

Faculty of Law | Te Kaupeka Ture

Postgraduate Handbook

LLM (International Law and Politics)

2025

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Section I – Introduction and Enrolment

Welcome from Dean of Law

Kia ora!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our postgraduate students. I hope very much that you will enjoy your time at the University of Canterbury. I hope also that when you leave you will have many happy memories, in addition to a well-deserved and valuable postgraduate qualification.

Professor Petra Butler, Executive Dean of Law

Co-Directors' Welcome

Welcome to the Postgraduate Programme in International Law and Politics. This Handbook will serve as a basic document for those students registered for the Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law and Politics (ILAP).

This Handbook aims to help you get started in the programme and to provide useful information, both of a practical and academic nature. If there is anything you need to know, or if you have a problem of any kind, please feel free to contact us.

Dr Shea Esterling and William Grant, Faculty of Law

About the Degree

The LLM (ILAP) has been designed to respond to interest in multi-disciplinary study in international law and politics. The degree is partly taught and partly research-based. It examines the international order from two distinct perspectives – law and politics. It emphasises current problems and issues in international law and politics, with attention to the theoretical significance and the practical challenges of actions in the international arena.

Structure of the Degree

The degree comprises two compulsory courses, two elective courses and a dissertation. The two compulsory courses – Advanced Principles of Public International Law, and Principles and Practice of International Relations and Diplomacy – provide a foundation in international law and international politics, respectively. They are both offered in semester 1. Students then select two courses from a range of electives offered in the Faculty of Law. These electives vary from year to year.

To qualify for the LLM (International Law and Politics) you will be required to satisfactorily complete the following:

- (a) a written dissertation of 15-20,000 words on an area of international law, counting for 50 per cent of the requirements for the degree; and
- (b) two compulsory courses (ILAP613 and ILAP614), together counting for 25 per cent of the requirements for the degree; and
- (c) two elective courses, together counting for 25 per cent of the requirements for the degree.

Enrolment

Qualifications Required to Enrol in the LLM (ILAP)

The LLM (ILAP) is designed for students who have a basic knowledge of law and wish to develop their specialist knowledge in international law and politics.

A candidate for the LLM (ILAP) must, before enrolling for the degree, either qualify for the degree of Bachelor of Laws with a minimum B grade average, or be admitted with academic equivalent standing as entitled to enrol for the degree of LLM (ILAP).

The degree may be studied full-time (minimum period of enrolment one year, maximum two years) or part-time (minimum period of enrolment two years, maximum period of enrolment four years). Students are required to re-enrol and pay fees each year in order to remain enrolled.

The degree may be awarded with Honours, which may be First Class or Second Class (Division I or II).

Enrolment Procedures

Students who have been advised by the University that they have been admitted to candidature for the degree need to complete enrolment formalities. Further details are available from lawandjusticedegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz or <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/admission-and-enrolment>.

You may also need to make an appointment to see one of the Co-Directors of the LLM (ILAP), Shea Esterling or William Grant. Queries about enrolment can also be directed to Nicole Anfang (Nicole.anfang@canterbury.ac.nz).

If you are a part-time candidate, there is no need to enrol in all of your courses at the outset. Discuss your enrolment with one of the Co-Directors. If you enrol in all courses to begin with, and miss the refund date for dropping courses, you will have to pay additional fees when you re-enrol in the dropped courses.

As a UC student, you will be issued with your Canterbury Card, which allows you to use all University facilities, including the Library and the postgraduate space in ICT Building.

Course Changes

Throughout your studies, any changes to the courses for which you are enrolled must be approved. To do this, submit a change of enrolment by logging in to myUC (<https://myuc.canterbury.ac.nz/login>).

Please be aware of the dates to drop a course, with and without a refund (see <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/admission-and-enrolment/enrolment-topics/enrolment-and-course-dates/change-of-enrolment-dates>). For 2025 these are:

- Semester 1 (S1) courses: 2 March (refund), 11 May (no refund)
- Semester 2 (S2) courses: 27 July (refund), 28 September (no refund)
- Full year (FY): 16 March (refund), 16 November (no refund)
- Whole year (W): 9 March (refund), 24 August 2023 (no refund)

Induction

All students enrolling for the degree will be invited to an induction meeting where students will meet the Co-Directors of the degree. Enrolled students will be informed of the date and place of the meeting.

Section II – Administration and Support

Programme Directors

Dr Shea Esterling, shea.esterling@canterbury.ac.nz, ph. +64 3 369 4128 Room 415, Meremere

William Grant, william.grant@canterbury.ac.nz, ph. +64 03 369 5934, Room 313, Meremere

Staff

Note: All staff e-mail addresses are available in the University of Canterbury global address list.

Teaching Staff

Teaching Staff	Meremere Building	Ext
Natalie Baird	419	93801
Neil Boister	323	92191
Olivia Erdelyi	411	90023
Shea Esterling	415	94128
William Grant	322	95934
John Hopkins	413	93737
Ricky Lee	311	90313
Annick Masselot	417	93814
James Mehigan	412	91270
Jeremy Moses	607 Elsie Locke	95019
Cassandra Mudgway	312	91842
Sascha Mueller	306	93763
Chat Nguyen	421	90508
Chris Riffel	319	93473
Karen Scott	305	93766

Administrative Staff

Nicole Anfang (Student Advisor)	367	92964
Natalie Welsh (Postgraduate Administrator)	329 (Law Admin Office)	90406

Library Staff

Theresa Buller	Puaka - James Hight Level 5	93852
John Arnold	Puaka - James Hight Level 5	93905

Contacting Staff Members

Teaching staff will often display notices outside their office doors indicating when they are available to see students throughout the year. They can also be contacted by e-mail or by telephone.

Enquiries may be made to administrative staff offices in person between the hours of 9am – 5pm during weekdays, or by telephone or e-mail.

Facilities for ILAP Students

Study Rooms

Provided there is space available, you may be allocated a desk in the Law Postgrad space on level 4 of the ICT Building. If you wish to use this space, you will be allocated an individual desk and computer, and granted 24-hour access via your Canterbury card.

Computer Rooms

All students can use any student computer rooms on campus, in any library, or in their own halls of residence.

Photocopying

Photocopying facilities are available in the library. Photocopying costs are a student's own responsibility.

Printing

Postgraduate students will have printers available in the designated postgraduate rooms. See the IT Services website for printing information and costs – <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/it-logins-and-tools/it-service-desk>.

Internet

See the IT Services website for information on internet access – <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/it-logins-and-tools/it-service-desk>.

E-mail Communications

Postgraduate students are given a student email address upon enrolment. Email is used extensively by the University and it is essential that students check their UC email address regularly.

Class Handouts/Reading Lists

Teaching handouts and reading lists are placed on AKO | LEARN, the University's e-learning platform, for students to access.

Canterbury Card

The Canterbury Card is the official University of Canterbury identification card. All enrolled students are issued with one. You need it for identification, security and access to University buildings and services, and to make purchases. It is used for:

- Door access
- Library book issue
- Printing and photocopying charges

- Copy Centre
- IVR student phone system
- ITS student internet access
- Student Association membership

For more information on the use of your Canterbury Card, please refer to <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/canterbury-card>.

Library Facilities

All library staff and contact details together with other useful information about library services may be found on the library website: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/library>.

Students are also encouraged to seek personal appointments with a law subject librarian for assistance in planning and conducting research and taking advantage of current awareness services.

Library staff also offer one-to-one legal research tutorials to postgraduate students on request. These sessions provide research assistance tailored to your research topic and include advice on relevant current awareness services. To arrange an interview, please contact Theresa Buller.

Interloans

Material which is not held by the library can be requested by interloan from other libraries. Requests for interloans may be made via a web request form, which can be found at <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/library/membership-and-borrowing/borrowing-from-the-library/interloans>. The Faculty of Law will pay for interloans provided they are authorised by your supervisor.

Book Quota

Postgraduate students can borrow up to 75 items for up to 60 days (a shorter period for restricted loan material and subject to recall if required by another borrower, <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/library/membership-and-borrowing/borrowing-from-the-library>). You may renew items if they are not required by another borrower.

General Information for ILAP Students

The LL.M (ILAP) degree is not an extramural degree. Students must reside in Canterbury throughout the duration of their study. It is expected that students attend all lectures in person.

Regulations

You should be familiar with the regulations governing your degree. These appear on the University website: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/corporate-information/regulations/qualification-regulations/llmintlawpols-reg>.

Change of Address

Please ensure that the University has complete and accurate contact details for you. Please keep the University (via the Student Enrolment System) informed of your current contact details, particularly on your return home. Failure to do so may result in delays in notifying you of your course grades. You can change your address any time on the UC website via MyUC.

Course Changes

Please ensure that at all times the University has complete and accurate details of the courses for which you have enrolled. To do this, submit a change of enrolment by logging in to myUC and following the instructions: <https://myuc.canterbury.ac.nz/login>. Failure to gain approval for a course change may result in the withholding of a degree. ILAP students will be emailed a request by the Faculty of Law after the final date for course changes, asking you to confirm your enrolment details. See page 3 for important information on fees refund deadlines.

Illness

In the event of prolonged/frequent absences, please see one of the ILAP Co-Directors to discuss any consequences these absences may be having on your studies. Students are referred to the LLM (ILAP) Regulations for further information regarding suspensions or extensions of candidature.

If a suspension or an extension of overall candidature is sought, the application must be made by the student in writing, and supported by appropriate documentation, eg medical certificates. This application should be made, in the first instance, with one of the programme Co-Directors:

Shea.esterling@canterbury.ac.nz or william.grant@canterbury.ac.nz

Timetabling Information

For details of timetabling and semester dates of ILAP courses, refer to the Course Information System at:

<https://courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz/GetCourses.aspx?course=ILAP6&viewby=semester&year=2025>

Cultural Matters

Any concerns about cultural matters can be raised through formal channels such as meeting with the Executive Dean of Law or making submissions to the UC Grievance & Academic Processes Coordinator (<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/concerns/help/>).

Graduation

There is a graduation ceremony for students in April and August of each year.

Please note that for students handing in their ILAP dissertation (ILAP640) in February, it may not be possible to graduate in the April ceremony. This is because of the need to allow external markers sufficient time to mark the dissertation. Please check with the Co-Directors in due course.

Graduate in person: If you wish to graduate in person, you must apply by the cut-off date for the relevant ceremony. For further information, please see the graduation page on the UC website <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-topics/graduation>.

Graduate in absentia: A number of our postgraduate students are from overseas and owing to travel arrangements are not able to attend graduation in person. If this is the case, you can choose to receive your testamur (document) by mail. You can apply via the following link: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-topics/graduation>. You can have your qualification conferred in absentia at either the April or August ceremonies. You will receive the testamur after the relevant graduation ceremony. Outside of these ceremonies, there is a University Council meeting most months at which degrees in absentia are conferred. The testamur is then sent to you by mail. It is essential that your contact details are correct, as the testamur will be sent to the address you have listed in myUC.

Section III – Programme of Study Information

Courses

In choosing options from the schedules below, you should note that courses are taught and assessed by a variety of methods. It is therefore important that you bear these factors in mind when selecting your electives so that you choose the subjects with the teaching and assessment methods which are most comfortable for you.

Individual programmes of study must be approved by the Co-Directors before the commencement of studies.

Schedule C – Compulsory Courses

All three courses in this Schedule are required to be taken for completion of the LLM (ILAP):

Course Code	Title	Points	Semester
ILAP 613	Advanced Principles of Public International Law	15	Semester 1
ILAP 614	Principles and Practice of International Relations and Diplomacy	15	Semester 1
ILAP 640	Dissertation	60	Full Year or Cross-Year

Schedule E – Elective Courses

Two courses from this Schedule are required to be taken for completion of the LLM (ILAP):

Course Code	Title	Points	Semester
ILAP604	International Criminal Law	15	Semester 2
ILAP608	World Trade Law	15	Semester 2
ILAP609	International Human Rights Law	15	Semester 2
ILAP611	Antarctic Legal Studies	15	Semester 2
ILAP612	International Environmental Law	15	Not Offered
ILAP619	Special Topic: Cross-Border Business Transactions Law	15	Semester 1
ILAP627	European Public Law	15	Not Offered
ILAP628	Special Topic	15	Not Offered

ILAP629	Special Topic	15	Not Offered
ILAP630	Law of the Sea	15	Not Offered
ILAP633	Problems in International and Regional Trade	15	Not Offered
ILAP634	International Investment Law and Arbitration	15	Semester 2
ILAP641	The Rights of Indigenous Peoples	15	Not Offered
ILAP642	Private International Law	15	Not Offered

Descriptions for Courses Offered in 2025

For current information regarding lecture times and venues, please refer to the Course Information System (CIS) on the UC website: <https://courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz/GetCourses.aspx?course=ILAP6&viewby=semester&year=2025>.

ADVANCED PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW ILAP613

Course Supervisors: Dr Shea Esterling and William Grant

This course is compulsory for all LLM (ILAP) students. It is intended to provide an advanced introduction to the fundamental concepts of public international law. The course will be delivered by way of seminars. Students will be provided with readings, and will be expected to come to class fully prepared and to participate in the discussion in class.

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY ILAP614

Course Supervisor: Assoc Prof Jeremy Moses

This course offers a blend of theoretical and practical insight into international relations and diplomacy. The first part of the course will provide foundational knowledge of the principles, theories and historical dimensions of foreign policy and diplomacy. The second part of the course will be composed of a series of intensive professional seminars, providing students with detailed practical insights into complex and difficult cases in international relations and diplomacy through the experiences of those involved in them.

DISSERTATION ILAP640

Course Supervisor: Individual supervisors

All ILAP students must complete a dissertation as part of their LLM (ILAP) degree at Canterbury. The dissertation can be on any issue within international law, subject to the Faculty of Law's ability to provide a supervisor with suitable expertise.

Dissertations are between 15,000 and 20,000 words in length. Footnotes are included in this limit but the bibliography is excluded. Students are encouraged to consider their dissertation topic as early as possible; however, it is acknowledged that students may prefer to complete some of their course work before finalising their topic. Possible topics and supervisors should, in the first instance, be discussed with one of the Co-Directors of the LLM (ILAP) programme.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

ILAP604

Course Supervisor: Prof Neil Boister

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of international criminal law, including the substantive criminal law (the international crimes of aggression, war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity), and the prosecution of these crimes in national and international criminal courts.

WORLD TRADE LAW

ILAP608

Course Supervisor: Prof Chris Riffel

This course will provide an introduction to the regulation of international trade under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The WTO is responsible for regulating trade in goods, services and intellectual property at the international level. Moreover, these days trade rules impact on more than just trade: they restrict (or at least impact upon) Members' policies in connection with (but not limited to) the environment, human rights, health and culture.

The WTO is comprised of three pillars as well as a sophisticated dispute settlement mechanism: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (in goods) (GATT), the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This course will focus on trade in goods and, to a lesser extent, services and the relationship between the WTO rules and competing social policies.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

ILAP609

Course Supervisor: Prof Natalie Baird

This course provides an introduction to international human rights law and the international human rights framework in the Aotearoa New Zealand context. The course aims to familiarise students with the core legal instruments and institutions relevant to the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level, along with some of the topical issues and controversies. The course will look at the historical origins of the human rights idea, discuss the major multilateral human rights treaties and institutions within the United Nations system, consider selected topical issues in the human rights field, and look at the links between international human rights and domestic implementation.

Course Supervisor: Prof Karen Scott

The uniqueness of the Antarctic region presents novel challenges for the law. Not only does it raise fundamental questions about the nature of territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction, but the truly international dimensions of the activities which take place both on the continent and in the sea and ice which surround it, require States to act cooperatively through a variety of norm-creating and quasi-normative devices. This course will examine the international legal system that governs the Antarctic and consider some of its most pressing problems concerned with the environment, biodiversity, resource extraction, fisheries, tourism, climate change and the future of the deep south. The aim of the course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the Antarctic Treaty System. The course is aimed at those students interested in international law and relations, environmental law and the unique legal challenges that areas like the Polar Regions present to the international community.

SPECIAL TOPIC:**CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS LAW****ILAP611**

Course Supervisor: Dr Ricky Lee

This course is designed to immerse you into the world of international business to understand the prevailing customs and practice of mercantile parties, analyse complex factual scenarios on a real-world basis, and be able to apply relevant principles of law to alleviate or eliminate exposures to risk.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAW**AND ARBITRATION****ILAP611**

Course Supervisor: Prof Petra Butler

The course examines selected problems in international investment law and arbitration relevant to a New Zealand context.

Section IV – Your Academic Work

General Points on Preparation and Submission

Research

Research should be as comprehensive as possible. Superficial research, using only secondary sources (eg casebooks and commentaries rather than the original works) can be spotted very easily. The importance of modern authorities is stressed. Examples and illustrations given by major theorists can always be updated by referring to recent newspaper reports. In some areas of law, the citation of very recent authorities may be essential.

Using the Library

The University of Canterbury has a good collection of materials in international law and politics. Well-founded requests for inter-library loans will be accepted.

If more than one student is researching a particular subject area, care should be taken not to monopolise the material in that field. Students should be able to co-operate in this regard. The hoarding of books is not only inconsiderate; it can result in the offender being banned from use of the library.

Writing Skills

The introduction to the work is particularly important. Your introduction should sketch out briefly:

- the main purpose of the work;
- the areas of law to be dealt with and why; and
- the order in which these areas will be studied.

If the examiner is not told, s/he will not know what the task is that you have set yourself, and so will not be able to judge whether, or to what extent, you have succeeded in it. There will consequently be a risk that your work will be seen as not being very well ordered and not proceeding in a logical fashion towards its conclusion.

Assessment in te reo Māori

For students proficient in te reo Māori (Māori language) who would like to use reo Māori in your work submitted for assessment, please discuss this with one of the ILAP Co-Directors well in advance of any assessment due date so that appropriate marking arrangements can be put in place.

Support

The Academic Skills Centre provides excellent assistance with writing and study skills. The Centre offers programmes designed for postgraduate students. Further information can be found here: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-support/academic-skills-centre>.

Assignments for ILAP Courses

Course Assessment by Assignment

Your two elective courses will involve attending undergraduate classes plus doing a separate assessment, usually in the form of a research essay and an oral presentation. You are expected to attend regular meetings with your course supervisor to plan your research essay. **Please keep in touch with your supervisor on a regular basis.**

Content

Course supervisors do not necessarily expect students to be able to produce work which is wholly original. The aim should be constructive criticism of set work and intelligent comment upon the issues of the course in the context of the question selected.

Essays should not be a patchwork of large quotations strung together by small connecting sentences. Course supervisors wish to see evidence that you have thought about the subject and not merely accepted uncritically the views or propositions of the major theorists.

In many, if not all subjects in international law and politics, there is some degree of doctrinal dispute. In such areas, although it may not be possible to reconcile all the different propositions expressed, some attempt should be made to appraise their relative merits.

Due credit will be given for the selection and use of appropriate material so long as it is properly used and acknowledged. The primary consideration is that the essay should be your own work. This does not, of course, preclude the use of others' ideas, nor does it mean that quotations cannot be used. What is required is that, as in all academic work, there should be a full attribution of sources used. Plagiarism will be treated as a very serious offence. See the section on Plagiarism below.

In your respective ILAP courses, take care to choose research topics which do not overlap. That is, while it is possible, for instance, to do an international trade law course and also write your final dissertation on a trade-related topic, the issues dealt with must not be the same. Students are asked to enter their respective research projects for each course and the dissertation on the programme's LEARN site. This helps to find others with similar research interests, and helps to avoid overlap of topics.

Extension Requests

Extensions for the submission of assessed work will be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as illness, injury, bereavement or other unforeseen critical events.

Extensions will not be granted because of pressure of university work, eg several assignments being due at the same time, or because of the demands of extra-curricular activities, eg employment or sporting commitments. You should plan your year's work to enable you to meet your academic deadlines.

Applications for extension should be discussed with the course supervisor in the first instance. Applications may need to be supported by a medical certificate or other relevant evidence.

Dissertation

General

Completion of a 15,000–20,000 word dissertation is necessary for completion of the LLM (ILAP).

Titles, allocation of supervisors and submission dates

Every LLM (ILAP) student will be allocated a supervisor for the purposes of supervision of the dissertation. Full-time students are required to identify a broad topic area **by the end of the first mid-semester break**.

You should discuss your proposed area of research with one of the ILAP Co-Directors prior to that date, who will recommend a suitable member of staff to supervise your project. You should then approach that member of staff, who will confirm to the Programme Directors in writing that they have agreed to supervise you and that they have agreed to your provisional dissertation title. If you do not obtain such agreement from a member of staff, a supervisor will be allocated for you by the Co-Directors.

For full-time students, you are required to submit a final dissertation title to the Programme Directors **by the beginning of your second semester**, and the dissertation must be submitted **twelve months after you began the degree**.

Content

A postgraduate dissertation should be a well-argued analysis of an important international legal or political issue. Originality is a bonus, as you are not expected to engage in primary research in a wholly new field,

although if this can be accomplished within the confines of the dissertation, so much the better.

You should take care not to embark upon a subject which has already been heavily worked on by other writers. Although finding material will be easier, it will be much more difficult to make the finished dissertation your own work. Not only will the ideas come from other writers but, even if everything is properly attributed, the structure of the dissertation will almost inevitably end up as a pale copy of some well-known work. If all the issues are dealt with in the same way, with the same emphasis and in the same order, this will be unlikely to impress your examiners.

It is equally important to start researching with a reasonably limited title or research question in mind. If you start with a very general topic, such as 'The Continental Shelf' you will simply accumulate a great deal of material on the subject. When the time comes to actually start writing, you will be left with the task of giving the dissertation a logical structure instead of being a mess of unrelated issues thinly strung together with no conceptual framework.

Experience suggests that it is better to choose a relatively small rather than a large subject and to concern yourself with the detailed examination of a specific issue, rather than to engage upon the exposition of a major area of law. For example: 'The Legality of Dumping Radio-Active Waste in the Deep Sea Bed' is better than 'The International Law of Marine Dumping'; 'Was the Entebbe Raid Contrary to International Law?' is better than 'The Legality of Self-Defence under International Law'.

Ideally, your research should be framed around a specific question to which your dissertation is an answer.

Supervision

The supervision of dissertations for the LLM (ILAP) involves a series of expectations for both supervisors and candidates. The most important consideration is that the dissertation should primarily be a candidate's own work and, as a consequence of this, the assistance that a supervisor may be expected to render is limited.

Supervisors will expect candidates to:

- identify an appropriate topic for research;
- undertake a literature search;
- consult on a regular basis throughout the process of research;
- raise any problems or difficulties they are experiencing in a timely fashion so that they can be addressed appropriately;
- provide a written research proposal;
- provide a draft for comment.

Candidates will expect supervisors to:

- make themselves reasonably available for consultation during the dissertation preparation period, either in person or through some other convenient means such as email or Zoom;
- discuss and give advice on the appropriateness of the subject identified for research;
- comment on the adequacy of the literature search undertaken;
- comment on the appropriateness of the plan of work;
- offer critical comment on the written research proposal;
- offer written feedback on a submitted draft.

Supervisors will not normally:

- offer comment on more than one draft of the essay or dissertation;
- give an indication of the grade likely to be achieved;
- correct deficiencies of English.

You should meet occasionally with your dissertation supervisor to discuss the progress of your research. In particular, the dissertation supervisor will set a date by which a written research proposal must be submitted for approval, and by which a draft is to be provided for feedback.

Dissertation Submission

Your dissertation should be submitted online via LEARN.

Length

Dissertations must be within a range of 15,000–20,000 words, **including** footnotes but excluding the bibliography. You are required to state the word count on the title page of the dissertation.

Form of Dissertation

Your dissertation should follow the order listed below:

- Title page (including word count)
- Acknowledgements (if any)
- Table of contents (this should give page numbers of the various chapters)
- Main body of the text
- Conclusions
- Bibliography

Footnotes

Footnotes must be placed at the foot of each page. Footnotes are an important part of the academic apparatus of the dissertation and therefore must be consistent and precise. Sloppy or imprecise footnoting will be penalised and may result in a dissertation having to be re-submitted.

Referencing Style

The recommended referencing style for your dissertation is contained in the *New Zealand Law Style Guide* (3rd edition). This guide is available at: <https://www.austlii.community/wiki/NZLawSG/NZLawStyleGuide/>. You are able to use an alternative referencing style, but please confirm this with your supervisor.

Grading

Once a paper is submitted for marking, your supervisor will arrange for it to be marked by an internal marker (generally another teacher in the ILAP programme) and an external marker (generally an expert in the field from another tertiary institution). Content, style and clarity of presentation are all taken into account. Originality and insight are key requirements for a first-class grade. An LLM paper must generally show critical analysis; mere description is not sufficient. The meaning of the different grades is given in the table below.

The LLM (ILAP) may be awarded with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Division One or Two).

In order to be awarded First Class Honours, a student must achieve a first-class grade average over the degree.

For Second Class Honours, Division One, the student must achieve an average of B+ across the degree.

For Second Class Honours, Division Two, the student must achieve a B average across the degree.

MEANING OF GRADES

	SHORT DESCRIPTION	FULLER DESCRIPTION	LEVEL
A+ (90-100%)	Outstanding/Exceptional	<p>All the following expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All major points identified and answered correctly • Where appropriate, alternative arguments canvassed • Originality • Evidence of significant reading and thought • Very high standard of prose and organisation 	1 st Class Honours
A (85-89%)	Excellent	Nearly all of the requirements for an A+	1 st Class Honours
A- (80-84%)	Extremely good	Meets most of the requirements for an A+	1 st Class Honours
B+ (75-79%)	Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most major points identified and answered correctly • Confident control over the subject matter • Very good understanding • Very good prose and organisation • No confusion or irrelevant material 	Second Class Honours/Division 1
B (70-74%)	Good	Good understanding, but not as secure as for B+	Second Class Honours/Division 2
B- (65-69%)	Reasonably good	As for B, but even less secure	
C+ (60-64%)	Competent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential points identified and answered • Basic understanding • A little confusion and irrelevancy tolerated 	
C (55-59%)	Passable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About half of the issues answered correctly • Basic understanding • Some confusion and irrelevancy tolerated 	
C – (50 – 54%)	Just passable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About half of the issues answered correctly • Very bare understanding • Some confusion and irrelevancies tolerated 	
D (40-49%)	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate • Confused • Significant gaps in understanding and knowledge 	
E (0-39%)	Unacceptable	Very poor knowledge and understanding	

Academic Misconduct

It is recognised that students will discuss course work and assignments with others, and such discussion is an important part of the learning process. However, any work presented by a student for credit in a course must be that student's own original work. If students are directed to complete work submitted for credit in groups, the work submitted must be the original work of the group.

Work produced using generative artificial intelligence (AI) text generators, such as ChatGPT, is not original.

Work submitted in breach of these requirements or which fails to comply with other instructions, contravenes the University's Academic Misconduct Regulations. Such work will either not be marked, and all credit for the work in question forfeited, or the matter will be referred to the University's Academic Integrity Officer for investigation and possible referral to the Proctor and the University's Misconduct Committee.

Penalties which may be imposed in the event of a finding of academic misconduct include loss of credit for a course or an item of assessment and, in serious cases, suspension or expulsion from the University. A record is kept of all instances of academic misconduct in the University misconduct register for a period of ten years. Students who are involved in any misconduct matter also risk creating a situation in which the Dean of Law is unable to give a Certificate of Standing for the purposes of admission to the Law Society.

Instances of academic misconduct in coursework and assignments include but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism. Plagiarism means the dishonest presentation of work that has been produced by someone else as if it is one's own.

Please note that the presentation of someone else's work as one's own even without dishonest intent, may still constitute poor academic practice, and this may be reflected in the mark awarded.

- There are academic conventions governing appropriate ways to acknowledge the work or part of the work of another person and these are set out in the New Zealand Law Style Guide. The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) text generators, such as ChatGPT, to generate text or other content, except where such use is expressly permitted and is declared or referenced by students in the manner required.
- Submitting for credit in a course an essay or research paper which, although it is the student's own work, is substantially the same as work which has already been (or will be) submitted for credit in another course, whether in the School of Law or some other department or academic institution.
- Copying the work of another student. This includes copying the work submitted by another student for credit for a course in the School of Law or some other department or academic institution.
- Knowingly allowing another student to copy work which that other student then submits for credit for a course in the School of Law.
- Arranging for another person to complete work which is then submitted for credit for a course in the School of Law. An example falling in this category is work submitted for credit which has been obtained from a commercial assignment completion service. Care must be taken when using editing services as it is only assistance with grammar, punctuation and expression that is permissible.
- Completing work for another student which is then submitted by that other student for credit for a course in the School of Law.
- Including made up or fabricated material in work submitted for credit for a course in the School of Law.
- Collaborating in the preparation of answers for take home tests unless advised otherwise in the take home test instructions. If you are in doubt about any of the above with respect to a particular course, you should discuss the matter with the lecturer concerned.

See also the University Academic Misconduct Regulations, and Misconduct Procedures Guide for Students – refer to UC Calendar and UC website (<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/corporate-information/regulations/general-regulations/academic-misconduct-regulations>).

Section V – Staff in the ILAP Programme

Staff in the ILAP Programme

Prof Natalie Baird, BA, LLB (Hons)(Cant), LLM (Columbia), PG Cert TT (Canterbury), FHEA: Natalie teaches International Human Rights Law, Pacific Legal Studies, and part of the Immigration and Refugee Law course. Her research interests include human rights in the Pacific, the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism, refugee resettlement in New Zealand and Pacific legal studies. Natalie is also a member of the New Zealand Human Rights Review Tribunal.

Prof Neil Boister, BA, LLB, LLM (Natal) PhD (Nottingham): Neil's research interests include transnational criminal law, transnational criminal justice, drug control, regional criminal justice, and the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

Prof Petra Butler, Dr. Jur (Göttingen), LLM (Vic): Professor Butler's academic expertise is in two distinctive research areas: human rights and international commercial contracts. In both she combines the domestic with the international and crosses boundaries among traditional legal subjects. Her approach is responsive to needs and issues arising in today's globalised, interlinked, and interdisciplinary world. Creating synergies between subject areas, disciplines and people has been one of her key and unique research strengths. Establishing the Institute of Small and Micro States (ISMS) as an independent think tank and delivering law reform guidance, inter alia for the Commonwealth Secretariat, evidences her research approach.

Dr Olivia J Erdelyi, PhD (Düsseldorf) (Distinction), Bar Exam North Rhine-Westphalia, LLM (Cologne) (Distinction), First State Examination (Düsseldorf) (Distinction): Olivia has a multidisciplinary background and research interests in computer science, economics, law, and political science. Her research focuses on regulatory challenges raised by artificial intelligence (AI). She offers courses on Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Considerations Around AI Technologies and Intellectual Property Law.

Dr Shea Esterling, BA (Hons) (Centre College), MScEcon (Merit) (University of Wales Aberystwyth), MA (Distinction) (King's College London), JD (Indiana University), PhD (Aberystwyth University), Attorney at Law Indiana: Shea's research interests include Indigenous rights, cultural heritage, cultural genocide and land restitution.

Mr William Grant, BA, LLB, LLM (Hons) (Cant): William takes an interdisciplinary approach to research founded on a strong background in Māori and indigenous studies, sociology, and the law. His research focus generally takes a critical theory approach to International Law focusing on Human Rights, the growing corpus of Indigenous Rights, and the law of outer space.

Prof John Hopkins, BA (Hons) (Strath), PhD (Sheff): John's international law research has focussed largely on the development of international disaster law, regionalism (particularly in Europe, Asia and the Pacific) and the role of non-sovereign governments in international affairs.

Dr Ricky Lee, PhD (Murdoch), LLM (ANU), BA (Hons) (Adelaide), LLB (hons) (Adelaide), GradDipChiBusL (UWA), GDLP: Ricky offers courses relating to cross-border business transactions, international humanitarian law, private international law, and space law and policy. Ricky's research interests include space law, public international law, law of war, international humanitarian law, as well as international commercial transactions and private international law. In addition to various adjunct and honorary positions at various universities around the world, he is the Convenor of the Fundamentals of Notarial Practice Course, the prescribed pre-admission course for notarial practice in South Australia.

Prof Annick Masselot, Maitrise (Nancy), Magistere (Nancy), LLM (NUI), PhD (Cant): Annick's research interests focus upon European Union and comparative law, specifically with regards to gender equality and equal treatment, social and employment law, reconciliation between work and family life, pregnancy and maternity rights. She is interested taking a feminist legal theory lens to understand the interconnection between gender and a wide breadth of law and societal areas.

Assoc Prof James Mehigan, LLB (Hons) (Dubl), MPhil (Cantab), PhD (Open), Barrister (England & Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland), SFHEA: James's research interests derive from his multidisciplinary background in criminal law and criminology. These include international criminal law, state crime, international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Dr Cassandra Mudgway, LLB (Hons) (Cant), BA (Cant), PhD (Cant): Cassandra's research interests are in international human rights law, particularly women's rights.

Dr Sascha Mueller, Erstes juristisches Staatsexamen (law degree), University of Cologne, LLM (International Law and Politics) (Hons) (Cant): Sascha's current research interests are comparative law, disaster law, biosecurity law and commercial law.

Dr Chat Nguyen, LLB, LLM (Ho Chi Minh University of Law), PhD (Cant): Chat's research interests include Transnational Financial Crime, Cybercrime, Cyberlaw and Comparative Criminal Law with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Prof Christian Riffel, PhD (Bern), Bar Exam Saarland, Germany, LLM (Distinction) (Europa-Institut of Saarland University), First State Examination (Distinction) (University of Heidelberg), FHEA: Chris teaches international economic and contract law. His research focuses on the regulation of international trade and investment and the international protection of intellectual property. Chris also serves as German Honorary Consul in the South Island.

Prof Karen Scott, LLB (Hons) LLM (Distinction) (Nott): Karen's research interests include public international law, international environmental law, law of the sea and the Polar regions. She teaches in the area of public international law and offers specialised courses on international environmental law, the law of the sea and Antarctic legal studies.

Staff Research Interests

When selecting a dissertation topic and dissertation supervisor, you may wish to consider the following staff research interests:

- **Antarctic Legal Studies:** Karen Scott
- **Artificial Intelligence & Law:** Olivia Erdelyi
- **Comparative Law:** John Hopkins, Annick Masselot, Sascha Mueller
- **European Union Law:** John Hopkins, Annick Masselot
- **Gender and International Law:** Annick Masselot, Cassandra Mudgway
- **Human Rights:** Natalie Baird, Shea Esterling, William Grant, James Mehigan, Cassandra Mudgway
- **Indigenous Rights:** Shea Esterling, William Grant
- **International Art and Heritage Law:** Shea Esterling
- **International Criminal Law:** Neil Boister, Shea Esterling, James Mehigan
- **International Environmental Law:** Karen Scott
- **International Humanitarian Law:** Neil Boister, James Mehigan, Ricky Lee
- **International Financial Regulation:** Olivia Erdelyi
- **International Institutions:** John Hopkins, Karen Scott
- **International Economic Law:** Chris Riffel
- **Law of Outer Space:** Ricky Lee, Shea Esterling, William Grant
- **Law of the Sea:** Karen Scott
- **Legal Theory:** William Grant, John Hopkins
- **Pacific Legal Studies:** Natalie Baird, Chat Nguyen
- **Refugee Law:** Natalie Baird
- **Transnational Criminal Law:** Neil Boister, Chat Nguyen
- **International business Transactions:** Ricky Lee
- **Conflict of Laws/Private International Law:** Ricky Lee, Petra Butler

Section VI – Student Services

Advice, help and support on campus

 Medical care, counselling, travel advice, or physiotherapy.

UC Health Centre
healthcentre@canterbury.ac.nz

Upskill your academic writing and study skills.



Academic Skills Centre
academicskills@canterbury.ac.nz



Are you Māori and need advice, cultural or academic support?

Māori Student Development Team
maoridevelopment@canterbury.ac.nz

A disability or medical condition affecting your study?

Disability Resource Service
disabilities@canterbury.ac.nz



Feel more energised. Lift. Move. Play. Compete. Excel.

UC RecCentre
@UC RecCentre
UC Sport
@UC Sport



Have issues? Need help?

Students' Association (UCSA)
help@ucsa.org.nz



Need to talk things over? Practical guidance, advice and support for our domestic and international students.

Student Care
studentcare@canterbury.ac.nz



Are you Pasifika and need advice, cultural or academic support?

Pacific Development Team
pasifika@canterbury.ac.nz



Feeling unsafe or need emergency help? UC Security 0800 823 637

Check your uclive emails regularly.

You can have them forwarded to another email account—see the IT Services webpage for more info.

WHO TO SEE WHEN YOU HAVE AN ISSUE IN YOUR COURSE...

LECTURER

- IF YOU CAN'T GET YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN ON TIME OR HAVE AN ASSESSMENT CLASH
- IF YOU ARE FEELING STRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING IN YOUR COURSE
- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE CONTENT

CLASS REP*

- IF YOU WANT TO PROVIDE ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK ON AN ASSIGNMENT
- IF YOU WANT TO PROVIDE ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK/ COMMENTS ABOUT YOUR LECTURER

UC STUDENT CARE

- IF YOU NEED PRACTICAL ADVICE REGARDING YOUR WELLBEING AND SUCCESS
- IF YOU ARE FALLING BEHIND IN YOUR STUDIES

UCSA ADVOCACY & WELFARE TEAM

- IF YOU CAN'T FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL WORRIES
- IF YOU WANT ADVICE OR SUPPORT REGARDING AN ACADEMIC DISPUTE

ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTRE

- IF YOU WANT SOMEONE TO READ OVER YOUR ESSAY
- IF YOU WANT HELP WITH REFERENCING
- IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOME WRITING AND STUDY STRATEGIES

TE AKATOKI

- IF YOU HAVE FEEDBACK OR WANT ADVICE AS A TAUIRA MĀORI
- IF YOU WANT SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR ACADEMIC SUPPORT WITH OTHER TAUIRA MĀORI

***NOTE: Class reps are trained to anonymously communicate the feedback they have been given to their lecturers, relevant departments and the UCSA**

FOR MORE OPTIONS YOU CAN VISIT: www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/wellbeing-hub/
www.ucsa.org.nz/student-support