

How to

SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN YOUR FIRST YEAR



Everything you need in first year law,
and more

BY THE UNE LAW
STUDENTS' SOCIETY

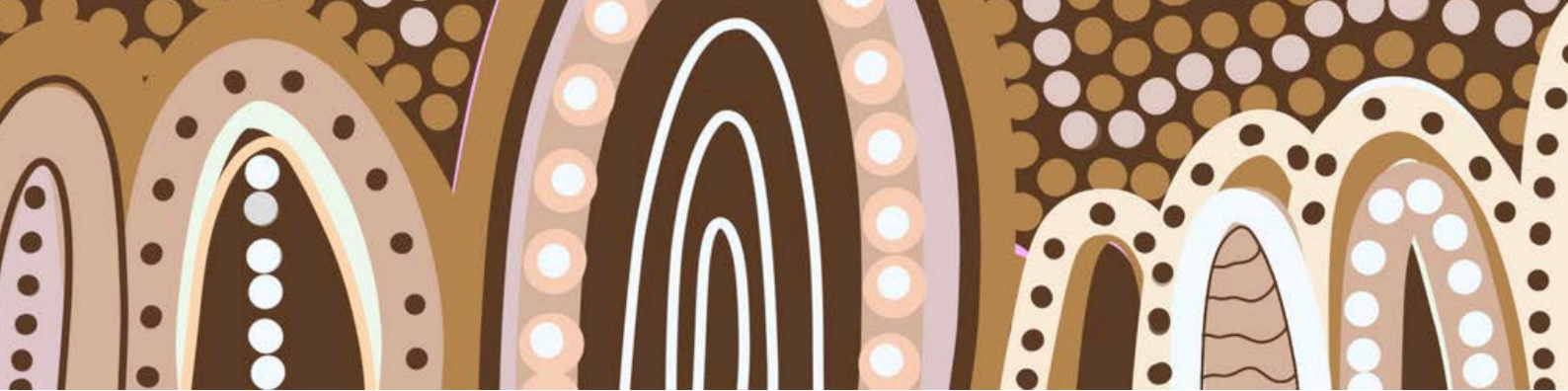


Contents

Acknowledgment of Country and Oorala Aboriginal Centre	Page 4
LSS President's Welcome	Page 5
About the Law Students' Society (LSS)	Page 6
Meet the LSS Committee	Page 7
Meet Professor Mark Perry: Head of Law School	Page 8
Meet Associate Professor Dr Skye Charry: Course Coordinator	Page 9
Key Resources	Page 10
United Services Union	Page 11
Help is on the way: getting support during your studies	
Meet Nola Holmes: First Year and Academic Advisor	Page 13
Peer Assisted Study Sessions and Peer Academic Mentoring	Page 14
Referencing for Law: Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC4)	Page 15
Study Support Resources	Page 16
Applying for Extensions and Special Consideration	Page 17
Contacting Academic Staff	Page 18
College of Law: How to Take Notes in Law Lectures	Page 20
Building an incredible degree: making the most of UNE law	
Course Plans	Page 22
Honours in Law	Page 23
Top Tips from UNE Law Students	Page 27
Advice from UNE Unit Coordinators: Common Mistakes and how to Avoid them	Page 28
NSW Law Society: Membership Information	Page 30

Contents Continued

First year units: the foundation of your law degree	
First Year Law Units Overview	Page 32
LSU100: Introduction to Legal Studies	Page 33
LAW157: Alternative Dispute Resolution	Page 34
LAW172: Contract Law	Page 35
LAW162: Criminal Law	Page 37
LAW100: Foundations of Law	Page 39
LAW164: Law and First Peoples of Australia	Page 41
LAW101: Law in Context	Page 42
LAW102: Legal Professional Skills	Page 44
LAW131: Torts Law	Page 45
Gilbert + Tobin Opportunity	Page 47
Good luck	
Thank you from the UNELSS Treasurer	Page 49
Thank you from the Sponsorship Director	Page 50
Thank you from the Publications Director	Page 51



Art by: Bigi Nagala

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of New England Law Students' Society respects and acknowledges that our domestic students live, work and learn on Aboriginal land, and are surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture and knowledge systems. The UNE Law Students' Society values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

Whose Country am I on?

For information about the Country you are living and studying on, [The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#) provides guidance, as well as an interactive map that shows the breadth of traditional owners across Australia and the Torres Strait.

Deadly study advice: The Oorala Aboriginal Centre

For over 35 years, the Oorala Aboriginal Centre has offered services, programs and facilities of a nationally recognised standard to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have chosen to study at UNE. The Oorala team offer support with everything from course information, to tutoring, scholarships, and more.

Reach out the Oorala Student Experience team to find out more on 02 6773 3034 or ooralasupport@une.edu.au

JORDANNA D'CRUZ

Welcome from UNE Law Students' Society President

Dear Law Freshies!

My name is Jordanna, and I am the 2024 UNELSS President. I wish you all a very warm welcome to UNE Law School. I am thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of future legal professionals.



UNELSS is the ultimate student-run club that has got your back throughout your law degree journey. Throughout the year, we organise a diverse range of engaging programs and events tailored to your needs - from publishing comprehensive guides to help you navigate each stage of your degree, to hosting invaluable career and networking opportunities with legal professionals. We also prioritize your academic development through innovative offerings like our award-winning AGLC4 Workshop.

Of course, law school is not all work and no play! UNELSS brings law students together through social events like our renowned annual UNE Law Ball, which will take place right here in Armidale in 2024. It's a wonderful opportunity to forge connections with your peers.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of the 2024 UNELSS Committee. This incredible team has worked relentlessly to curate an exceptional experience for all our members. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors and our members, whose support allows us to provide these resources.

As you embark on this transformative journey, I encourage you to get involved with UNELSS. Staying connected will provide a vital support system, invaluable insights, and opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

For those of you that made it to the end of this little spiel, here's my hot tip to surviving law school - cultivate connections. The relationships you build now can become a valuable network for support, study groups, and future career opportunities. Do not underestimate the importance of your peers.

Sincerely,
Jordanna D'Cruz
2024 UNELSS President

UNE LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Supporting Law Students at UNE Since 2010

The UNE Law Students' Society (LSS) aims to provide services to UNE law students, on and off campus. We host academic and social events throughout the year to supplement students' legal education. The LSS has a strong and interactive relationship with the UNE School of Law, working with staff, the school, and the student body. [Visit our website here.](#)



Did you know?

Joining the law students' society offers many benefits ranging from networking opportunities and social engagement to skill development and academic support. By actively participating in your law society, you can enrich your university experience and lay a strong foundation for future success in the legal field.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all students studying law at the University of New England. Membership costs \$15 for the life of your degree and offers various benefits including discounted event tickets, merchandise deals, communications and updates, eligibility for academic competitions, and access to LSS facilities on-campus. Membership applications are processed using the UNE Clubs & Societies UniOne platform. [Join here.](#)

MEET THE 2024 UNELSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



President
Jordanna D'cruz



Vice-President
Koady Williams



Secretary
Megan Cetinic



Treasurer
Stephanie Hupfeld



Careers Director
(interim)
Stewart Cowie



**Communications &
Social Media Director**
Madeline Allen



Competitions Director
Cassie Mitchell



Events Director
Tianaha Willson-Baker



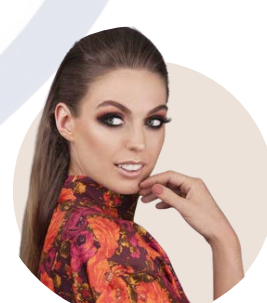
**Publications
Director**
Victoria Vivente



**Social Justice and
Equity Director**
Evelyn Raso



**Sponsorship
Director**
Samira Tabbat



**Student Affairs
Director**
Alana Carter



Standing Executive Member



Executive Committee

MEET PROFESSOR MARK PERRY

Head of Law School

Teaching Areas:

LAW377 - Information Technology Law

LAW331 - Intellectual Property Law

LLM537 - Innovation Law

LLM538 - Biotechnology Law

LLM500 - Research Methodology and Theory



LLB (Hons), MJur (Dist), DipCS,
CertComp S/A, Barrister and
Solicitor LSO (LSUC)

**Emeritus Professor (Computer Science
and Law) UWO Canada**

Welcome to the University of New England's School of Law! All of us here are delighted to have you join our vibrant academic community. As you embark on this exciting journey, you will find a wealth of opportunities to explore and grow in the dynamic field of law.

As Head of School, with an extensive background that uniquely combines expertise in both law and computer science, I hope to generate an environment that can prepare all students for the rapid changes facing our society, many of which need a deep understanding of law and our legal systems. I joined UNE as a law professor in 2012, but also serve as Emeritus Professor at the University of Western Ontario in Canada and a Barrister and Solicitor at the Law Society of Upper Canada. My background has involved living in the UK, France, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia, taking various positions in engineering, software development, and, of course, law. My academic research primarily focuses on the intersection of law and technology, with particular emphasis on intellectual property rights, innovation, licensing, and biotechnology regulation. Earlier pioneering research involved areas such as material transfer agreements, the patenting of lifeforms, and the integration of advanced information technology into legal frameworks. There were groundbreaking studies on integrating legal externalities into autonomic computing systems, pattern languages of programming, and Ethical, Environmental, Legal, and Social Issues Related to Genomics (in particular the DNA of spidermites). Here at UNE I have had diverse roles, including the Chair of the Academic Board, a member of the governing Council, and as a key supporter of various university committees.

Located in the picturesque region outside Armidale, NSW, our campus offers a stimulating environment for your studies, whether you attend in person or remotely or a blend of both. This is a friendly place, whether you come to the real or virtual, so feel free to contact anyone in the School of Law. We encourage you to take advantage of the resources and support available to you, engage actively with your peers and faculty, and immerse yourself in the diverse array of academic and extracurricular activities offered here at UNE.

Once again, welcome to the UNE School of Law. I look forward to witnessing your academic and professional growth over the coming years.

MEET DOCTOR SKYE CHARRY

*Associate Professor &
Course Coordinator*

Teaching Areas:

*LAW102 - Legal Professional Skills
LAW365/LLM565 - Gender and the Law
Legal Systems and Methods
Sex Discrimination Law
Legal Ethics*



LLB (University of Canberra), Grad
Dip Legal Practice (Merit) (ANU),
PhD (University of Canberra), Legal
Practitioner (NSW)

Dr Skye Charry is an Associate Professor in the School of Law at the University of New England and is a recognised expert in the field of sex discrimination law. Skye has been researching, presenting and consulting on issues of workplace sexual harassment for more than a decade. Her work 'Whispers from the Bush- The Workplace Sexual Harassment of Australian Rural Women' (2015) is the first Australian research on the complex issue of sexual harassment in rural and remote workplaces. In 2017 the Victorian Women's Trust produced a short documentary film called 'Grace Under Fire' which is based on Skye's research on sexual harassment in rural workplaces. In both 2018 and 2019, Skye was a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62 and CSW63) in New York with the YWCA Australia. Skye was also recently awarded the Chancellor's Distinguished Young Alumni Award (University of Canberra). Skye also practises law as Special Counsel on Sex Discrimination matters, is an Honorary Associate Professor at the Australian National University College of Law and is the Vice President of the YWCA Canberra. She is currently researching for her new book project, 'Defying Gravity- Rising Above Sex Discrimination in the Workplace'.

In her work, Skye strives to ignite the inherent empathy and perception in both men and women as a central part of her mission to disrupt sex discrimination in the workplace.

Skye has a special interest in sex discrimination law, particularly workplace sexual harassment. Her monograph 'Whispers from the Bush- The Workplace Sexual Harassment of Australian Rural Women', is the first Australian research on the topic of sexual harassment in the relatively isolated rural context.

KEY RESOURCES

As a law student, you are now expected to be self-motivated in staying up-to-date on law school information and your obligations as a law student. Here are some key resources you will want to be checking regularly.

UNE Law School website:

This contains news, resources, staff details, and Law School contact information. [Access the website here.](#)

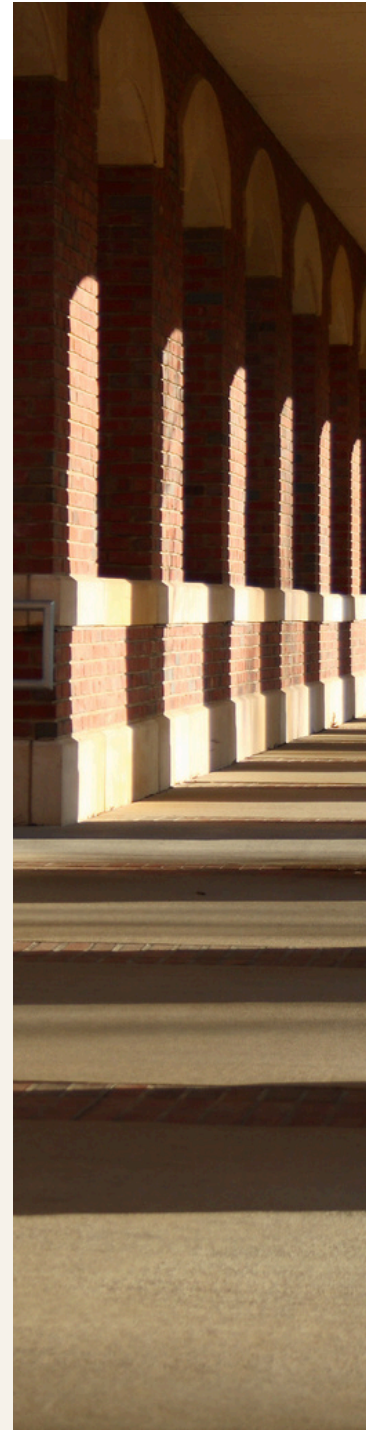
Law School Student Essentials

This document is 'essential' reading, *every trimester*. It contains the most current information on unit offerings, academic integrity - including Artificial Intelligence, checklists, and progression. It also summarises the UNE marking rubric, assessment types, and provides details of a range of support services. The essentials document has been carefully created to give students the best opportunity to succeed in their studies. [Access the document here.](#)

School of Law Student Resources

This webpage has links to the Law School Student Essentials, Law Skills Hub, AGLC4, Academic Integrity module (AIRLI), and IT support information. [Access the website here.](#)

To show respect to the academic and support staff at UNE, it is recommended that these resources are accessed first before raising a question. Law graduates are regarded as having a strong sense of initiative and good problem solving skills. Do what you can to practice these skills as soon as possible.



By your side

UNITED
**SERVICES
UNION**



office-manager
receptionist junior-lawyer
associate litigator
researcher law paralegal director
lawyer solicitor
counsel
clerk
legal-assistant conveyancer
law-student graduate student
partner
in-house legal-secretary
barrister
senior-associate

the Union for Legal Professionals

- Free CPD Courses
- Industry-wide network
- Individual support & representation
- Security for your professional future
- Insurance for your commute



Contact your organiser Peter on 0417 420 924

Authorised by Graeme Kelly OAM, United Services Union, Level 7, 321 Pitt St Sydney

Help is on the way

*Getting support during
your studies*



MEET NOLA HOLMES

First Year and Academic Advisor

'No students achieve their best results working in isolation. Participate and engage with tutorials, UNE resources/support, and each other.'

'The wisest people are the ones who know to reach out and ask for help.'

- Nola



DipT(WIE), BA(UNE),
GradCertTEFLA(Camb.UK),
MPHC(Flinders), MBA(SCU), JP.

Phone: +61 02 6773 2181

Email: nola.holmes@une.edu.au

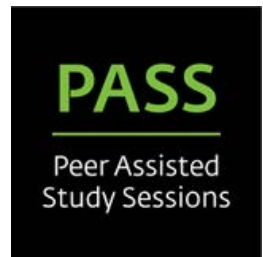
Meet your First Year and Academic Advisor in the School of Law.

Nola assists undergraduate Law School students across all units with discipline-specific academic requirements (including legal skills and assessments), strategies for success and 'being a Law School student'. Nola has extensive management and consultancy experience in both the private and public sectors in Australia and Hong Kong/China and has previously been a consultant, lecturer, teacher and advisor for universities, vocational colleges, and secondary schools in both countries. She is well-placed to assist Law School students transitioning into and through university study at UNE.

OTHER CONTACTS

UNE EXAMS TEAM	STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY
Issues with your exam timetable, or issues on the day of your exam? Contact the Exams & eAssessment team via AskUNE or phone 02 6773 2145.	The Student Accessibility & Wellbeing Office (SAWO) supports students to overcome barriers to their university studies. Contact SAWO via 02 6773 2897 or accessinclusion@une.edu.au .
STUDENT ADVOCACY & WELFARE	THE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (CAPS)
Whether it's navigating academic challenges or seeking assistance with tax matters, Student Advocacy is an independent team available to help. Contact Student Advocacy via 02 6773 3116 or advocacy@une.edu.au .	CAPS provides a safe space for enrolled students to access one on one support to help navigate personal issues that are impacting your studies and improve your mental wellbeing. Contact CAPS via Call 02 6773 2897 or studentcounselling@une.edu.au .

PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS



LSU100, LAW100, LAW101, LAW102, LAW131, LAW162, LAW172, & LAW283

PASS@UNE are peer-facilitated study sessions designed to assist students in specific courses. The sessions are led by students who have successfully completed the course, providing an opportunity for students currently studying the unit to gain a better understanding of course concepts, work on practice problems, and develop study skills.

PASS@UNE is held online via Zoom. The sessions are open to all students enrolled in the units that offer PASS, and are attended on a voluntary basis. As sessions are delivered online, students can join from any location and meet with students in their unit and cohort.

The PASS Leader will not re-teach content. Instead, they offer strategies and tips they found useful to achieve success in the unit. PASS@UNE sessions start in Week 2 and run weekly throughout the trimester. Keep an eye out for our PASS@UNE leaders who will introduce themselves within your subject via forums, with your Unit Coordinator, or in lectures/tutorials, or through PASS@UNE on myLearn.

New in 2024 - Introducing Peer Academic Mentoring

Peer Academic Mentoring (PAM) is available to all law students in any unit and year. PAM provides students with a real-time, one-on-one conversation with an experienced student throughout the week, including on weekends. PAM mentors offer personalised guidance on using different UNE student resources and can help you manage study challenges. You can book with general mentors, or a law specific mentor. This service is great if you are feeling isolated or not sure where to go to get help with something at UNE. PAM mentors are often also PASS leaders, so you might see a familiar face.

You can check out booking times and PAM mentors by searching "Peer Assistance" on the UNE website, or clicking [here](#).



Victoria Vivente
PAM Mentor & PASS Leader

'Both PAM and PASS are great ways to get support from your peers. PASS provides a group study environment where you can connect with other students and check your knowledge. PAM is one-on-one, and perfect if you have a question about anything uni related and you're not sure where to go to get the answer. PAM mentors and PASS leaders love what they do.'

REFERENCING FOR LAW

The Australian Guide to Legal Citation

Referencing is an essential academic skill. In law, referencing serves two purposes; it supports your arguments by giving appropriate legal authority (judicial decision or legislative provision); and it also gives credit to the work of others that you have relied on in preparing your work.

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the works of other scholars. Referencing allows your readers to understand where your argument or opinion fits into the broader academic discussion, see that you are writing from an informed position with evidence and support for your claims, and search for the source themselves if they wish to pursue that idea further. Any work you submit for assessment must be referenced in accordance with UNE standards. The School of Law has adopted the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (4th ed), Melbourne University Law Review Association Inc., Melbourne, 2018, as the standard for referencing in law assessments.

You should access more information online and the full version of the AGLC style at [AGLC4](#).

AGLC4 WORKSHOP

Hosted by the UNELSS, this event is designed to unravel the complexities of the AGLC4 referencing system. Whether you are new to law or looking to refine your referencing skills, this workshop is for you. Do not miss out on the opportunity to master the finer details of AGLC4. Ensure your academic work stands out with impeccable referencing. Register and elevate your referencing game!



“ Samira Tabbitt
UNELSS Sponsorship Director

Attending an AGLC4 workshop can be highly beneficial for anyone who wants to excel in legal writing, research, or academic pursuits where accurate citation of legal sources is required.

The AGLC4 workshop has helped me understand the nuances of legal citations, including how to cite cases, legislation, treaties, and other legal materials accurately. Proper referencing is crucial in academic and professional settings to avoid plagiarism and give credit to original authors. By attending the AGLC4 workshop, I have learnt how to reference legal sources correctly, thereby upholding academic integrity. This skill is essential for conducting thorough legal research and writing scholarly papers.

DOING WELL IN EVERY STEP OF YOUR STUDIES

Helping you improve your study skills

Law Skills Hub

The Law Skills Hub is the first port of call for law student support. It provides you with centralised resources for basic skills required to be a 'Law student'. Grouped into categories, including writing, studying, exam prep, referencing and research, Law Skills Hub provides multiple layers of assistance from general summaries to videos, exercises, PowerPoint presentations, book and other extracts.

The Academic Skills Office

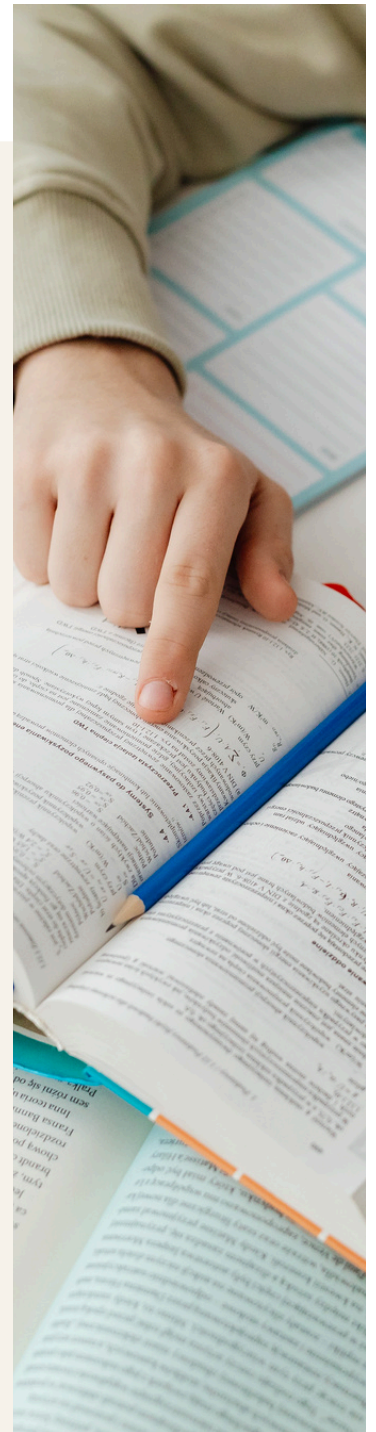
The Academic Skills Office (ASO) is a non-discipline specific tool that can help you succeed in your studies. ASO can be accessed through the first tile in the Law Skills Hub: 'Study Skills – General'. The ASO provides a range of free services and resources including study skills and assignment writing.

Student Support

The Student Engagement Officers provide referral information regarding UNE student supports and services, as well as external services. They can help with enquiries involving sensitive and confidential matters that may be impacting your academic goals, such as ongoing health/disability conditions, carer responsibilities, work-related issues, elite athletes and much more. A Study Access Plan (SAP) may be possible to help you. They can also assist you with university processes, such as Academic Progression Advice and any Intervention Conditions, by working with you on your goals and support needs.

Need to talk to someone now?

**Urgent mental health support line available 24/7
call **1300 661 927** or text **0488 884 169****



WHEN THINGS DON'T GO TO PLAN

Applying for extensions and special consideration

Many UNE students are fantastic multi-taskers. We study, work, volunteer, raise children, and much more. Unfortunately, things do not always go to plan and there are times where something unexpected happens, or life throws us in the deep end. It is important to remember that UNE can support us during these times to assist us in pushing through and completing our units. Knowing how to access this support is the most crucial step in the process and while we all hope we will never need to apply for an extension or special consideration, it may be unavoidable.

Extensions

If you are unable to submit an assignment by the due date and meet the requirements, you can apply for a 7-day extension without supporting documentation (although it may be requested). Your request can be submitted via the [UNE extension application portal](#).

If you require more than 7 days, UNE requires supporting documentation. This includes signed medical certificates, a letter from your employer, a statutory declaration, or other supporting evidence such as a police report. Your request can be submitted via the [UNE extension application portal](#).

For more information on extensions, visit the [UNE Law School Assignment Extension Policy](#) page.

Special consideration

If you experience unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances which negatively impacted your performance in an examination or assessment, you may be eligible to apply for special consideration. Special consideration may be taken into account during marking for a maximum of 3% of your final grade. You can apply for special consideration using the [Special Assessment Application](#) form, which must be received within 5 working days of your last exam. Your application must be supported by relevant supporting documentation, such as a medical certificate.

You can also use this link to apply for a deferred exam/assessment, special extension of time on an assessment, a supplementary assessment and withdrawal without failure.

For more information on special consideration, visit the [UNE Applying for Special Consideration](#) page.

CONTACTING ACADEMIC STAFF

Best practice when asking for help or feedback

When contacting academic staff, including by email or on MyLearn, it's important to remember that your professional reputation starts in law school. Under the Legal Profession Uniform Law Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules 2015 (NSW), rule 4.1.2 provides that a fundamental ethical duty of a solicitor includes to 'be honest and courteous in all dealings in the course of legal practice'.

Best practice tips

- Check topic tiles, all unit information, and other UNE sites, before asking on MyLearn.
- Always be courteous and polite in your communications.
- Be patient when waiting for a response.
- When emailing staff, include your student number, unit code, and phone number.
- Always use your @myune.edu.au email address.

ASKING FOR FEEDBACK




Sometimes, you'll receive a mark on an assignment that you do not believe reflects how you met the marking criteria. Before you submit a formal appeal, you should seek extra feedback from your unit co-ordinator, and it is important to do this the right way. It is expected that you will have considered the feedback provided, given yourself time to think things through, and actively compared your paper to the marking criteria. It's recommended that you do not seek extra feedback for a *minimum* of 48-72 hours, and many UC's will not accept requests before this time. This gives you opportunity to read your feedback at least 2-3 times, and look at the marking criteria with calm analysis. If you would still like to seek feedback, see the example on the next page.

Feedback can be hard to hear but remember that it isn't designed to wound: it's designed to help you do better next time. It's also not a reflection of you as a person or of your worth – it's merely about what you were able to achieve in a task. [More on this here](#).


Remember: your overall performance at University is not determined by one assignment. A much bigger factor is how you learn from mistakes, put into action advice you've been given and how quickly you can bounce back from disappointment.


Dr Kip Werren

EXAMPLE EMAIL

 Send  Discard  Attach File ...

From:

myune.edu.au) 




To:

UNIT COORDINATOR EMAIL ADDRESS

Cc Bcc












Subject:

2202123456 LAW700 - Seeking Assignment Feedback

Priority 

Calibri

11

Dear <unit co-ordinator>,

I am writing to you to ask for your assistance in relation to my ***unit*** assignment, and am hoping to seek extra feedback, including a review of my mark.

I have reviewed my comments multiple times and compared my paper and comments against the marking criteria for the assessment.

***[Here, you should aim to specifically detail where, and how you believe you have engaged with the assessment at a higher level.**

These grounds need to be well-reasoned and detailed, while referring to the actual marking criteria. Your request should not contain critique of the marker's comments – it should instead focus on **how** your paper has engaged with the assessment at a higher level.]*

The grounds on which I am seeking further feedback are:

- In the analysis of fiduciary duty, I received comments that case law analysis was not provided. However, I have provided case law analysis on the next page, including two cases which supported my argument, and a discussion on an alternative case which did not support. I believe this analysis was 'comprehensive consideration of arguments for and against the client's case' as stated in the marking criteria.
- In the analysis of confidential information, I had a comment on my paper that discussion was required on actual knowledge, and constructive knowledge. While I did not use the words 'constructive knowledge', I did include an analysis of the reasonable person in the position of the party test, and footnoted the case law. I believe this analysis is at least a 'good consideration of the elements of each type of relationship of trust' as stated in the marking criteria.
- Finally, I received a 6/10 mark for my referencing and AGLC compliance. I have gone through the referencing and cannot locate the errors, and there are no mark ups or comments on the paper to show where the compliance has not been met.

Could you please let me know if there is anything else you need from me, for you to review the paper? Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,

<your name>
<your phone number>
<your student number>

HOW TO TAKE NOTES IN LAW LECTURES

By the College of Law



Follow these tips to create more effective and organised notes, making your study sessions more efficient and your exam preparation a breeze:

Prepare Ahead

It might sound basic, but preparing before class is crucial. Read the assigned materials and review your previous notes. This sets the stage for what you'll learn next, allowing you to focus on new concepts during the lecture.

Organise Your Notes

Keep your notes organised. Date each entry, give lectures clear titles, and use subtitles when needed. Avoid writing on random pieces of paper; instead, use a dedicated notebook or folder on your laptop to keep everything in one place.

Choose Your Method

Whether you prefer typing or writing by hand, stick to what works best for you. Handwriting can help you be more selective about what you note down and stay focused. Avoid distractions by staying away from your laptop during class.

Be Selective

You don't need to write down every word the lecturer says. Focus on key points and concepts you're not familiar with. Look out for emphasis, repetition, definitions, and anything written on the board. These are usually indicators of important information.

Abbreviate Wisely

Use abbreviations to speed up your note-taking. Make sure they're meaningful to you and consistent throughout. For example, use "HCA" for High Court of Australia or "SC" for Supreme Court.

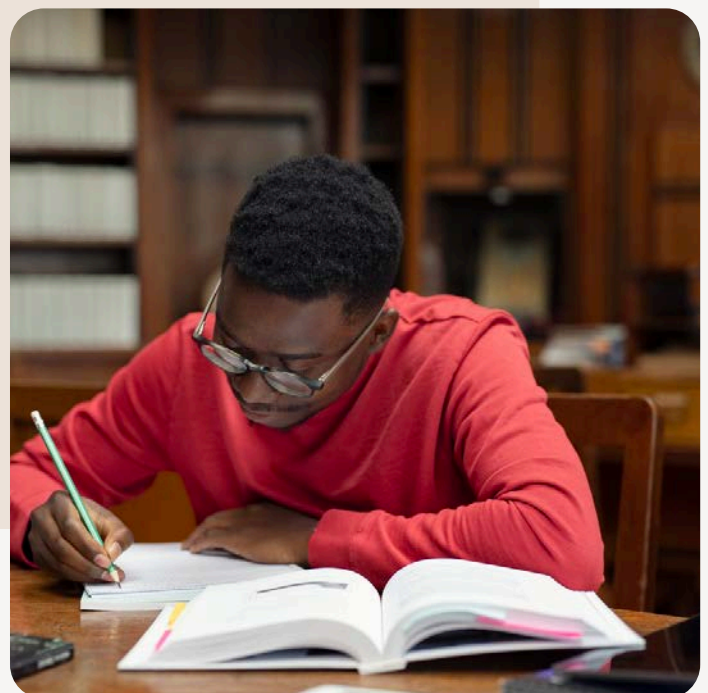
Review Within 24 Hours

Type up your notes within a day of the lecture. This helps reinforce your memory and understanding of the material. Studies suggest that reviewing within 24 hours can help you remember up to 80% of the information.

By following these tips, you'll be able to create more effective and organised notes, making your study sessions more efficient and your exam preparation a breeze.

Building an incredible degree

*Making the most of
UNE law*



COURSE PLANS

Law, Legal and Paralegal

Bachelor of Laws (3 Years)

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

Bachelor of Laws (4 Years)

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

Please note: You may need to be flexible around Course Plans as there are many competing factors in 'being a student'. Forward planning is essential as not all units are offered every trimester, so some jigsaw planning/swapping of units may be needed. To help with forward planning, students should consult the 'Law School Unit Offerings' site [Law School Unit Offerings - University of New England \(UNE\)](#) for the current and next year for both Core and Listed units.

Bachelor of Legal Studies

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

Advanced Diploma of Paralegal Studies

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

Diploma of Paralegal Studies

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

Undergraduate Certificate in Paralegal Studies

Commencing Trimester 1 2024

Commencing Trimester 2 2024

Commencing Trimester 3 2024

For more information regarding courses, please contact the course progression team through ASK UNE.

HONOURS IN LAW

Have You Thought About Undertaking Honours?



With an honours law degree you can access career opportunities both inside and outside law firms. Through this program, you develop critical thinking abilities, problem-solving skills, effective research techniques, and refined communication capabilities. These skills are highly transferable and can lead to personal growth and professional success in any career.

Students who complete Honours graduate with an 'Honours' degree. It can be a great way to differentiate yourself from other candidates. It is also a fantastic opportunity to do a 'deep dive' into a topic that you are interested in or passionate about.

In Law, Honours is embedded in the degree, which means that students can graduate with Honours without additional time studying. LAW490, Honours in LAW, is a double unit completed over trimesters 1 and 2. The main assessment item is a 10,000-word thesis based on a research project that you develop with the aid of an academic supervisor. An Honours degree is a great way to demonstrate that you are a high achiever, capable of advanced research and high-end critical analysis as well as being capable of managing a demanding project over eight months'. It sends a strong signal to employers of your advanced-level skills.

Students thinking about undertaking Honours should read the information in the 'Honours in Law' tile in the Law Skills Hub and read the sample theses provided by past students. Students should also plan their degrees carefully, as undertaking Honours means that you will have fewer listed units available. The core requirements of Honours are LAW490 and LLM500, and these will replace 18 cp, (three standard units) of your listed units in your degree. If you have further questions about what is involved in Honours, contact the Unit Coordinator, Michelle Edgely medgely@une.edu.au. If you have questions about the process of applying or your eligibility, contact the Law School's Academic Manager, Katherine Johnson kjohnson@une.edu.au.

WATCH THE INFORMATION SESSION HERE

PAST HONOURS STUDENT

Simone Cameron



Simone Cameron is currently a Solicitor at the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service in Brisbane and completed Honours at UNE in November 2021.

Simone's thesis explored the political justification for the repeal of Medevac legislation. The legislation had previously enabled asylum seekers to be transferred from offshore processing centres to Australia for medical treatment. The issue that underpinned her research was the language used by politicians in Federal Parliament to justify repealing legislation. Simone had originally planned to research the personal powers bestowed upon the Minister for Immigration through the Migration Act 1958 (Cth). The challenging and topical research being done on the Medevac legislation at the time persuaded her to change her topic.

"The chance to dig down into a topic of my own choice, over the course of a year, was really satisfying"

Simone chose to do honours as she felt she had not done enough independent research in her studies. Simone also felt that Honours would challenge her, and she would learn a lot from the experience. The interactions with her supervisors were a highlight for Simone, and she was lucky enough to have two supervisors to assist her on her journey. One supervisor assisted with the linguistic component, and the other with the law component. The ability to have ongoing discussions with the supervisors about the research, and to receive individualised feedback about her work, made the experience even better.

By completing Honours and focusing on migration law, Simone was able to confirm her strong interest in the area which has provided her with direction in her career. It has also given her an edge in her area of choice as she was able to convey her commitment to migration law and policy to prospective employers.

Simone's advice to students who are considering honours is to not let fear hold you back from signing up. Picking a topic that you are really interested in will keep you on track and engaged as you will spend hours, days, weeks, and months working on your topic. You will need to be mindful of the commitment and streamline your schedule to get the most out of the experience.

CURRENT HONOURS STUDENT

Michael Bamford



Michael Bamford is a LLB student who plans to graduate in December 2024. He is currently a BDM/Account Manager for an IT Company and plans to pursue a career in Commercial/Corporate litigation after graduation.

His thesis will relate to the need for reform in franchising and the ability for courts to imply fiduciary duties in commercial agreements where there is significant power imbalance. He has found that the difference in resources and knowledge in many franchisee/franchisor relationships are vastly different and many of the challenges can be hidden. Michael notes that Australia has relatively poor protections in comparison to countries like the USA, Canada, and New Zealand.

Michael also considered Constitutional law and the applicability of referendums in modern Australia before choosing his thesis topic.

"I enjoy the engagement with my supervisor and being able to 'pull the thread' on the topic and research"

Michael chose to do honours as he really liked the idea of focusing on an area of law that was of interest. He finds the concept of corporate law and the overlap of equitable principles very interesting. These overlaps have been discussed in cases such as *Commercial Bank of Australia Pty Ltd v Amadio*.

Michael notes that while the experience has been a rollercoaster of feelings, the support he has received from his supervisor Professor Michael Adams has been fantastic. Michael chose his supervisor based on his experience in the relevant area. He spoke to previous students who had been taught by Professor Adams and spoke to key lecturers at UNE about who would be the best supervisor for his topic. Michael says the most important thing to have is open communication and the ability to ask your supervisor to challenge you and your position as it develops.

Michael encourages students to find a topic as you read and not to feel like you must have a refined topic or question at the very start. He advises students to take their time and meet with their supervisor at least once a month with a list of questions or discussion points. Lastly, Michael encourages students to reach out to past or current Honours students if they have questions and he is happy to be contacted.

CURRENT HONOURS STUDENT

Hugh Marshall



Hugh Marshall is a LLB student who plans to graduate in December 2024. He has run PASS sessions for the last two years in LAW100, LAW131, LAW162, LAW172, and LAW283. He has also been a PASS Mentor, offering advice to other PASS leaders. Hugh is also part of the Peer Academic Mentoring Program (PAM), which provides 1-on-1 mentoring sessions for UNE students. After graduation, Hugh hopes to combine law practice with some connexion to academia. Eventually he would like to become a barrister and law-school lecturer.

His thesis will revolve around the topic of how a Commonwealth Bill of Rights would impact the balance between the Federal Judiciary and the Federal Parliament, and what the constitutional limitations are on how far that balance can be disturbed. Hugh had originally planned to focus on Torts, Equity, or statutory interpretation. His research in statutory interpretation then morphed into Constitutional interpretation.

"The in-depth study feels much more rewarding"

Hugh has been planning his Honours journey since the beginning of his degree. His goal had always been to attempt Honours if his grades permitted, and he could identify a suitable topic. Hugh says that his greatest delight from Honours is the chance to delve properly into an area of law that interests him and that he considers important.

Hugh believes that completing Honours demonstrates that a graduate has sound research abilities, which can open many doors to potential employment. He notes that students who complete Honours usually differentiate a job candidate from other applicants. Honours also gives students a good grounding in a particular area of law which can make it easier to specialise in a field of choice.

In terms of a supervisor, Hugh was fortunate to receive a recommendation from two lecturers, a close colleague, and a student who had previously done their thesis with the same supervisor. With such unanimity, he says it was an obvious choice.

Hugh's advice to students considering Honours is to start working on your question and research as early as possible. He says that your topic does not have to be revolutionary, however, you will need to have your own view on the topic which is supported by sound arguments and authoritative sources. A thorough understanding of the black-letter law in an area, together with any philosophies or other subjects will assist students in completing their thesis.

TOP TIPS

Thoughts from Fellow Students

How to best study/what methods work best?

- Set/write a plan on what needs to be done.
- Start with readings, read read read!
- Write concise notes after readings and watching lectures.
- Stick to one subject a day to focus on, don't chop and change.
- A study group is a fantastic way to focus and bounce ideas off each other.
- Participate in any extra study sessions ran by other students.
- Silent study sessions over zoom can keep you accountable.

How do you stay motivated?

- Discipline.
- Combine interesting units with core units.
- Focus on your goal of finishing law school.
- Thinking of the people you want to help once you graduate.
- Find ways to enjoy studying.

(the UNELSS offers trivia nights and other social events to bring some fun to your law degree!!)

What's the hardest thing about studying law

- THE READING!!!!
- Sacrifices that are made (financial, social, parenting).
- The hours spent (probably reading)..

What's the most rewarding thing about studying law?

- Friends made while studying.
- Achieving great results while parenting/working is very rewarding.
- Constantly learning and working hard to create work you are proud of.

What do you wish you knew at the beginning of your degree?

- How to write great study notes.
- How expensive textbooks are and where to buy second hand ones.
- The importance of work/life balance.
- What units go well together (this study guide can help with that!).
- The importance of building a community around you as online study can be lonely.



GIVING YOURSELF THE BEST SHOT

Teachers Share Common Mistakes and how to Avoid them

Is there a common mistake that students make, and how can it be avoided?

A common mistake that students make is not sticking to a feasible study schedule and not seeking help early when they encounter difficulties. This can lead to falling behind and becoming overwhelmed. To avoid this, I encourage students to be realistic about their workload and to seek help if they need it. There are many support services available. Being proactive about addressing challenges can make a significant difference.

For example, Nola Holmes, our fantastic First-Year Advisor, is a wealth of knowledge and is extremely supportive and helpful. She is always available for consultations. Reach out; don't suffer in silence if you are experiencing issues. We want you to succeed.- **Dr Wellett Potter**

The common mistake is to assume that they can get high grades by doing little, unable to accept feedback or who expect that teacher gives everything. The purpose of every law school is to provide knowledge and competencies so that the student would be capable in meeting the demands of the legal profession. Being open-minded and to leave behind prejudices or biases are important in creating harmonious relationship with the teaching team and with fellow students. Respect is also a quality that is most essential in fostering a harmonious learning and teaching environment. - **Dr Imelda Deinla**

Yes, failing to manage their anxiety. Learn to manage anxiety – consistent application can really help with this, as can healthy breaks from work and study, so – structure and routine! - **Professor Cameron Moore**



Sometimes students come to the study of law with unrealistic expectations, therefore set realistic goals for your first year as you set out to 'learn the ropes'. In terms of legal professional skills, I often see students write in a manner to which they are not accustomed in an attempt to sound more 'like a lawyer'. This usually does not lead to a discussion which is easy to follow. I suggest students aim for the 3C's: clarity, clarity, concision and correctness. -**Ms Carlie Drew**

A common mistake that I see in first year is that students can get so caught up in the facts that they neglect the law. I think most academic staff will explain to students what they need to do to succeed in their units. My advice would be to listen and follow the program.- **Ms Michelle Edgely**

I'm not sure if there is one that's common to everyone, but one helpful suggestion would be to try to frame your study experience as one of building your skills and knowledge, rather than one where you need to prove you're already on top of everything. We are ALL in a lifelong process of learning and developing (your teachers included). So while, yes, you do need to achieve certain marks to pass and progress in your units, try to focus on the unique opportunity your study presents for you to learn new things. Be kind to yourself and to your fellow students and teachers -

Dr Laura Smith-Khan.

GIVING YOURSELF THE BEST SHOT

Teachers Share Common Mistakes and how to Avoid them

Is there a common mistake that students make, and how can it be avoided?

Yes. I often see first year students who are looking for a way to cut corners; or who want everything done for them, for example, so they don't have to spend the time making their own notes. But this attitude doesn't make for good results and doesn't help aid comprehensive understanding of the law. Nor does it help them develop the skills necessary to work in the law.

I would also say that such students may miss the point of how carefully designed courses are, and this too is a mistake. For example, materials and resources are carefully designed/chosen to provide repeat exposure to essential points of law, which will help students develop an understanding of the law and how it works; and most importantly expose them in different ways to key points of law and legal reasoning.

For example, the lecture provides a high level introduction to the readings; readings in a textbook may cover the same material but in more depth (having listened to the lecture helps know what to focus on); reading case law helps develop understanding of legal reasoning; engaging with problem questions helps apply what has been covered and develops skills needed to give sound legal advice; etc..

Students thus need to understand for example, that the usefulness of lectures is that they are a first exposure to content and are often set up in a way to draw out the key points that students should then focus on in their readings of texts and case law. It is a mistake to think that the lecture can be ignored in favour of just doing the readings; or to think one can successfully complete a law degree without engaging with the materials at all. It is a mistake to think that one is not responsible for one's own learning. I.e., To successfully complete a law degree at university, students need to actively engage in their studies as this will help them learn and develop skills they need for practice. - **Professor Sonia Allen**

You need to keep abreast of your readings and work. It is hard to cram for tests and papers. - **Professor Guy Charlton**



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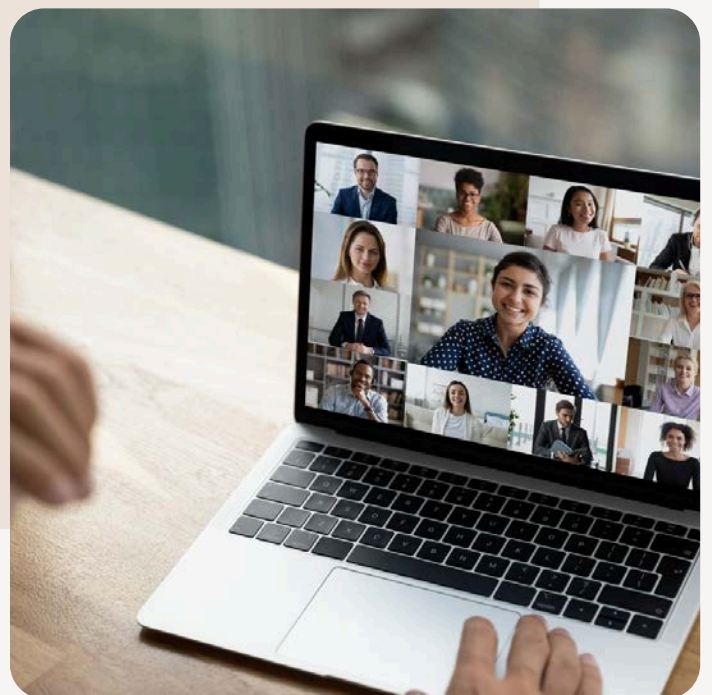
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THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

First year units

*The foundation of your
law degree*



First year units

The early units for students commencing all Courses in the Law School are 100-level units'. These provide foundational knowledge and skills. Depending on which Course you are doing and the trimester you commence, the recommended 100-level units, and their order, will vary. Some are Core units, others are 'Listed/Electives' units in courses. Check your specific Course Plan carefully and/or contact the First Year Adviser, Nola Holmes, for advice.

Here are some of the Law School's 100-level units:

While there are some units that have prerequisites and/or co-requisites, there is no requirement to do the units in numerical order.

LSU100

Introduction to Legal Studies

LAW157

Alternative Dispute Resolution***

LAW172

Contract Law

LAW162

Criminal Law

LAW100

Foundations of Law

LAW164

Law and First Peoples of Australia***

LAW101

Law in Context

LAW102

Legal Professional Skills

LAW131

Torts Law

*** listed (elective) units

LSU100: Introduction to Legal Studies

Core Unit

Unit Coordinators:

René Cornish, Karen Conte



About the unit

An understanding of how the legal system works is a valuable skill for students pursuing a wide range of career outcomes. This unit is suited to non-law students and provides a comprehensive introduction to legal studies, starting you on the path to achieving an understanding of how legal systems operate in Australia and elsewhere.

You will explore the ways in which the law is made, and how law applies in various contemporary contexts. As part of your study, you will also develop introductory level skills in legal research, writing and analysis.

Unit Coordinators

René has a blend of both commercial and academic expertise. She has worked as a researcher fellow in both South African and Australia, lectured various commercial law subjects, and held senior roles in corporate entities.

René's research examines the socio-legal consequences of social media on society, and more particularly, employment law in the Global South context. Much of her research is located at the intersections of technology, social media, employment law, race, visual jurisprudence and marginalised communities. René's primary research interest areas include visual jurisprudence, the semiotics of law and social media as 'witnessing.'

Karen is a lecturer in the Law School at UNE and a practising barrister (since 2007), mediator and arbitrator. Karen practices in the areas of Family Law, Crime, Care and Protection Law and Defamation.

Prior to her life as a lawyer and a lecturer, Karen was a primary school principal and primary school teacher for twenty years. Lecturing in law combines her two passions: the law and education. Karen has a particular interest in all aspects of Children's Law issues and has written this unit of study for the LLB and LLM programs at UNE. Karen is the unit coordinator and lecturer in Introduction to Legal Studies, Professional Conduct and Children's Law units at UNE.

As a teacher, Karen has received a National Excellence in Teaching Award and worked with the 'Project Zero' team at Harvard University. As a barrister, Karen has written and presents the 'Barristers In Schools' program through the NSW Bar Association and NSW Talent Centre, a program she sees as integral in raising up the next generation of outstanding lawyers. Karen also presents on Family Law issues at conferences for practising lawyers. Karen's academic qualifications are: MEd (Administration) (UWS); LLB (Macquarie); BEd (UWS); Dip Legal Practice (College of Law NSW); Dip Teach (Nepean).

Offerings

Trimesters 1, 2, & 3.

Enrolment Rules

None

Assessments

Assignment 1 - 30%

Total No. Words: 1500

Assessment 2:

Forum Participation - 10%

Assessment 3:

Quizzes - 15%

Assessment 4:

Open Book Exam - 45%

Time: 2h 15m



LAW157: Alternative Dispute Resolution

Listed Unit

Unit Coordinator:
Sotirios (Paul) Akon



Offerings

Trimesters 1 & 2.

Enrolment Rules

Restrictions: LS257 or LS357 or candidature in BMediaComm/LLB or BAcc/LLB.

About the 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.

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Assignment - 30%

Total No. Words: 1500

Assessment 2:

Forum Participation - 10%

Assessment 3:

Quizzes - Weight: 15%

Paul Akon

Paul's background is in 35 years of general legal practice in NSW, with an emphasis on litigation. He has worked in the Sydney CBD, suburban Sydney, and regional NSW. He has practised in both the private and public sectors.



Paul has been a lecturer at the School of Law, UNE since 2006. He currently coordinates and lectures in:

- LAW480: Remedies and Advanced Legal Skills (incl Moot)
- LAW157: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- LAW336: Local Government Law
- LAW321: Conveyancing

In the past, Paul has coordinated and lectured in LAW398: The Local Court Internship Program; GSB 749 - The Law of Commercial Associations and LS 281 - Property Law. He has also tutored LS 160 - Criminal Law.

In company with a colleague, Paul successfully supervised an Ag-Law PhD candidate on the pleadings, practice, and procedure of Land and Environment Court. This was for a moot at which The Hon Keith Mason QC presided and assessed as part of the candidate's PhD.

LAW172: Contract Law

Core Unit

Offerings

Trimesters 2 & 3

Enrolment Rules

LAW100 or LLM533

Unit Coordinator:

Dr Laura Smith-Khan



About the unit

In an era of global business transformation and the rise of privatisation, studying Contract Law will equip you with a solid understanding of the journey through a contract, ensuring you have the skills to apply to real-world business scenarios.

This unit examines the legal aspects of obligations arising from agreements or promises and will provide you with a thorough overview of the formation of enforceable contracts, identifying and defining terms, performance, discharge and remedies.

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Assignment – 10%

Total No. Words: 500

Assessment 2:

Assignment – 40%

Total No. Words: 2000

Assessment 3:

Open Book Examination – 50%

Dr Laura Smith-Khan

What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW172? T2 is my first time teaching at UNE so I'm simply excited to see how it goes!

When did you commence teaching? I've been teaching law since 2015 though – before joining UNE this year, I taught law at the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, and the University of Technology Sydney. I've had lots of different experiences – I have taught intensives, lectured and run tutorials in undergraduate and postgraduate units. I've taught across many subjects, online and face-to-face.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? It may feel like everyone else knows what they are doing, but we don't always! Try to ask questions when you don't understand and accept that it will take some time to get the hang of things. You're learning a lot of new skills and that is always going to take time and patience.



What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Both in my personal experience and also something I've identified in my research with law students, one key factor for success is to develop good support networks. Many students find it valuable to connect with other students and form study groups. These can help far beyond the one unit – some will become supports throughout your study and even after graduation, and perhaps even lifelong friends. That's not to say you can't succeed while working on your own – a core practice for all successful students is time management: blocking out regular time to stay on top of your learning and scheduling in key dates and deadlines is crucial.

What units do you teach at UNE? This year I'm teaching Contract Law and Law in Context (LAW101). At other universities I've taught International Human Rights Law; Law, Human Rights and Global Governance; Public International Law; and Ethics Law and Justice. I've also run units to introduce non-lawyers to all areas of the law and to introduce international students from civil law backgrounds to the Australian legal system, case law analysis and statutory interpretation.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be and why? I have two in mind, each drawing on my research expertise. I'd love to develop a migration and refugee law unit. This is a key area of law and with over 50% of our population now born overseas, Australia's migration law affects many of us directly, and the rest indirectly.

My other dream is to develop a unit on law and language. My research has found that there are limited offerings in Australian law schools on language and its impact in law and legal procedures, yet language is fundamental. A colleague and I run an interdisciplinary research network on this topic and offering a unit at UNE would be a great addition to our network's efforts (you can find out more about the network and our work [here](#)).

UNELSS

TRIVIA
NIGHT!

Registrations opening soon

LAW162: Criminal Law

Core Unit

Unit Coordinator:
Michelle Edgely



Offerings

Trimesters 1 & 3.

Enrolment Rules

Co-requisites:
LAW100 or LLM533

About the unit

This unit provides you with a comprehensive introduction to substantive criminal law as well as an introduction to the key elements of criminal procedure. After completing this unit, you will be able to identify the essential elements of an offence and of selected defences and apply the general principles of the criminal law.

You will understand the distinction between substantive and procedural law as well as the procedural framework that applies to criminal law, with opportunities to apply your knowledge and critical thinking skills to analyse a variety of criminal law issues. This unit meets the Priestley requirements for criminal law and procedure.

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Quiz - 10%

Assessment 2:

Assignment - 40%

Total No. Words: 2000

Assessment 3:

Open Book Exam - 50%

Time: 2h 15m

Michelle Edgely



What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW102? Having a background in crime, teaching criminal law now feels like a natural fit. It's an important core unit because the skills developed are so important for students as they travel through the degree and in practice, even if they never work in the criminal law field. And the subject matter – crime and criminal justice – is immensely important. And, frankly, while all legal cases are someone's story, in criminal law the case are compelling.

When did you commence teaching at UNE? 2014 – will be 10 years at start of T3.

What units do you teach at UNE? LAW261 / LLM561 Criminal Procedure, LAW315 / LLM515 Criminal Sentencing and Punishment, LAW314 / LLM514 Advanced Criminal Law, LAW490 Honours in Law, LLM520 LLM Research Topic, and in 2014 I taught LAW100.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? I don't want you to give the Head of School any ideas, but Evidence Law is fascinating, and I taught it at Griffith Uni prior to coming to UNE.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be and why? I think there is a strong case for developing a unit, 'AI and the Law'. AI is permeating information creation and analysis. It is changing commerce and the way we work and play and the legal implications are far-reaching. I don't think I'd be the best person to teach it, but I think the School should investigate whether we could offer something along those lines.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Don't over-enrol in units. Even if you have studied at uni before, law is different and it inherently requires more reading. Follow the program set in the unit. Do the readings, listen to the lectures and attend tutes and you will succeed. Don't look for shortcuts.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Successful students are strategic thinkers. They read and understand the marking criteria for each assessment and they deliver on those criteria.

Successful students are also those who make connections with each other. Online study can be isolating but a lot of students form online study groups and make lasting friendships at uni, even when they live in different states.



LAW100: Foundations of Law

Core Unit

Unit Coordinator:
Dr Wellett Potter



Offerings

Trimesters 1, 2, & 3.

Enrolment Rules

Course dependent - refer to handbook

About the unit

This introductory unit will help you to gain a foundation in contemporary legal knowledge, from how the legal system operates to how the law is made, and its role in our changing society.

You will learn how to find and interpret the principal sources of law as well as apply legal principles to solve problems. Additionally, you will develop your skills in planning, organising and communicating complex material.

Whether you are studying this unit as the first step towards a legal career or to broaden your general knowledge, this unit will help you to develop the knowledge and capabilities necessary to be a successful learner and valuable professional.

Dr Wellett Potter



What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW100? I love meeting our students at UNE - they are the best - and it is incredibly satisfying to accompany them on their learning journeys and watch them grow. Teaching LAW100/LLM533 allows me to engage with students at the very beginning of their legal education, helping them to build a strong foundation and encouraging their interest in the law. Seeing their progress and enthusiasm as they grasp new concepts is truly rewarding.

When did you commence teaching at UNE? I commenced working at UNE over 13 years ago as a sessional academic. I have been a full-time member of staff for two years and have been teaching for over four years.

What units do you teach at UNE? I am currently the Unit Coordinator (UC) for LAW100/LLM533 Foundations of Law. In Trimester 3, I will be the UC for LAW100/LLM533 Foundations of Law and LAW323/LLM523 Intellectual Property Law. Throughout my time at UNE, I have contributed to a wide range of units, being involved in over 24 law units.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? I am really looking forward to Unit Coordinating in LAW323/LLM523 Intellectual Property Law in T3. IP Law is a dynamic and exciting area of the law and it is what my PhD thesis specialised in, (which examined the copyright protection of digitised databases in the fourth industrial era). IP is what most of my legal research focuses on.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be and why? That would be a unit focused on AI and the law (it was not my idea, but I think it is a great one). This is an area that all students need to learn about in-depth, as AI is increasingly influencing various aspects of the legal profession, from legal research and contract analysis to ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks. Understanding AI's impact on the law will be crucial for future lawyers.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? My top piece of advice for first-year students is to approach your studies with humility and a willingness to learn. It's common for new students to enter law school with a strong sense of confidence, believing they already know much about the law. However, the reality of legal education can be quite different, and it's normal to experience a learning curve.

I believe that students should focus on treating their first six months to a year as a vital training ground to learn the skills necessary to effectively study the law. This period is essential for developing the foundational legal study skills and knowledge necessary for your future success. Remember, you need to learn to crawl before you can walk, and walk before you can run a marathon. Be realistic about your position and set achievable goals that emphasise growth and understanding over perfect assessment results.

By adopting this mindset, students will be better prepared to absorb the material and ultimately build a solid foundation for their legal careers. Embrace the learning process, stay open to constructive feedback, and remain persistent. Your efforts and dedication will pay off in the long run. Don't be afraid to ask questions and reach out if needed.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? The most successful students tend to be highly motivated, organised, and resilient. They have a strong work ethic, they watch all the lectures, do all the readings and attend the tutorials and PASS sessions. They accept any constructive feedback, take time to absorb it and then use it to improve their work for next time. Time management is a key skill, and they are able to adapt to new challenges. Another quality is that they demonstrate a willingness to engage with the material beyond what is required, showing curiosity and a deep interest in the subject matter.



LAW164: Law and First Peoples of Australia

Listed Unit

Unit Coordinator:

Associate Professor Guy Charlton



Offerings

Trimester 1

Enrolment Rules

LAW100/LLM533/LS100
and LAW101

About the unit

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.

Assessments

Assignment 1:

Reflective Journal – 30%

Total No. Words: 1000

Assignment 2:

Essay – 60%

Total No. Words: 2000

Assignment 3:

Online Quiz – 10%

Associate Professor Guy Charlton

What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW164? I like teaching Law 164 because it involves an investigation into law (both domestic and international), history, policy, sociology and anthropology. It is important to investigate the underlying legal doctrines and rules by which Australia was settled and how this history continues to impact us today. The law in this area is subject to a lot of misunderstanding and bias, the grappling with these problems in learning this law can assist students in becoming better lawyers and scholars.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Try to take advantage of the privilege you have to go to university, work very hard [law is a different way of thinking], do your reading, [read the cases and statutes], write whenever you can and do not fall behind.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Hard work. Law is not particularly intellectually difficult compared to other disciplines, eg philosophy but there is a lot to know...it is about solving people's problems. Is there a common mistake that students make, and how can it be avoided. You need to keep abreast of your readings and work. It is hard to cram for tests and papers.

What units do you teach at UNE? Law-in-Context, Property, Corporations law, American constitutional law.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? Human Rights.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be? Comparative South Pacific Law, Law and Literature.



LAW101: Law in Context

Core Unit

Unit Coordinators:

Professor Cameron Moore;
Imelda Deinla, Laura Smith-Khan



About the unit

This unit will orientate you into the discipline of law with a comprehensive overview of the historical, jurisprudential, commercial, cultural and global contexts in which Australian law operates today.

To develop your foundational knowledge, you will explore the major trends and influences shaping the future of Australian law and practice.

You will also develop your basic research skills relating to secondary materials, as well as your ability to discuss abstract legal questions through writing an academic essay.

Offerings

Trimesters 1, 2, & 3.

Enrolment Rules

LS101 Restriction

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Research Essay – 35%

Total No. Words: 1750

Assessment 2:

Quizzes – 15%

Assessment 3:

Open Book Exam – 50%

Time: 2h 15m

Professor Cameron Moore

What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW101? The rich diversity and experience of our students.

When did you commence teaching at UNE? 2003.

What units do you teach at UNE? LAW101 and Law of the Sea, plus some research units. I have also taught Environment Law, International Law, Natural Resources Law, Admin Law, LAW 100 and Constitutional Law.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? International or Constitutional, because they are the areas of my expertise.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be and why? Military Law, because I have a lot of experience with it.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Do the reading, ask questions, make friends.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Consistent application.



LAW101: Law in Context

Core Unit

Unit Coordinators:

Professor Cameron Moore;
Imelda Deinla, Laura Smith-Khan



Offerings

Trimesters 1 & 2.

Enrolment Rules

LS101 Restriction

Dr Imelda Deinla



What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW101? LAW101 situates law in its societal context and thus it enables me to connect law to my interdisciplinary roots. It is an area of law that I have extensively researched and published on, and it gives me that privilege to share my knowledge and learn from students. Beyond its black-letter form, the unit presents law in its more concrete and real form and scrutinises its substance. This is the unit that prepares students to develop their critical legal reasoning.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Autonomy, Diligence, Responsibility, and Engagement. It is important to understand that law as a discipline has its particular method and logic of reasoning. Some people may not get it at once, while others have a natural flair for it. Reading the resources especially in its original texts is necessary as you learn how arguments and sentences are constructed and expressed. Legal research and writing are necessary skills to hone for those who aspire to become legal professionals. In an era of rapid technological innovation, law practitioners should not only be technologically adept but should be critical thinkers, first and foremost.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? It would be great to teach International Law, International Criminal Law and Criminology, units that I previously taught in other universities.

When did you commence teaching at UNE? – In T3 in 2023 teaching World Legal Systems and Research Methodology and Theory.

If you could create a new unit, what would it be and why? It would be Violence against Women and the Law. Given that VAW in Australia has reached crisis-level, it would be an important contribution to better understanding and responding to this problem.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Autonomy, Diligence, Responsibility, and Engagement. It is important to understand that law as a discipline has its particular method and logic of reasoning. Some people may not get it at once, while others have a natural flair for it. Reading the resources especially in its original texts is necessary as you learn how arguments and sentences are constructed and expressed. Legal research and writing are necessary skills to hone for those who aspire to become legal professionals. In an era of rapid technological innovation, law practitioners should not only be technologically adept but should be critical thinkers, first and foremost.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Results are consistent for those who possess the qualities above. Those who engage in the content and own up to their own responsibilities in learning – and not those who merely engage to get high distinction or the ‘ropes’ of the exam or assignments, are the ones who also excel in their grades.

LAW102: Legal Professional Skills

Core Unit

Unit Coordinator:

Carlie Drew, Dr Skye Charry



About the unit

This unit provides a thorough introduction to online and database research strategies for primary and secondary legal materials. You will learn how to effectively plan a legal writing project from initial research stage, right through to analysis of materials and written execution. Plus, you will develop your skills in writing persuasively, concisely and in plain English to legal audiences in a variety of contexts

Carlie Drew

What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW102? It is a real joy and privilege to see students enhance their confidence and competence across a broad range of legal professional skills over the course of the trimester. I thrive on being part of the interesting and sometimes robust discussions which take place during tutorials. Convening LAW102 allows me to be creative and innovative in my teaching practice.

When did you commence teaching at UNE? I was appointed as a Lecturer-in-Law in 2022 however I have been working as an academic and marker at the Law School since 2010.

What units do you teach at UNE? I am the Unit Coordinator of LAW102 (Legal Professional Skills) in T2 and T3 2024. I have previously convened LAW102, LAW100 (Foundations of Law) and LAW332 (Industrial Law), as well as law service units.

If you could teach in any other unit, what would it be? Of course, LAW102 is my favourite unit however I am open to all possibilities. I am interested in succession law and alternative dispute resolution, particularly mediation.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students? Dedication, drive and great attention to detail.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? I have more than just one 'top' piece of advice to share with first year students. I encourage students to embrace the learning journey. Studying law is not particularly hard, however it is different to other disciplines, and it takes a good deal of time and dedication. Make a study plan and try to stick to it. A mantra that has stuck with me over the years is: failing to plan, is planning to fail. And be engaged; both with the unit materials and your fellow students. Be kind to yourself; learning to think like a lawyer and write like a lawyer can take some time to master. Don't be afraid to ask questions. And be open and receptive to constructive feedback. I believe self reflection is important in all personal and professional pursuits.

Offerings

Trimesters 1, 2, & 3.

Enrolment Rules

LAW100 or LSU100

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Assignment - 15%

Total No. Words: 800

Assessment 2:

Assignment- 35%

Total No. Words: 1500

Assessment 3:

Assignment - 50%

Total No. Words: 2000



LAW131: Torts Law

Core Unit

Unit Coordinator:

Julia Day, Professor Sonia Allan



Offerings

Trimesters 1 & 3.

Enrolment Rules

LAW100 or LLM533

About the unit

Torts are common law actions for civil wrongs. This unit provides you with a social context of the law of torts and covers negligence including defences, damages, concurrent liability and compensation schemes.

You will consider torts relating to personal, property, and economic interests and their defences. In particular, you will consider the quantum of damages.

This unit will provide you with a good understanding of the black-letter law, whilst incorporating skills-based approaches. You will be encouraged to take a critical view of the law, particularly with regard to current tort reform.

Assessments

Assessment 1:

Assignment – 40%

Total No. Words: 2000

Assessment 2:

Open Book Examination – 60%

Time: 2h 15m

Professor Sonia Allan



What do you enjoy most about teaching LAW131? Tort law is interesting. It is full of different scenarios in which people have suffered injury, or had their rights interfered with. It is also an area that allows for the development of skills regarding legal argument and nuanced legal analysis. How the law is applied and what arguments are made can greatly influence the outcome of a case. It is also a challenging area of law, that requires use of case law and statute, and an understanding of the interplay between them. Finally, it is a dynamic area of law, which means it has changed and developed over time (and continues to do so).

When did you commence teaching at UNE? June 2023. Prior to that I worked at Melbourne University, Deakin University, and Macquarie University over a period of 20 years.

What units do you teach at UNE? I teach Tort law, and the health law units.

What is your top piece of advice to students in their first year? Apply yourself. Understand that learning the law requires work, and that the best way to learn is to be active in your learning – make your own notes, participate in tutorials, practice problem questions, join/create study groups, learn the language of the law. Be guided by your lecturers and tutors, and respectful of their knowledge and skills.

What qualities do you observe in the most successful students?

They engage with their studies. They focus on their learning. They value and engage with the unit material and resources. They put the time in, listen to lectures, do their readings, engage with tutorial activities, and ask questions if they do not understand. I would say additionally that they are humble in knowing (or able to recognise) that they are here to learn, and understand that the people teaching them have completed their degrees and know a lot about the subject(s) they are teaching.

Yes. I often see first year students who are looking for a way to cut corners; or who want everything done for them, for example, so they don't have to spend the time making their own notes. But this attitude doesn't make for good results and doesn't help aid comprehensive understanding of the law. Nor does it help them develop the skills necessary to work in the law.

I would also say that such students may miss the point of how carefully designed courses are, and this too is a mistake. For example, materials and resources are carefully designed/chosen to provide repeat exposure to essential points of law, which will help students develop an understanding of the law and how it works; and most importantly expose them in different ways to key points of law and legal reasoning. For example, the lecture provides a high level introduction to the readings; readings in a textbook may cover the same material but in more depth (having listened to the lecture helps know what to focus on); reading case law helps develop understanding of legal reasoning; engaging with problem questions helps apply what has been covered and develops skills needed to give sound legal advice; etc..

Students thus need to understand for example, that the usefulness of lectures is that they are a first exposure to content and are often set up in a way to draw out the key points that students should then focus on in their readings of texts and case law. It is a mistake to think that the lecture can be ignored in favour of just doing the readings; or to think one can successfully complete a law degree without engaging with the materials at all. It is a mistake to think that one is not responsible for one's own learning. I.e., To successfully complete a law degree at university, students need to actively engage in their studies as this will help them learn and develop skills they need for practice.

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Thank You from the Treasurer

I would like to thank the UNELSS Sponsorship Director, Samira Tabbitt, and the Publications Director, Victoria Vivente, for the hard work that went in to creating this guide. I met both of these incredible women in my first unit, LSU100, in Trimester 1 2021. Their dedication to their studies and helping others succeed is reflected in this guide. I know that many first year students will benefit from reading it, and I hope that you are all inspired to succeed and support others in your law school journey at UNE.



Thank you!

Is there anything you think the UNELSS should cover in the next guide? Please feel free to send me an email with your suggestions.

Stephanie Hupfeld
shupfeld@myune.edu.au

“Law school taught me one thing: how to take two situations that are exactly the same and show how they are different.” - Hart Pomerantz

Thank You from the Sponsorship Director

On behalf of the University of New England Law Students' Society, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors for their invaluable support and commitment to shaping the future of legal education. Your invaluable partnership has played a significant role in facilitating enriching experiences for the members of the society, enabling them to transition smoothly from an academic environment to successful careers in the legal field. We are extremely thankful for your support and look forward to continuing our partnership.



Sincerely,

Samira Tabbit



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By your side



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Student Services
and Amenities Fee
(SSAF)

Thank you

Victoria Vivente
Publications Director

Thank you to the Academic and support staff who so generously gave interviews, provided feedback, and contributed advice to the 2024 guide.



As the newest member of the LSS Executive Committee, I am grateful to the other Directors who have welcomed me with warmth.

This year's guide would not be possible without the tireless efforts of both Samira Tabbitt and Stephanie Hupfeld. Thank you both for your unwavering support on this project.

-Victoria



"Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught." – Sir Winston Churchill