

WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF LAW



# First Year Handbook 2021

With a particular commitment to our community of Greater Western Sydney, we develop high quality law graduates who are critical thinkers engaged with the issues of our world.

Our students develop a deep understanding of justice and ethics through authentic learning that combines real law experiences with critical theory.

Our rich research culture produces rigorous, world-class, impactful research and enhances our student experience.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Western Sydney University acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Greater Western Sydney. As a matter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocol, and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, the University acknowledges the Darug, Gandangarra and Tharawal peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in Greater Western Sydney.

# Dean's Welcome



I am pleased to welcome you to the Western Sydney University School of Law. Western Sydney Law School welcomes you as you begin learning about law and start thinking about what role you may want within the law and legal system. Western Sydney Law School excels in research, teaching and engaging with the community. You will have ample opportunity to connect with the reasons why you chose to study through engaging with the legal profession and thinking about how you can contribute to the community.

As you begin in your study of law it can feel daunting and overwhelming. There are many great supports in place for you to learn effectively and to feel stimulated and interested in your future career. Please do make use of your first year advisor, Sandy Noakes, and peer supports as these people will be some of your best guides in your first year studying law.

The Law School and University are committed to the community in Western Sydney, and to making law fairer for all in the community. In your studies you will be engaged with the community, and learning skills for a technology informed legal practice of the future. I look forward to meeting you in person at one of the events over the year and wish you all the best for your studies.

Professor Anna Cody  
Dean, School of Law

# Hello from the Director of First Year Studies

Welcome! We are very pleased that you are now one of our first year Law students. Your first year of university sometimes can be daunting, and it is our role to support you as much as we can. We organise events for first year students throughout the year and we are always available to answer your queries. This School of Law First Year Handbook should be your first point of call for any questions you have during your first year of study, but if you find that you need further guidance or advice, please feel free to contact us. We might not always have a simple answer, but we will often be able to help with identifying options and helping you feel more confident in the choices you make. On this page is a guide to who you should contact for queries you may have during your time at the School of Law.

<b>Administrative enquiries</b> (e.g. timetabling)	<a href="mailto:lawenquiry@westernsydney.edu.au">lawenquiry@westernsydney.edu.au</a>
<b>Unit enquiries</b>	Refer to the Learning Guide, which includes the contact details for each Unit Coordinator
<b>Course enquiries</b> (unit sequencing, progression to completion, unit selection, transfers etc.)	Refer to the online University Handbook: <a href="http://handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/hbook">handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/hbook</a> and if you still have queries contact <a href="mailto:courseadvice@westernsydney.edu.au">courseadvice@westernsydney.edu.au</a>
<b>Miscellaneous first year enquiries</b> not covered above	Refer to the School of Law First Year Handbook and if you still have queries contact <a href="mailto:firstyearlaw@westernsydney.edu.au">firstyearlaw@westernsydney.edu.au</a>



**Sandy Noakes**  
**Director of First Year Studies**  
Parramatta campus, School of Law  
EK.G.29  
[S.Noakes@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:S.Noakes@westernsydney.edu.au)

# Understanding Our Terminology

You will soon understand the unusual acronyms and terms used at the University, but this new language can be very confusing at the beginning of your studies. Below is a useful guide.

→ **MyWestern** – the main student online portal for everything you need at the University. You can access all our online services (including the Library, your student email account and more).

[westernsydney.edu.au/  
mywestern](http://westernsydney.edu.au/mywestern)

→ **MySR** – a specific site that covers enrolment, adding and removing units, etc. MySR is accessed through MyWestern.

[mysr.westernsydney.edu.au](http://mysr.westernsydney.edu.au)

→ **vUWS** – this stands for ‘virtual UWS’ and is the University’s ‘online learning environment’ accessible through the University homepage or your MyWestern page. Every unit will have a vUWS site which you must access regularly.

[vuws.westernsydney.edu.au](http://vuws.westernsydney.edu.au)

→ **LawvUWS** – this is a vUWS site specifically for Law students. It contains a vast array of information and has a folder exclusively for first year students.

OUR TERM	COMMON TERM
Course	Degree
Unit	Subject
Core	Compulsory
Alternate	Elective
Session	Teaching term; semester
Blended learning	Online activities and face-to-face
WSLSA	Western Sydney Law Students' Association

# GETTING STARTED IN LAW

## CHECK LIST

- Read this Handbook
- Activate Western Sydney email account
- Enrol in your units
- Register for seminars/lectures/tutorials
- Log in to vUWS
- Attend Orientation

### At Orientation:

- Sign up for MATES
- Go on a campus tour
- Meet some of your teachers
- Meet your fellow students
- Visit the Library
- Visit the Moot Court
- Locate your classrooms if applicable
- Join the Law Students' Association
- HAVE FUN

### Before the first week of classes:

- Read the Learning Guides for your units
- Buy all of your textbooks and/or find out if they are available as ebooks through the Library
- Do the preparatory reading for your first classes (check the Learning Guides for this and/or vUWS)

### First week of classes:

- Attend all of your classes with your textbooks, notes, pen and paper/electronic device ready to start work



# Before Session Starts

## 1. GETTING STARTED

If you have not already done so, visit [westernsydney.edu.au/starting](http://westernsydney.edu.au/starting)

This provides a step by step guide to getting started at the University. It explains how to:

- Activate your MyWestern account
- Plan your course
- Calculate your fees
- Get your student ID card
- Enrol in your units and classes
- Check your timetable
- Get prepared for uni to start

## 2. YOUR FIRST YEAR LAW UNITS – A QUICK GUIDE

Western Sydney University offers several different Law courses. Some are combined with another discipline, e.g. Business, and others are straight Law courses. All Law students are required to complete 24 LLB (Law) units, which consists of 16 core LLB units and 8 alternate LLB units. Each specific combined Law course has different additional requirements, which you can find in the University Handbook [handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/hbook](http://handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/hbook).

Below is a quick guide to which Law units you are required to enrol in during your first year.

Please note that all first year students commencing in Autumn semester must study Fundamentals of Australian Law

in Autumn semester and Legal Analysis and Critique in Spring semester. Students cannot study other law Units without taking these 2 Units. If you have any questions about this, please contact [courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au)

### LAW STUDENTS COMMENCING IN AUTUMN SESSION\*

Combined Law Full-Time	Autumn	200977 Fundamentals of Australian Law 200010 Criminal Law Plus 2 non-LLB units from your other degree
	Spring	200978 Legal Analysis and Critique 200008 Torts Plus 2 non-LLB units from your other degree
Combined Law Part-Time	Autumn	200977 Fundamentals of Australian Law 200010 Criminal Law
	Spring	200978 Legal Analysis and Critique 200008 Torts Law
Straight Law Full-Time	Autumn	200977 Fundamentals of Australian Law 200010 Criminal Law 200011 Contracts Law 200020 Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics
	Spring	200978 Legal Analysis and Critique 200008 Torts 200811 Alternative Dispute Resolution 200984 Government and Public Law
Straight Law Part-Time	Autumn	200977 Fundamentals of Australian Law 200010 Criminal Law
	Spring	200978 Legal Analysis and Critique 200008 Torts

\*Students commencing mid-year (Spring) must take Fundamentals of Australian Law, and should contact the Academic Course Advisor ([courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au)) about other Law Units they may take in Spring semester of their first year.

### **3. HOW TO ENROL IN A UNIT**

A step by step explanation of how to enrol in your units and register for your classes is available at [westernsydney.edu.au/starting](http://westernsydney.edu.au/starting)

Before you enrol, you will need to have a University student ID card (available from the Student Central any time after you have accepted the offer).

Students may enrol in units until the end of the second week of session (12 March 2021). After this time, but before HECS census date (31 March 2021) you will need to complete a Rule Waiver Request via eForms (accessible via Western Central) **eforms**.

[westernsydney.edu.au](http://westernsydney.edu.au)

if you want to enrol in a unit.

See also: [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/forms/online\\_forms](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/forms/online_forms)

Students cannot enrol in units after the HECS census date, and you can only withdraw from units if you make a formal application to do so.

### **4. HOW TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS**

Once you have successfully enrolled in your units (e.g. Fundamentals of Australian Law) you will need to register for the specific classes that you will attend (e.g. Monday 9am). This is known as 'Tutorial Registration'. To register for all your classes, go to 2021 Tutorial Registration from the WSU Home Page: [tutorialregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/aplus/student](http://tutorialregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/aplus/student). Or register through MyWestern at [westernsydney.edu.au/mywestern](http://westernsydney.edu.au/mywestern)

If you have an unavoidable timetable clash once your timetable is complete, please email [lawenquiry@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:lawenquiry@westernsydney.edu.au)

### **5. USEFUL APPS**

Consider downloading one of several apps from the App Store which will be useful throughout your Law degree. They include:

- Blackboard Mobile Learn. This is essentially vUWS on your mobile device [westernsydney.edu.au/webservices/ws/uws\\_app\\_-\\_info\\_page](http://westernsydney.edu.au/webservices/ws/uws_app_-_info_page)
- The Australian Constitution [itunes.apple.com/au/app/constitution/id301301300?mt=8](http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/constitution/id301301300?mt=8)
- A law dictionary, such as [lexisnexis.com.au/en-AU/Products/mobile-app.page](http://lexisnexis.com.au/en-AU/Products/mobile-app.page)

- An app for taking and organising notes such as [itunes.apple.com/au/app/evernote/id281796108?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/evernote/id281796108?mt=8) or [itunes.apple.com/au/app/dropbox/id327630330?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/dropbox/id327630330?mt=8)
- An app for accessing documents and ebooks such as [itunes.apple.com/au/app/adobe-reader/id469337564?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/adobe-reader/id469337564?mt=8) and [itunes.apple.com/au/app/bluefire-reader/id394275498?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/bluefire-reader/id394275498?mt=8)

You may also like to follow the Law School on Twitter  
[@Westsydlaw](https://twitter.com/Westsydlaw)

For IT assistance, please contact  
[itserVICEDesk@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:itserVICEDesk@westernsydney.edu.au)

## 6. PREPARING FOR CLASSES

Before the first week of session you should access the vUWS site for each of your units. On vUWS you will find a Learning Guide for each unit, which provides all relevant information about the unit, including reading requirements, assessment tasks and contacts. You should also access the LawvUWS site, which provides helpful information to Law students. There is a First Year folder specifically for first year students with tips for studying Law, details about first year events and other relevant links.

Once you have read the Learning Guide for each of your units, you should purchase the required textbooks. The vUWS site should advise you the best place to buy your textbooks. Some of the common sites recommended are:

- **Booktopia**
- **Zookal**

You might also like to check whether your textbooks are available as ebooks through the Library.

We recommend that you attend a Library tour so you can meet the Law librarians and learn how to borrow a book, print, photocopy, and order an item from another campus. Further information on the University Library is available via the MyWestern portal or [library.westernsydney.edu.au](http://library.westernsydney.edu.au)

If you would like to read something to prepare for the session, the following texts may be useful:

- Michael Brogan and David Spencer, *Becoming a Lawyer: Success at Law School* (Oxford University Press, 3rd ed, 2014)
- Claire Macken, *Law Student Survival Guide: 9 Steps to Law Study Success* (Thomson, 2nd ed, 2010)
- Richard Krever, *Mastering Law Studies and Law Exam Techniques* (LexisNexis, 10th ed, 2019)
- Anthony Marinac et al, *Learning Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed, 2020)
- [survivelaw.com](http://survivelaw.com)

## 7. ORIENTATION

First year Orientation is a wonderful way to meet Law staff and fellow Law students, pick up a few tips about studying Law and let your hair down before you embark on what is a challenging few years ahead. It will also equip you with information about how to successfully manage your transition into university life.

For more information see  
[westernsydney.edu.au/starting/  
orientation](http://westernsydney.edu.au/starting/orientation)

## 8. STUDENTS ENROLLING MID-YEAR

All students enrolling mid-year (Spring) should undertake Fundamentals of Australian Law, which is available for mid-year intake students. Students enrolling mid-year should contact the Academic Course Advisor in relation to the other law Units they should select with Fundamentals of Australian Law.

Email: [courseadvicelaw@  
westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au)



# During Session

## 1. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENTS

### (a) Workload

Studying at university is very different from studying at school. At school you may have been given a lot of direction by your teachers – how to study, what to write, where to go for resources etc. At university you are expected to be an independent learner. This means that the onus is on you to enrol correctly, complete the work for class and to find out what is required for assessment tasks. Some students struggle with this responsibility, but the important thing to remember is that the more you put into your university studies, the more you will get out of them.

In addition to the nature of university study in general, Law is a demanding (and rewarding) degree. It requires reading and synthesising large amounts of often difficult materials. Assessment tasks are designed to challenge you and they will require a significant amount of preparation. Students are expected to spend **at least ten hours a week studying for each unit** – for a full-time course, this represents a forty hour week. These hours are made up of class

attendance, preparing for class (generally in the form of readings) and completing assessments. Given the substantial workload required in order to successfully complete a Law degree, students are strongly advised to keep their non-university commitments to a minimum. We recommend no more than ten hours of non-university work a week. If this is not possible, we recommend that you consider enrolling on a part-time basis.

All Law classes commence in the first week of session. Students are required to attend their scheduled classes and be ready to participate in discussions and take notes. You should bring the Learning Guide for each unit, plus any notes, textbooks or other materials posted on vUWS for the relevant class.

Students in Fundamentals of Australian Law will be required to complete a Module called ‘Communication for Legal Professionals’. As part of this Module, students may be required to attend communications workshops outside of class time. Students need to ensure that they are available to attend these workshops.

### (b) Academic Standards

As a university student your work is expected to comply with universal academic standards. This means that all work must be well researched and thoroughly referenced. The method of referencing legal work is set out in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC). Students can access the current edition of the AGLC here: [law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/aglc/about](http://law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/aglc/about)

Referencing your work adequately is particularly important. A failure to do so may lead to a claim of plagiarism, for which significant penalties may apply – including being permanently excluded from the University. **Plagiarism** involves submitting or presenting work as if it were your own, when in fact, it is not. It also includes submitting the same piece of work for two different units.

Allowing someone to copy from you is also **academic misconduct**. You must not feel pressured to supply a friend with information which you know may get you into trouble. If you are in this position, direct your friend to the strict policies on plagiarism at [westernsydney.edu.au/policy](http://westernsydney.edu.au/policy). Of course, the same thing

applies if you find a USB stick or a printed paper in the library or computer lab. Don't look at it! It is not worth it.

**Collusion** is another form of academic misconduct for which penalties apply. If you have an individual assignment, you may discuss generally with other students what the assignment requires you to do, and how you are going with it. However, it may be regarded as collusion if you have detailed discussions, look at each other's drafts or write the assignment together.

### c) Professional Standards

It is important for lawyers to maintain high standards of professional conduct at all times. University is a good place to practise and develop these professional skills. Students are expected to be polite and courteous in their dealings with members of academic and professional staff, and with other students. This extends to behaviour in class, as well as online.

Prior to emailing any member of staff, you should check to see whether the information you need is already available, for example, in this Handbook,

on the University website, in the Unit Learning Guide or on vUWS. You must always use your student email address to communicate with the University. All emails should contain full student details, including your full name and student number. You should ensure that you address academic staff appropriately (eg Dear Dr, Professor, Ms/Mr) in your email correspondence. Academics and professional staff will not respond to emails which do not follow appropriate email protocol.

Students who participate in online forums of any description (including Discussion Boards on vUWS/study groups on social media) should ensure that they follow the netiquette guide available at: [vuws.westernsydney.edu.au/bbcswebdav/institution/ELearning%20Resources/Global%20Resources/Online%20Netiquette%20Video.mp4](http://vuws.westernsydney.edu.au/bbcswebdav/institution/ELearning%20Resources/Global%20Resources/Online%20Netiquette%20Video.mp4)

Inappropriate conduct in online forums can constitute student misconduct at University:  
[vuws.westernsydney.edu.au/about\\_uws/leadership/governance/student\\_misconduct\\_rule](http://vuws.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/governance/student_misconduct_rule)

### (d) Submitting and Collecting Assignments

To assist students in recognising whether their work is adequately referenced, all written assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via vUWS and Turnitin – online text-matching software that highlights similarities between your text and another text.

In some units, a hard copy of your assignment must also be submitted at the School of Law. Refer to the assessment information for each unit to find out what is required.

Hard copy assignments should be deposited in the lecturer's assignment box or in the after hours chute at the School of Law building of the relevant campus.

Some units will use Trademark, which enables your teachers to mark and comment upon your assignment/essays online. The work will then be returned to you electronically. In other units, your written work will be marked in hard copy and academic staff will hand back your assignments in class. If you do not attend class, your assignment will be placed at the Law reception on each campus for collection.

#### **(e) Sitting Examinations**

Some units will have a mid-session exam, which will usually be held in class time or on a Saturday. Please see your Unit's Learning Guide for more details. Final examinations are held during the formal exam period, which usually commences two weeks after the last week of session. You can find out when the exam period is scheduled, and the exam timetable, via your MyWestern portal [westernsydney.edu.au/mywestern](http://westernsydney.edu.au/mywestern)

#### **(f) Assessment Results**

Marks for assignments will be displayed via the MyGrades page on vUWS. If your mark does not appear, contact the Unit Coordinator for that unit.

Marks for final exams will be included in your overall result, which is released on a set date across the whole University.

If you are unhappy with your results, you should read the feedback on your assignment or in the case of an exam, seek feedback from the Unit Coordinator. Having received the feedback, refer to the Learning Guide and consider how you performed against the criteria

and standards outlined. If you are still dissatisfied, or you feel some error has been made, you may consider seeking a review of your grade. This is NOT a re-mark, it is simply a decision as to whether there has been a mistake in the marking or calculating process.

## **2. WITHDRAWING FROM A UNIT**

Sometimes, first year students find it difficult to cope with the workload of a law degree. This is a marathon-not a sprint. We would rather you succeed in 2 or 3 Units than be disappointed with your results in 4. If you are finding a full load of Units challenging, you might want to consider dropping one. If you do this before 31 March 2021 you will not incur any academic or financial penalty.

You should consult Student Central prior to withdrawing from a Unit, to make sure you follow the correct procedure: [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/student\\_central](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/student_central)

Please note that students commencing in Autumn semester must study Fundamentals

of Australian Law in Autumn semester and Legal Analysis and Critique in Spring semester. You cannot drop these Units and remain in your other law Units.

Students commencing in Spring semester must study Fundamentals of Australian Law, and should seek the advice of the Academic Course Advisor about other Law Units to be studied in Spring. See [courseadviselaw@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadviselaw@westernsydney.edu.au)

## **3. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

One of the best ways to survive and thrive at the University is to become engaged in the activities on offer. Students who make connections with other students feel less isolated and more confident at university, which positively impacts on their studies. The University has a range of support services and initiatives to help students settle into university life. Some of these are run by the School of Law, while others are run by the University and are available to all students.

Below is an outline of what is available.

**(a) MATES**

MATES is a voluntary program which provides first year students with an opportunity to connect with other new students and mentors in later years of study. This helps new students meet and network with other students as well as gain knowledge and skills to settle into life at university.

Every attempt is made to match a participating first year Law student with a later year Law student.

If you would like to request a MATE, register at [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/student\\_welfare\\_services2/mates\\_@\\_western](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/student_welfare_services2/mates_@_western)

**(b) Western Sydney Law Students' Association (WSLSA)**

The WSLSA is an association run by Western Sydney Law students. It hosts various events throughout the year, including practical legal skills workshops, mooting competitions, careers events, industry competitions and socials. The WSLSA has a significant presence within the legal community, both within and outside of the University. Their events are always highly anticipated and very successful.

Membership is voluntary but highly recommended. For more information see:

**[wslsa.com.au](http://wslsa.com.au)  
[facebook.com/  
WesternSydneyLSA](http://facebook.com/WesternSydneyLSA)**

**(c) First Year Law Social Events**

Early in the session the WSLSA organises a function for first year Law students, giving them a chance to meet each other and senior Law students informally. Details will be posted on the LawvUWS site.

Other events are organised during the academic year and we encourage students to attend. Law school is less daunting when you have others to talk to.

**(d) 'At Risk' Program**

This program is designed to identify and make contact with students who may be struggling with the workload of university. During your first session, the first year team will monitor your attendance and your academic results. A senior Law student will then contact students who, through poor attendance or poor marks, appear to be having difficulties. We are concerned for your welfare and we want to help you succeed in your studies.

**(e) LawvUWS – First Year Folder**

LawvUWS is a general School of LawvUWS site, which provides regularly updated information to students about various aspects of their university study. This includes career opportunities and internships, extracurricular activities and social events. This site includes a folder dedicated to first year Law students. It provides information relevant to first year students, including tips for settling in to university study, details about first year events and links to other helpful information.

**(f) Individual Consultation**

Sandy Noakes, School of Law, First Year Advisor, is available for individual consultation with first year Law students by phone, email or face to face. Contact [s.noakes@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:s.noakes@westernsydney.edu.au)

**(g) Academic Workshops and Programs**

If you do not feel confident that your previous studies have adequately prepared you for studying at university, some free academic preparation programs are available through the University. There are also several workshops held throughout the year to assist you with academic reading, writing and researching,

as well as assistance with the University's computer systems.

Face-to-face workshops are available for academic literacy and grammar.

A series of online workshops are also available including:

- Online writing and literacy support (Library Study Smart) at [westernsydney.edu.au/studysmart](https://westernsydney.edu.au/studysmart)
- Library Study Smart Advisors ([westernsydney.edu.au/studysmart/home/expert\\_help/officers](https://westernsydney.edu.au/studysmart/home/expert_help/officers))
- Returning to Learning ([westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/study\\_and\\_life\\_skills\\_workshops](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/study_and_life_skills_workshops))
- Introduction to e learning online workshops ([westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/study\\_and\\_life\\_skills\\_workshops](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/study_and_life_skills_workshops))

- Study, money and life skills online workshops and ibooks, ([logincms.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/study\\_and\\_life\\_skills\\_workshops/?a=365511](https://logincms.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/study_and_life_skills_workshops/?a=365511))
- The Desk online learning ([thedesk.org.au](https://thedesk.org.au))

See [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities)

#### **(h) The Peer Assisted Learning (PASS) Program**

PASS is a program in which a later year Law student provides guided study to a study group made up of first year students. It is offered to all first year Law students in one or more first year units. More information on PASS is provided at Orientation and will also be posted on the relevant first year unit's vUWS site early in the session. [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/study\\_and\\_life\\_skills\\_workshops/pass\\_-\\_peer\\_assisted\\_study\\_sessions](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/study_and_life_skills_workshops/pass_-_peer_assisted_study_sessions)

#### **(i) Counselling**

If you are having personal difficulties at home, in your relationship or at university, or you otherwise wish to talk to the University Counsellor, this service is offered free of charge and is entirely confidential. There is a counselling service on each campus and you can request an appointment by calling **9852 5199** or emailing [counselling@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:counselling@westernsydney.edu.au)

For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/counselling\\_services](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/counselling_services)

There is also helpful information about health and wellbeing on [westernsydney.edu.au/wellbeing\\_mentalhealth](https://westernsydney.edu.au/wellbeing_mentalhealth)

In addition, the Chaplaincy offers a free and confidential service, providing spiritual guidance and support. It is available to people of all faiths and none. It also provides facilities for meeting, prayer, reflection and meditation. For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/chaplaincy](https://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/chaplaincy)

**(j) Disability Support**

The Disability Service provides confidential advice and support for students who have a disability or chronic health condition. Where a student is affected by a disability or chronic illness, the Disability Service will assist the student in arranging reasonable adjustments (such as providing special equipment or a note taker or preparing unit materials in an alternative format such as Braille). For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/disability\\_service](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/disability_service)

**(k) Financial, Welfare and Advocacy Support**

The Student Welfare Service provides professionally trained staff to help you work through the unexpected problems that sometimes catch you by surprise. Student Welfare staff can assist you with advocacy, financial assistance, accommodation issues, textbook vouchers, sexual health concerns and bullying. For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/services\\_and\\_facilities/student\\_welfare\\_services2](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/services_and_facilities/student_welfare_services2)

**(l) Careers Service**

Careers can help you with everything from finding a part-time job, placement or internship, through to helping you with preparing your resume or assisting you with career planning and development. These free services are available to all current students and recent graduates. For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/careers](http://westernsydney.edu.au/careers)

# Progression Through Your Studies

During your years as a Law student you may have specific questions about the progression of your studies. Below is an outline of the more common questions that students want to know.

Information about progression in your particular law course, and the order in which you should study your Units, can be obtained through the University Handbook: [handbook.westernsydney.edu.au](http://handbook.westernsydney.edu.au)

If the information you need is not located here, you can contact [courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadvicelaw@westernsydney.edu.au).

## (a) What are the core (compulsory) Law units I will be required to complete?

Fundamentals of Australian Law

Government and Public Law

Criminal Law

Equity & Trusts

Legal Analysis and Critique

Law of Associations

Torts Law

Remedies

Contracts

Constitutional Law

Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics

Property Law

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Criminal Procedure and Evidence

Administrative Law

Civil Procedure and Arbitration



**(b) What alternate (elective) Law units can I do?**

Advanced Constitutional Law	International Climate Law
Advanced Family Law	International Criminal Law
Advanced Taxation Law	International Environmental Law
Advanced Torts and Civil Wrongs	International Moot Court
Advocacy	International Trade Law
Anti-Discrimination Law	Islam, International Law and Human Rights
Australian Competition Law	Issues in the Criminal Justice System
Australian Consumer Law	Judicial Internship
Banking and Securities Law	Jurisprudence
Bioethics	Law Economics and Business Ethics
Clinical Legal Placement	Law and Public Policy (Development and Implementation)
Comparative Law: Legal Systems of the world	Law of Employment
Conflicts of Law	Law of International Organisations
Corporate Governance	Law of the Sea
Cyber Law and Justice	Law Honours Dissertation
Designing Law Apps for Access	Law's Self Understanding
Elder Law	Media Law
Elder Law Industry Placement	Mediation
Family Law	Medical Law
Family Dispute Resolution	Mental Health Law
Financial Services Law	Moot Court
First Peoples and the Australian Legal System	Planning and Environment Law
Foundations of Chinese Law	Practising in the Public Interest
Foundations of Indian Law	Public Health Law
Human Rights Law	Public International Law
Immigration and Refugee Law	Revenue Law
Independent Study (Law)	Revenue Law Industry Placement
Information and Data Governance Law and Regulation	Space Law - Commercial Aspects
Insolvency Law and Policy	Technology, Innovation and the Law
Intellectual Property	Work, Health and Safety Law
International Business Transactions Law	Wills and Succession

**(c) Can I get credit for previous studies that I have done?**

This is known as 'Advanced Standing'. You can apply for Advanced Standing through the School of Law for both Law and non-Law units. To obtain Advanced Standing for a Law unit, the previous study must have been part of an accredited law degree (this excludes law related business degrees, for example). Work experience is not applicable to Advanced Standing for Law units but it may be relevant to non-Law units.

To obtain Advanced Standing you must submit an Advanced Standing form available at [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/forms](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/forms)

Once you have submitted the form, the Deputy Dean, will determine whether the unit studied at the other university is sufficiently similar in content to the Western Sydney University unit.

**(d) Can I study a unit at another institution?**

Students may apply to study a unit at another institution, both in Australia and overseas (known as cross institutional study), if it is a subject that is not offered at Western Sydney University or where the student is temporarily moving interstate for a period of time. Students must apply and obtain permission before they commence the study, otherwise

Note that not all LLB alternate units are offered every year or on each campus. More information about Units can be found in the Handbook at [handbook.westernsydney.edu.au](http://handbook.westernsydney.edu.au). For a full list of LLB alternate Units, see: [handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/HBOOK/course.aspx?course=2501.9](http://handbook.westernsydney.edu.au/HBOOK/course.aspx?course=2501.9)

they will be required to pay up front full fees at the other institution and risk not being able to count this study towards their Western Sydney University degree. If you are granted permission to study a unit at another university, you will be granted unspecified credit (i.e. satisfactorily completed or unsatisfactorily completed).

For more information and to fill in the relevant documentation see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/forms](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/forms)

#### **(e) Can I enrol in units over summer?**

The period between Spring and Autumn sessions is the Summer session. In your first year, you will be ineligible to complete any Law units in your first Summer Session of study. This is due to progression requirements and restrictions. You are however eligible to study units for your second degree (if you are studying a combined Law degree). If you want to study up to two units during the summer session, they will be covered by HECS just like your other units. You enrol into Summer Session the same way as you enrol for Autumn and Spring sessions. See [westernsydney.edu.au/summer](http://westernsydney.edu.au/summer)

#### **(f) Can I study at a foreign university?**

The University enables students to study either one or two sessions overseas at specified universities. The arrangement between the overseas university and Western Sydney University, known as international exchange, is that the Western Sydney University

student pays the Western Sydney University fees rather than the fee at the overseas university. You can only go on an international exchange after you have completed at least four units and if you have a grade point average (GPA) of 4.5 out of 7 (effectively a high pass average). For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/globalmobility](http://westernsydney.edu.au/globalmobility) or email [exchange@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:exchange@westernsydney.edu.au)

#### **(g) Can I do Honours?**

Honours in Law is a special commendation that appears on your University degree and academic record. Rather than 'B.Laws' after your name, your degree is listed as 'B.Laws(Hons)'. It is a distinguishing feature that stays with you for life. Completing your degree with Honours is an effective way of making you more competitive in the job market. Anyone wishing to do further study should consider doing Law Honours Dissertation.

Unlike other courses, Honours in Law does not require an extra year of study – Honours takes the place of two alternate units in your final year of study, and is a year long Unit.

Students receive training in research methodology and then must write a research dissertation of 10,000-12,000 words on a legal topic, under the supervision of an academic in the School of Law.

Honours gives students the opportunity to further develop and refine their legal research and writing skills and to explore and analyse a legal topic of their choice to produce a high quality piece of academic work.

In general, you need an average mark of 70 in your law units at the time you apply to be admitted to the Honours program, although students on the cusp of that average are encouraged to examine the specific admission rules set out in the School of Law Honours Award Level Guidelines, which can be found on the Honours in Law website.

For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/law/school\\_of\\_law/honours](http://westernsydney.edu.au/law/school_of_law/honours) or email [lawhonours@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:lawhonours@westernsydney.edu.au)

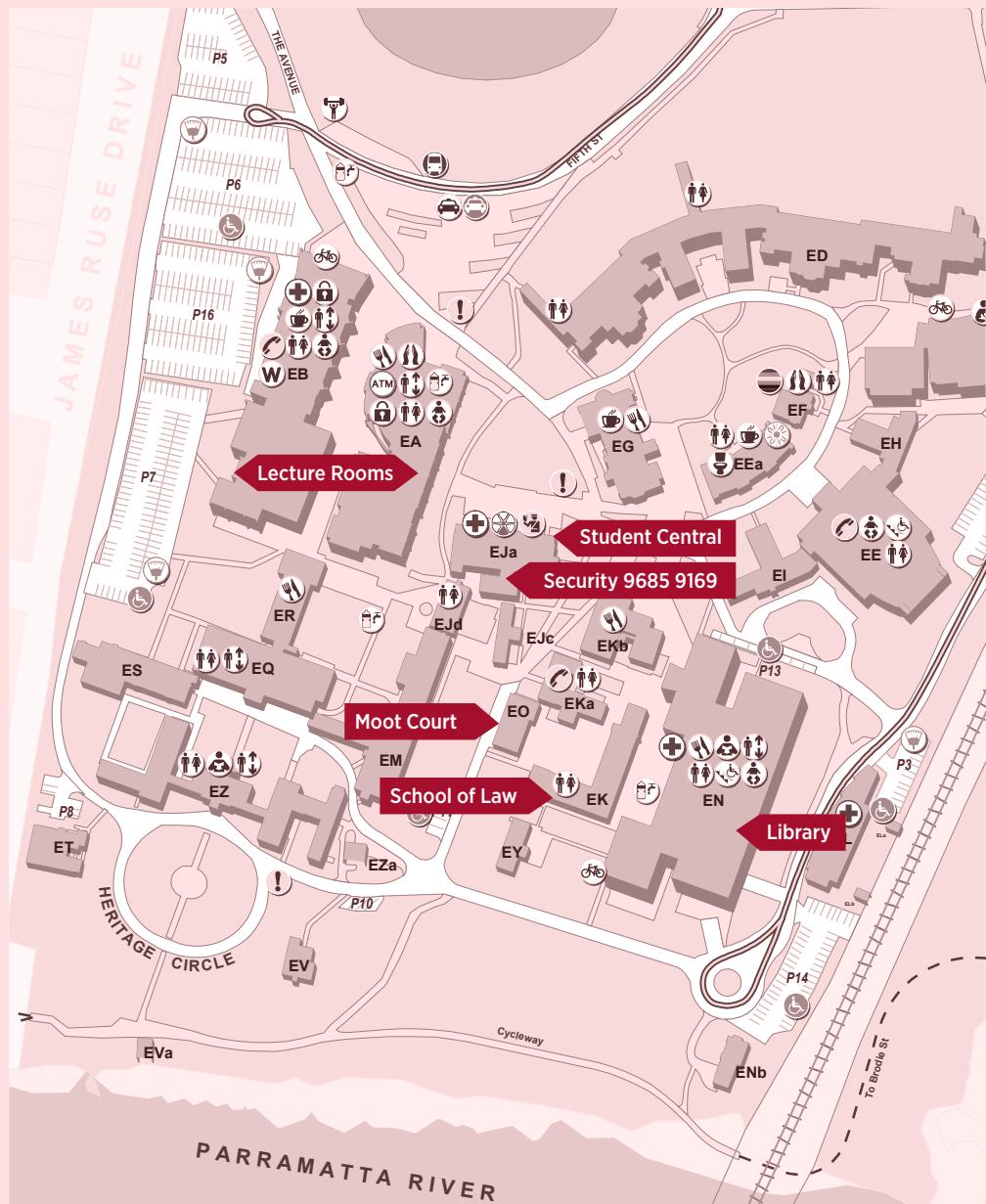
#### **(h) Can I change courses?**

The process for changing courses depends on which course you are changing to. If you want to change from a combined degree to a straight Law degree or to a different course within the same UAC code (such as from Arts/Law to Social Science/Law), you must complete a Course Variation Application. See [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/forms](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/forms)

If you want to change to a course with a different UAC entry code you must reapply through either MySR or UAC. If you are successful in changing your course, you may apply for Advanced Standing for the units you have completed in your initial course.

For more information see [westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/enrolment/adding,\\_dropping\\_and\\_changing\\_units](http://westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/enrolment/adding,_dropping_and_changing_units) or email [courseadvice@law@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:courseadvice@law@westernsydney.edu.au)

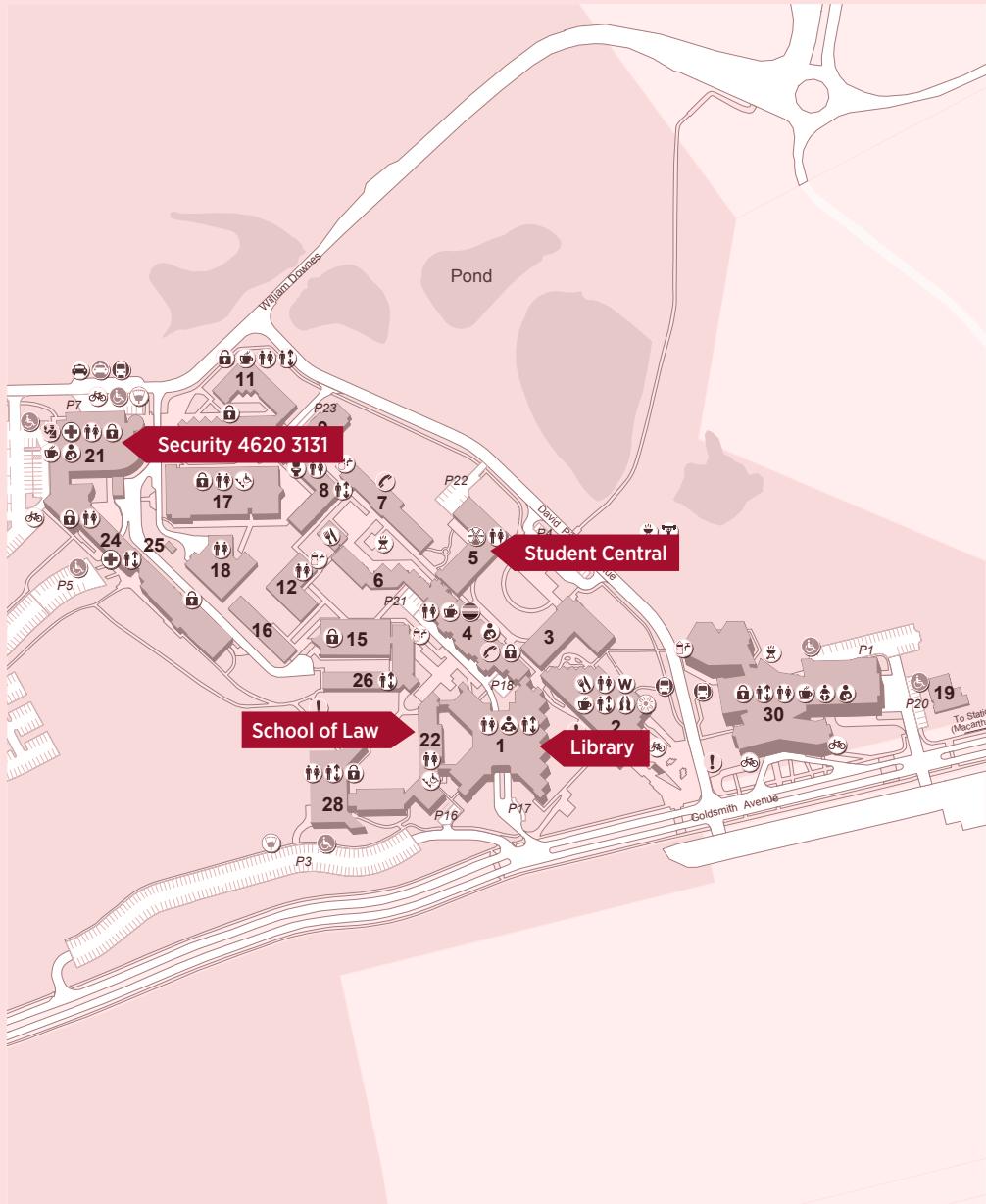
# Campus Map Parramatta



# Campus Map Parramatta City



# Campus Map Campbelltown



Western Sydney University  
Locked Bag 1797  
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia



[WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU](http://WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU)