working and studying Aboriginal and Indigenous law as a practicing attorney and academic for the past 20 years. I love this area of the law as it includes history, constitutional and natural resources/property law. The students with whom I have worked with over the years have been positive about this unit.

We traverse colonial law and history, Australian governmental policy towards Aboriginal Peoples and modern day issues such as Aboriginal over-incarceration, Native Title and the proposed treaty process.

The assessments for this unit are designed to make you think deeply about the relationship between the law and Aboriginal peoples and how law and policy are intertwined as both a mechanism of control as well as a means by which minority and Aboriginal aspirations and rights are effectuated.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Unit Coordinators: *Fiona Burns*

Credit points: 6

Co-requisites/Pre-requisites:

None.

About this unit:

Responding and successfully resolving disputes is a core skill for lawyers. Skills in dispute resolution add value to your role in a wide range of workplaces. This unit equips you with a thorough understanding of ADR processes both in criminal and civil matters such as arbitration, negotiation, conciliation and mediation. The unit also examines Australian Indigenous Peoples' dispute resolution processes.

There are opportunities to critically analyse disputes and evaluate alternatives to litigation. You may build your capabilities in the art of effective listening and negotiating. These are fundamental bases of ADR. These skills are in high demand across many industries.

Message from the UC:

LAW157 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a highly practical and dynamic unit that equips students with essential skills to resolve conflicts effectively in a variety of contexts. In this unit, students will gain a deep understanding of negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, learning how to apply these methods to real-world disputes.

As the Unit Coordinator, I draw on my own legal career spanning over 20 years in both litigation and ADR to help students see how these principles work in real-life scenarios. We examine contemporary local and global events involving conflict, giving students the opportunity to practice their skills in realistic and timely contexts. With the legal profession growing and moving toward ADR more than ever before, this unit is particularly relevant. We spend time comparing ADR to conventional litigation, exploring the strengths and limitations of each approach. Essential skills that students will develop include active listening, empathy, the use of silence, and negotiation techniques.

Through engaging assessments and case studies, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that are invaluable for their future careers. With ADR growing at an unprecedented rate, this unit offers a unique chance to explore cutting-edge approaches to conflict resolution while preparing for the challenges of modern legal and professional environments.

30%

Assignment

60%

Exam

10%

Online quizzes

Unit Coordinator: *Stephen Janes*
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

36cp in Law or candidature in GCTSP or GDTSP.

About this unit:

This unit provides you with a comprehensive insight into succession law.

You will gain a broad depth of knowledge in the theory and practice of succession law and be introduced to a range of topics related to wills including testamentary succession, testamentary capacity, knowledge and approval, undue influence, formal requirements, revival and revocation and the construction of wills.

Additionally, you will explore distribution on intestacy, grants of administration and the role of executors and administrators, administration of assets and family provision.

Throughout, you will also develop your legal reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Message from the UC:

Succession is about how property passes within families from one generation to the next and the disputes that arise within those families. Today people are dying older and with more wealth. As we die older more issues about our mental competency to make a will emerge. There are more disputes and not just over property but involving matters such as who has the right to bury a loved one. Succession is what most lawyers do as part of busy city, suburban, regional and rural practices. This area is not something you can avoid in your professional or personal lives.

40%

*Viva Voce individual
presentation via
Zoom*

60%

Exam

Succession (continued)

Unit Coordinator: *Stephen Janes*
Credit points: 6

40%

*Viva Voce individual
presentation via
Zoom*

60%

Exam

Student recommendation:

What I liked about this unit was the relevance of succession law, as an area of law that everyone will eventually encounter in their lives making the content both practical and essential. Dr. Stephen Janes' teaching style and expertise were another highlight. His deep knowledge and clear communication made the topics much easier to understand.

I also appreciated the structure for assessments, most people find a viva-voce assessment daunting, I found this form of assessment more suited to me and my style of learning.

The workload for this unit is very reasonable, Dr Janes provides thorough notes for the topics throughout the unit, which encompass the majority of readings required each week, making for a light reading load which can be supplemented further with the textbook if so desired. This is a great unit to do at the same time as one of the heavier Core units

I chose Wills for my assessment topic, which I enjoyed learning more about. I gained a better understanding of an area I was already working in, which was incredibly valuable, as it allowed me to apply the legal concepts directly to my work.

— **Tianaha Willson-Baker**



'I gained a better understanding of an area I was already working in, which was incredibly valuable, as it allowed me to apply the legal concepts directly to my work.'

— **Tianaha Willson-Baker**

Law Experiential Learning

Unit Coordinators: Bronwen Jackman,
Kip Werren, and Skye Charry
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

Permission of Head of School; minimum GPA of 5.0; 72cps in Law.

About this unit:

This unit provides you with an opportunity to refine your knowledge of the law or related policy in a practical setting.

With supervision from an experienced academic and plenty of opportunities to reflect on your experience, you have the choice of a range of practical settings. These include, but are not limited to, internship or partnered research involving an industry, community or government partner, clinical legal work or industry placement, team applied research projects, competitions (for example, client interviewing, negotiations, paper presentations, witness examinations) and editing a law journal.

This experiential learning unit will expose you to networking opportunities and help you to develop a range of key skills and knowledge. This includes legal research, presentation and communications skills, alongside professional ethics, teamwork, bargaining, mediation, writing, time management, planning, problem solving and critical thinking.

Message from the UC:

In this unit it is expected that students will exercise independence, initiative, and flexibility. Experiential learning considers errors as an opportunity for learning and for this reason the process of reflection on the whole learning process is crucial.

The reflective journal represents an opportunity to record and reflect on possible errors or successes and the whole learning process and its outcomes. For the oral presentation students present on an area of interest that arises from their placement. The aim is to produce a quality presentation with a clear argument.

50%

Participation
(assessed by
supervisor)

30%

Written reflective
journal

20%

Oral presentation

Law Experiential Learning (continued)

Unit Coordinators: Bronwen Jackman,
Kip Werren, and Skye Charry
Credit points: 6

Student recommendation:

LAW306 isn't your typical unit. You find a workplace that is willing to have you for 8-10 hours a week or more, you apply to do the subject and then you work for them, fulfilling the duties you have agreed to. If you are working in the industry already you can use your own workplace, but the tasks you do during your placement hours have to be above and beyond your normal role. This can be difficult to maintain for the trimester in your own workplace.

I really enjoyed the research undertakings and the reflection assignment in this unit. You have a broad scope to work with for the research project. Any topic that arises during your work placement could be a viable topic. I liked the freedom and flexibility I had within the unit to explore an area of interest, even though it was a bit of a challenge to pin down my research topic.

This subject doesn't have a study workload. There are no lectures or tutorials for the subject — just the agreed work hours and the two assessments. All assessments are due later in the trimester.

I did my placement at my workplace with UNE Life in Advocacy & Welfare. My duty statement was to research how to establish a Community Legal Centre (CLC) and develop a business case for legal support for UNE students. During the research phase, family law was identified as the most common legal problem, so I did my research project in this area of law because that seemed more interesting than legal centre stuff I was researching for a project. In hindsight, I might have been better off choosing the CLC research I was doing already for the assessment as well.

— Lara Glasson



'This subject has been a wonderful practical experience. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with my supervisor and learned so much. I will not hesitate in recommending this as a subject.'

— **Former student**

50%

Participation
(assessed by
supervisor)

30%

Written reflective
journal

20%

Oral presentation

Unit Coordinator: *Pritam Dey*
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

24cp in Law (including LAW100) and (LAW251 or LAW351) and LAW340; or candidature in LLM and permission of Head of School.

About this unit:

This unit examines the fundamental principles of income tax law, including capital gains. You will gain an understanding of the workings and implications of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and cognate legislation such as the Taxation Administration Act 1953 and the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986.

This unit will help you to understand the complexities of how taxation law operates – including the working of the goods and services tax under A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999. You will also explore the principles of statutory interpretation, while developing your legal research, writing and critical thinking skills to benefit your ongoing professional development.

Message from the UC:

Taxation Law is often a unit students approach with a little hesitation – but it regularly becomes one of the most rewarding subjects they study. What I genuinely enjoy about teaching LAW352 is watching students move from feeling overwhelmed by legislation to confidently navigating the Income Tax Assessment Acts and applying them to practical, real-world problems. There is something very satisfying about that shift in confidence.

Students frequently tell me that, although the unit is challenging, it is also incredibly empowering. Many appreciate the clear structure of the subject and how it strengthens their statutory interpretation, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. By the end of the trimester, students often say they feel more “like a lawyer” because they can systematically break down complex provisions and construct well-reasoned advice.

In assessments, students focus on core income concepts, deductions, capital gains tax, and tax administration issues. There is a strong emphasis on applying legislation and case law to realistic scenarios, as well as understanding the policy foundations of Australia’s tax system. The unit is particularly valuable for those considering commercial practice, accounting or advisory roles, government, or policy work – but it also builds transferable skills that benefit any area of law.

40%
Exam

50%
Exam

10%
Online quiz

Unit Coordinator: TBA
Credit points: 6

40%
Essay

60%
Exam

Co-requisites/Pre-requisites:

None.

About this unit:

As a result of a global interest in sports, both on and off the field, there is a demand for skilled professionals with a practical understanding of sports-related legal matters.

Studying this unit equips you with a specialised knowledge in a range of contemporary legal issues associated with sport, as well as critical thinking skills about policy and society at large.

You will develop advanced knowledge in a range of legal issues relating to sport in Australia, including aspects of international interest. As well as gaining valuable skills in the critical evaluation of how sport and the law interact, you will explore of a range of emerging sports law issues and the future directions governing sports law. Gain a professional edge in a sought-after field.

Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a broad and coherent understanding of the common law principles and the statutes that regulate sports law;
2. critically report and analyse on the current practice and propose future directions governing sports law;
3. use initiative and judgment in identifying issues and applying the principles of sports law to provide persuasive arguments and solutions to fact based problems which feature the competing interests of stakeholders (athletes, regulatory and governing bodies, sponsors); and
4. use research skills to identify, analyse, and clearly communicate arguments relating to sports law to specialist or non-specialist audiences.

Criminal Sentencing & Punishment

*Unit Coordinator: Karthi
Kanagasabapathy
Credit points: 6*

Pre-requisites:

24cp in Law including (LAW100 and LAW161 or LAW162); or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b – Australian); or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b – non-Australian) and LLM533; or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule c) and 24cp including LLM533.

About this unit:

In this unit you will learn about the substantive and procedural law relevant to sentencing and punishment.

You will explore relevant legislation, doctrine and procedural frameworks alongside conceptual, research and policy literature analysing criminal sentencing.

In the framework of theories of crime and punishment, you will also enhance your critical thinking and communication skills by reviewing sentencing and punishment in various contemporary contexts.

Message from the UC:

Sentencing law is the most interesting part of the criminal law process. In the unit we look at not only how we punish but why we punish. We also look at ways we could improve criminal sentencing.

Students have consistently provided feedback regarding this subject. Specifically, students have found the topic “interesting and engaging” and have appreciated the simple learning structure.

We’ll be looking at how judges sentence, we’ll look at black-letter sentencing law, and we’ll be looking at the theories and justifications for our current sentencing law.

50%*Assignment***40%***Exam***10%***Exam*

Unit Coordinator: Karen Conte
Credit points: 6

Pre-requisites:

48cp including LAW100.

About this unit:

This unit provides a comprehensive review of the many issues and perspectives surrounding Children's Law in Australia. The unit focuses on Children's Law as it applies in a variety of legal disciplines including criminal law, family law, care and protection law, international law and employment law.

The unit reviews current perspectives and issues in relation to Children's Law including international conventions relating to children, access to justice, indigenous perspectives and issues, youth justice, child protection, the perspective of "best interests of the child" and "rights of the child" and what they mean, equality, gender identification issues, child asylum and refugee issues and Children's Law issues arising out of religious beliefs.

At the completion of this unit, students will be able to understand and critically analyse issues relating to Children's Law from a legal and social perspective and will have developed a comprehensive knowledge of legal issues which apply to children and which concern children.

Message from the UC:

Children's Law is a unique unit, which I wrote for UNE. It focusses solely on our legal system in Australia as it applies to and effects children. It seems that everyday our news services report something which directly relates to children's law, particularly issues of youth crime. UNE was the first university in Australia to offer a unit entirely dedicated to children's law issues. I love teaching it and I love the interest and enthusiasm our students show when studying it. Some of the topics and issues are very confronting and controversial. The unit allows students to develop both in depth and broad understandings of a range of children's law issues and to hopefully have the knowledge, skills and interest to make a positive difference to the lives of children into the future.

50%*Assignment***50%***Exam*

Local Government Law

Unit Coordinators: *Guy Charlton
and Paul Akon*

Credit points: 6

40%

Assignment

60%

Exam

Pre-requisites:

24cp in Law including LAW100; or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b - Australian); or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule b - non-Australian) and LLM533; or candidature in LLM from 2015 (rule c) and 24cp including LLM533; GEPL335 or GEPL535.

About this unit:

This unit introduces you to the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) to help prepare you for the real world of local government law. You will gain knowledge across a wide range of issues related to the Local Government Act, including the history of local government in New South Wales and council's various functions and accountability. In relation to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, issues covered include development assessment, development consents and managing environmental conflict. Although the unit concentrates on New South Wales legislation, the principles examined in this unit apply Australia-wide.

Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a broad and coherent understanding of principles, practices, and concepts underpinning the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW); and demonstrate a well-developed understanding of how planning issues are dealt with by the courts in applying the contemporary local government and planning laws;
2. use cognitive, technical and creative skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement to identify local government and planning issues; evaluate key case law; and analyse the appropriate principles of local government and planning law;
3. demonstrate a well-developed ability to present coherent arguments based on evidence drawn from a variety of sources regarding the future of local government and planning law in Australia; and
4. communicate coherently and independently an exposition of knowledge and ideas relevant to local government and planning law scenarios in Australia.

TRIMESTER DATES

**FEB
23**

Trimester 1 starts

Monday 23 February

**MAR
2**

Last day to add units

Monday 2 March

**MAR
23**

Census Day

Monday 23 March 2026 — this is the last day to withdraw without financial commitment to pay off the unit

**APR
27**

Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Monday 27 April 2026 — if you withdraw by this date you will avoid 'failing' the unit ('NI' grade = Fail Incomplete), but the unit must still be paid for ('financial penalty')

For students with extenuating circumstances, it may be possible to apply for a fee refund ('remittance'): [Special Circumstances for a Remission](#)

APR

Public Holidays

Good Friday — Friday 3 April 2026

Easter Monday — Monday 6 April 2026

ANZAC Day Holiday — Monday 27 April 2026

TRIMESTER DATES

**MAY
25**

Intensive and Assessment Period starts

Monday 25 May 2026

**MAY
31**

Trimester 1 ends

Sunday 31 May 2026

**JUN
22**

Trimester 2 starts

Monday June 22 2026

**JUN
29**

Last day to add Trimester 2 units

Monday 29 June 2026

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



KIRSTI NUNN
UNELSS TREASURER

On behalf of the University of New England Law Students' Society, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their unwavering support and commitment to shaping the future of legal education.

Your generous contributions have not only empowered us but have also significantly impacted the educational journey of our members. We deeply appreciate the trust you place in us as we strive to cultivate a new generation of aspiring leaders in the legal field.

Once again, thank you for your incredible support and we look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

Kirsti Nunn

Treasurer

Law Students' Society

University of New England

Connect with us!



Web: <https://mylearn.une.edu.au/course/view.php?id=1919>
Email: lss@myune.edu.au



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/unelss>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNELawStudents>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unelawstudentsociety/>