

**Bachelor of Laws
Handbook 2025**



Critique.



While every effort has been taken to ensure the information contained in this Bachelor of Laws Undergraduate Handbook is accurate and up-to-date, the contents are subject to change and review. The University of Canterbury makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of the information contained in this publication. For formal course regulations and prescriptions, please see the University of Canterbury Calendar. The information contained in the University of Canterbury Calendar is definitive. Faculty of Law Undergraduate Handbook published March 2025.

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Kia ora koutou and welcome!

A heartfelt welcome to the 2025 academic year at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | Canterbury University's Faculty of Law | Te Kaupeka Ture whether you are returning to the Law Faculty or are completely new to the University and embarking on studies for the LLB, or postgrad law. My academic and professional colleagues and I are very much looking forward to meeting you in the lecture theatres, around campus, or at one of the fantastic events and competitions our seven law clubs are running this year.

I hope you will immerse yourself in the law and university life, to meet new friends, and to make the most of what Ōtautahi Christchurch has to offer. If you are new to Christchurch, the University campus, and/or the Law School and it all seems a bit confusing you will not be alone. You might find me wandering around campus or the Law School trying to find where I have to go, too. Like some of you I just moved to Christchurch to become part of the Te Kaupeka Ture whānau as the Dean of the Faculty this year. And to be honest, as a previous Wellingtonian, I am missing the hills a bit as orientation guidance. But my experience has been that everyone here is super friendly and happy to help – so please ask if you need assistance.

Now let me tell you a bit about the law school. Your Faculty of Law has a proud tradition dating back to 1873 when the University was established. It is known for its innovation and dynamic approach to legal education in New Zealand and is a leading organisation within the University community, the wider social community and also the professional community of, Ōtautahi, Canterbury and Aotearoa | New Zealand. You have chosen well! And you now have your opportunity to play your part in the history of the Faculty of Law.

This handbook will provide you with information that will assist you to be an effective member of the Law School whānau and the wider University community. It will prove a valuable companion over the course of the year. In addition to finding your way at the University and within the wider Christchurch Community we are sure that you will have a number of more immediate questions about structuring your degree and passing exams.



This handbook is rich in information. It tells you about the structure of the Bachelor of Laws degree and the facilities available to you that will help you achieve your goals. Note particularly the definitions of the meaning of grades and the caution concerning dishonest or improper practices. Be aware also of the details of the procedure covering Special Consideration Applications for when you are unable to complete assessment requirements owing to illness or other reasons, and particularly that not all assessments are subject to the Special Consideration procedure.

Please read the handbook and familiarise yourself with its contents. Keep it to hand throughout the year. If in doubt, consult the University Calendar or ask a staff member. The Faculty Reception staff on Level 3 of Meremere Building can answer general enquiries but for academic advice you may need to consult the the Assistant Dean (Students) Law, Mr Simon Dorset, or the Student Advisors, Ms Vicky Yee or Dr Nicole Anfang. Refer to page 7 for details of how to make an appointment. We are looking forward to getting to know you and take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your academic studies.

Kei ōu ringaringa te ao. | The world is yours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rene Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Law degrees at UC



Bachelor of Laws

The Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) is a professional degree and does not have a major attached to it like some degrees. Everyone who earns an LLB gains a broad background in law.

This is because the content of the compulsory courses is prescribed by the New Zealand Council of Legal Education (NZCLE). These courses must meet the criteria set by this organisation for courses of study that qualify for the examination and practical legal training of persons wishing to be admitted as barristers and solicitors in New Zealand. The compulsory courses, referred to as Schedule C courses, make up the basic framework of the LLB.

In addition to the compulsory courses, many elective Law courses are available in all areas of legal study. These are referred to as Schedule E courses.

LLB degree content

The Bachelor of Laws degree is normally composed of four years of full-time study during which you must take 75 points of non-Law courses (which may include CRJU 101 and CRJU 160 but may not include ACCT 152, ACCT 252 or CRJU 150), plus eight Schedule C compulsory Law courses prescribed by the NZCLE. You also choose the equivalent of a further thirteen 300-level Schedule E elective Law courses.

The University of Canterbury [Calendar](#) and the UC Regulations website contain the regulations for the LLB degree.

LLB with Honours

Students who do well in their early years of study may be invited to complete an LLB with Honours. Honours students must complete three additional courses, LAWS 410 Advanced Research Skills, LAWS 420 Honours Research Paper and LAWS 430 Honours Dissertation within the prescribed period.

Criteria for entry into Honours

Entry into the Honours programme is limited to around the top 25 eligible students per year. To be eligible for consideration, a student must have completed at least three LAWS200 courses (preferably LAWS203, LAWS205 and LAWS206) and no more than 45 points from Schedule E to the LLB.

Professional Legal Studies

To be eligible to apply for admission as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court, a candidate must have graduated with an LLB degree, passed the course in Legal Ethics and must also have completed an approved professional legal studies course.

There are two organisations with responsibility for professional training for graduates seeking admission as Barristers and Solicitors of the High Court of New Zealand. These are the Institute of Professional Legal Studies and the College of Law (New Zealand).

Their contact details are:

Institute of Professional Legal Studies:

www.ipls.org.nz

College of Law (New Zealand):

www.collaw.ac.nz

Bachelor of Criminal Justice

Students may also wish to consider enrolment in the Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree. This degree may be completed in three years of full-time study. It does not qualify graduates to practise Law.

Graduates will find a BCJ will prepare them for careers in all aspects of criminal justice, in particular roles within the police, Ministry of Justice and Department of Corrections.

The degree is also likely to be applicable to working in many government departments, including prisons, probation and parole, in criminal justice policy, forensics, public and private investigation and security.

Much of the BCJ is prescribed, with electives chosen from particular courses. The electives enable you to choose from courses in Criminal Justice, History, Human Services, Forensic Linguistics, Forensic Science, Philosophy and Psychology.

The Bachelor of Criminal Justice Handbook 2025 has further information.

The University of Canterbury [Calendar](#) and the UC Regulations [website](#) contain the regulations for the BCJ degree.



‘I knew that I wanted to make a difference through mitigating modern environmental problems...’

When it came to choosing her study options, Katie had a very clear and powerful goal in mind.

‘I knew that I wanted to make a difference through mitigating modern environmental problems. I’ve always been passionate about climate change. I can envision myself shaping policy around it and other environmental issues,’ she says.

As such, she ended up choosing to study both Science and Law degrees, focusing on environmental law with her studies in Geography and Environmental Science. The two degrees are an interesting combination, and one that Katie finds equal use from when developing new skills and expertise on the environment.

‘People are always surprised by my choice to combine a Law degree with a Science degree. I can’t think of a better duo, particularly if, like me, you’re interested in resource management.

‘I love being able to put two different ‘hats’ on, when considering the environment. Katie the Geography student could build you a map to show where sea level rise might affect a residential area. Katie the Law student could tell you how to notify those residents, and legally effect warnings and relocations.’

Choosing UC by the advice of her parents, Katie ended up making the most of her time here because ‘UC has a wonderfully tight knit community, and so many amazing opportunities’. She started at UC with the Emerging Leaders’ Development Programme through a scholarship, which saw her develop leadership skills and take part in Christchurch community projects with fellow students.

Within the immediate UC community, Katie is the current President of UC Kakariki, the sustainability student club, and the Education and Welfare Officer for LAWSOC, the Law students’ society.

‘I think the ‘campus’ feel of UC is a major strength. With a strong club presence, everyone knows everyone here, and the people and place are both vibrant and inclusive,’ she says.

Katie had also stayed at College House accommodation on campus for her first two years here, and was awarded the Mary Olif Davey Scholarship for her Environmental Science study there. ‘The experience was fantastic: I met so many amazing people, and found a home away from home. The culture and tradition of that hall of residence in particular is stupendous.’

She has also received the Leigh and Judith Pownall Prize for her Geography study – twice. The award was the icing on the cake for her love for Geography and the outdoors, which she got to realise more in the Geography field trips.

‘I’ve taken two papers with field trip elements – GEOG 211 and GEOG 313. Both field trips go out to Cass, which is a gorgeous spot. I loved being encouraged to climb the nearby hills and mountains (one day I’ll manage to summit Sugarloaf!) and being immersed in the experience with my peers.

‘I’ve also taken four summer papers – BIOS 201, GEOG 213, WATR 201 and ANTA 101. They were all very distinct, but I really enjoyed them, and would highly recommend them to others.’

Katie Collier

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws

Double degrees at UC

Many LLB students choose to complete double degrees. Double degrees can be seen as a wise investment for the future, expanding employment opportunities, while at the same time giving a competitive advantage to job applicants. This is facilitated by the provision for cross-credits between the LLB and other degrees.

Common double degree choices are LLB/BCom, LLB/BA, LLB/BCJ and LLB/BSc.

The choice of degrees can give graduates entry into specific areas of employment. For example, an LLB/BSc double degree specialising in Environmental Science could open up excellent opportunities in the resource management field.

An LLB/BCom would be more likely to lead to a career in business management, often to Chief Executive and director level in large companies. An LLB/BA specialising in Media and Communication could be the pathway to a career as a media lawyer. A BCJ and LLB might lead to a career in criminal law practice, policing or corrections. The combinations and opportunities are exciting and numerous.

A double degree is also an excellent opportunity to gain a sought-after, marketable degree in



combination with a degree in a more specialised area of study that you may have a particular talent or interest in. For example, you might choose to combine an LLB with a BA in Art History or Classics.

An LLB and a 3 year degree can normally be completed in five and a half years of full-time study. Double degree students need to plan their courses carefully and should confer with the Student Advisor or Assistant Dean (Students) Law – as well as the Student Advisors in the other College – to ensure that course choices will meet double degree requirements. It is important to check degree completion requirements every year with each College.

Planning your LLB degree

LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 are compulsory courses designed to provide the basic information and skills required for legal study. LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 are followed by the LAWS 200-level courses, all of which are compulsory. For details see <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/law/>

LAWS 200-level courses are limited entry courses. It is absolutely essential that students wishing to be considered for entry to these limited entry courses apply to enrol by the published deadline. If students do not apply to enrol by the deadline, the places in limited entry courses will be given to other eligible students who have applied. The deadline for application to enrol in these courses is earlier than in other courses, and is published annually in the University of Canterbury [Guide to Enrolment](#) and on the UC School of Law [website](#). See page 17 for selection criteria for LAWS 200 courses.

Some 300-level courses, eg, Trial Advocacy, are also subject to limited entry. Deadlines for applications to enrol may differ from those for LAWS 200-level courses. Deadlines are published in the [Guide to Enrolment](#), the UC [Calendar](#) and in the Course Information on the website.

The Assistant Dean (Students) Law and the Student Advisor are available to give guidance to students on all matters including course options and degree or double degree programmes.

Please click [here](#) for the Course Advice page on our website.

Degree regulations

The University of Canterbury [Calendar](#) is the definitive source of the regulations governing your degree or degrees. The Senior Academic Advisor, Assistant Dean (Students) Law and Student Advisor are a good source of advice for assistance in understanding the regulations.

Course options

Current course offerings are published each year in the University of Canterbury [Calendar](#) and the [Guide to Enrolment](#). The most up-to-date list of course offerings and information about courses can be found by following course links on the Courses and Qualifications web pages. The New Zealand Council of Legal Education (NZCLE) expects that NZ Law Schools will teach face to face. Consequently **no** LLB courses are offered extramurally.

Degree planning and careers

Students frequently ask questions about what optional courses they should take to assist them with the careers they have in mind. There are no easy answers to these questions. The starting point must always be: take courses that interest you. Students always do well when they have a personal interest in the courses they are taking. It is the interest that will lead you to the career.

That said, there are some obvious choices. If you are drawn to a career in litigation, enrol in LAWS 307 Principles of Evidence. If you are interested in a career in the commercial world, enrol in LAWS 305 Company Law, and Commercial Law subjects.

Bachelor of Laws – typical degree structure

Year 1

LAWS 101	LAWS 110	100 Level ¹	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level
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Year 2

LAWS 203	LAWS 204	LAWS 205	LAWS 206
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Year 3

LAWS 202	LAWS 301	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level
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Year 4

300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level
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 Compulsory Law courses  Electives  Non-Law courses

¹ May include CRJU 101 and CRJU 160.

Each small block represents a 15-point course. Large blocks represent 30 point courses.

If you want to work for Foreign Affairs, enrol in LAWS 324 Principles of Public International Law and other International Law subjects.

Beyond these broad categories it is very difficult, when writing generally in a publication such as this one, to be precise about the courses you should take. There is a list of suggestions on the LLB specialisation pages. Do what you are interested in and you will do well.

Course advice and information

For pre-enrolment advice:

Future Students Office

For first year student advice, please contact firstyearadvice@canterbury.ac.nz.

Faculty of Law Student Advisors are located on Level 3, Meremere Building and individual appointments may be made by following the link: <https://canterbury.libcal.com/appointments/law-student-advisors>

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LLB Specialisations & career opportunities

In the third and fourth years of a Law degree you have a wide range of options and can choose to specialise in one or more of the following areas.

Note: It is not possible to offer all courses every year.

Areas of specialisation in Law

Some 300-level Law courses cross the boundaries between specialisations, underpin basic legal concepts or inform the nature of legal practice. These courses are:

- Jurisprudence
- Legislation: Law-making for the Twenty-first Century
- Legal Ethics*
- Evidence**

* Legal Ethics is a compulsory course for those wishing to enter legal practice.

** Evidence is recommended for inclusion in any area of specialisation involving appearances before a court or tribunal. It is a prerequisite for the Trial Advocacy course.

Commercial Law and Litigation

Commercial Law is the area which deals with all legal matters connected with commercial business transactions including business structures, issue of shares, contracts, sale of property, loans, taxation, insurance and related matters.

Law graduates interested in these fields are most likely to find employment in law firms, share brokers, accountancy firms, insurance companies, banks, government or private businesses.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Company Law
- Commercial Law I: Sales and Consumer Law
- Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security & Credit
- Insurance Law
- Competition Law
- European Union Law
- Insolvency Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Taxation Law
- New Zealand Financial Markets Law

Community Law

Community Law is concerned with advising people who cannot afford to engage a lawyer from a law firm or who are otherwise disadvantaged.

Law graduates who are interested in this kind of work are most likely to find employment in community law centres or with activist groups.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Family Law
- Commercial Law I: Sales and Consumer Law
- Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security & Credit
- Insolvency Law
- Insurance Law
- Immigration and Refugee Law
- Employment Law

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice is concerned primarily with the functioning of the criminal justice system.

Law graduates interested in this field might find employment in legal practice, the Crown Law Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Probation Service, community law centres or the Police.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Evidence
- Bill of Rights
- International Criminal Law
- Trial Advocacy
- Genetics, Neuroscience & the Criminal Law
- Crime and Justice*
- Prisons and Corrections*
- Serious Financial Crime

*Courses offered by the School of Social and Political Sciences. Discuss with the School of Law's Student Advisor if you wish to substitute **one** of these courses for **one** LAW300 elective course.

Employment and Industrial Law

Employment and Industrial Law deals with employment contracts, health and safety, taxation and social security.

Law graduates interested in these fields might find employment in commercial organisations, accountancy firms, community law centres and other advisory agencies, employers' organisations, employment advocates or trade unions.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Employment Law
- Advanced Employment Law
- Immigration and Refugee Law
- Taxation Law

General Practice

General Practice is conducted mainly by small to medium-sized law firms. They deal with a wide range of business including property law, family law, commercial and consumer law, criminal law, trusts, wills and estates.

Law graduates interested in General Practice are most likely to find employment with law firms throughout New Zealand.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Child and Family Law
- Relationship Property and Family Finance
- Company Law
- Commercial Law I: Sales and Consumer Law
- Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security & Credit
- Insolvency Law
- Insurance Law
- Employment Law
- Taxation Law

Information and Media Law

Information and Media Law is concerned with the regulation and the dissemination and ownership of all kinds of information.

Law graduates interested in these fields might find employment with law firms, patent attorneys or as in-house counsel in radio or television firms.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Intellectual Property Law
- Competition Law
- Media Law
- NZ Bill of Rights

International Law

International Law is largely conducted government-to-government and concerns the relationship of nations to each other. International Law also affects large parts of domestic law ranging from areas as diverse as criminal law and environmental law but is essentially the concern of the state.

Law graduates in this field are most likely to find employment in central government (particularly – but not exclusively – in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) or international and non-governmental organisations.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- European Union Law
- International Human Rights Law
- Principles of Public International Law
- International Environmental Law
- Law of the Sea
- World Trade Law
- Antarctic Legal Studies
- Trade and Investment
- Comparative Law : New Zealand Law in Global Context

Rights and Diversity

There is a range of courses which are concerned with the rights of individuals and groups in New Zealand and beyond, and with how the law responds (or does not) to increasing diversity in our communities.

Law graduates who specialise in this area are likely to find employment in government departments, community law centres and non-governmental organisations (in New Zealand and internationally).

- Treaty Settlement Negotiations
- New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990
- Gender and the Law
- Employment Law
- Immigration and Refugee Law
- Law and Medicine
- Family Law
- International Human Rights Law
- The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Property and Resource Management Law

Property and Resource Management Law deals with matters relating to the creation, ownership, possession and transfer of both tangible and intangible property.

Law graduates interested in these fields might find employment with law firms, central and local government, patent attorneys, property management and development companies, or engineering consultancies.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Advanced Land Law
- Taxation Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Environmental Law
- Resource Management Act 1991: Selected Issues
- Selected topics in Natural Resource Law

Public Law

Public Law is concerned with the organisation and functioning of the institutions of government and the relationship of those institutions to its citizens and other bodies.

Law graduates in this field are likely to find employment in central and local government, as well as in private practice.

Those wishing to specialise in this area would consider options from:

- Legislation: Law-making for the Twenty-first Century
- Jurisprudence
- New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990
- International Human Rights Law
- European Union Law
- Advanced Public Law

Other specialisations

There are numerous other highly specialised areas of Law, including:

- Special Topic : Artificial Intelligence Regulation
- Law and Sport
- Law and Medicine
- Treaty Settlement Negotiation
- Māori Land Law
- The Rights of Indigenous People
- Pacific Legal Studies

Practical skills courses

- Legal Internship
- Clinical Legal Studies

Note: When planning your elective courses, check whether particular courses have prerequisite courses that you have to pass first – e.g. Principles of Public International Law is a prerequisite for many International law options.

Academic information for students

UC Calendar

There is vital information for all students in the Regulations in the University of Canterbury [Calendar](#).

A summary of some areas is provided below, but the UC [Calendar](#) should always be consulted for complete and current information.

Change of course procedure

If students wish to alter a course after enrolment they must do so by submitting a “Change of Enrolment” through the UC website. See the [Guide to Enrolment](#) for procedures and deadlines.

Discontinuation of courses

A student who does not intend to complete a course should follow the change of course procedure outlined in the [Guide to Enrolment](#). If this is not done it will be presumed that he or she is continuing to attend lectures and intends to sit examinations. This will have serious negative consequences:

- the student will be regarded as having failed the subject or subjects concerned
- the failed subject will show as such on the student’s academic transcript
- the failed subject will be included in the Grade Point Average calculation
- the failure may have an effect on eligibility for a student allowance
- the student may be in breach of the University’s academic progress regulations. See page 17.

Conditions for credit

Students are referred to the General Conditions for Credit Regulations in the [Calendar](#).

In the School of Law, the conditions for credit vary from course to course. Students will be

notified of the conditions at the beginning of each course. The basis of assessment for each course will be emailed to students at the commencement of each Semester and will be indicated in course outlines.

- Required work: All compulsory tests, essays and other work must be satisfactorily completed unless exemption is granted by the Dean. Where there are compulsory lectures, tutorials or seminars, satisfactory attendance and performance is required. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a student not being credited with a course regardless of his or her performance in the final examination.
- Exemption from required work: Students seeking exemption from tests or exercises for any reason, including illness, should see, in the first instance, the Law’s Academic Administrator and must do so at the earliest opportunity. It may be possible to grant a total or partial exemption, or to require other work in lieu of that which has been missed. In the case of illness affecting a test, see the section on special consideration.

Special Consideration in the Faculty of Law

Students who are prevented from completing a test or exam in a Law course, or whose performance has been impaired by illness, injury, bereavement or other critical circumstance may apply for Special Consideration for the work concerned. A medical certificate for illness, or supporting documentation for bereavement or other critical circumstances, is required in support of a Special Consideration application.

Special Consideration applies where a student has covered the work of a course but is prevented by some impairment from demonstrating their

mastery of the material or skills at the time of test or exam. It is not available where the impairment affects the learning of material in courses.

Application should be made online to the Whakatutukitanga | Records, Examinations and Graduation Office, within five working days following the date of the test or exam. Please see the Academic Administrator, Faculty of Law, for queries or assistance.

Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration for any essay, assignment or quiz must refer to the Extension Procedures outlined in the School of Law Undergraduate Handbook. Special Consideration applications for essays, assignments or quizzes will be declined and referred by the Whakatutukitanga | Records, Examinations and Graduation Office to the School of Law Extension process.

Internal Tests

For 100-level, 200-level and 300-level courses where a student is impaired for an internal test and has an application for Special Consideration accepted, the decision on what grade to award will be considered in a School of Law Special Consideration meeting at the end of the course and notified via the grade being released on Learn.

For 100-level and 300-level courses where a student is absent for an internal test worth more than 30% of the course and for 200-level courses where a student is absent for an internal test (regardless of the percentage value), and has an application for Special Consideration accepted, that student will be required to sit a special test to replace the one they were absent for. The Academic Administrator will notify the student when the special test(s) will be held.

For 100-level and 300-level courses where a student is absent for an internal test worth 30% or less of the course and has an application for Special Consideration accepted, that student will not be required to sit a special test and the decision on what grade to award will be considered in a School of Law Special Consideration meeting at the end of the course and notified via the grade being released on Learn.

Final Exam or Final Test

For 100-level, 200-level and 300-level courses, if a student is impaired for the final examination or final test and has an application for Special Consideration accepted, that student will receive no change of grade. Such students will, however, be offered the option to sit a special test/exam. If the option to sit a special test/exam is taken, the grade awarded in the special test/exam will replace the result in the final test or examination.

For 100-level, 200-level and 300-level courses, if a student is absent for the final examination or final test and has an application for Special Consideration accepted, that student will receive no grade and will be required to sit a special test or exam. The grade awarded in the special test/exam will, together with the internal assessment, give the overall result.

For all final examinations or final tests where a student has had an application for Special Consideration accepted, the student needs to give the Academic Administrator formal notice in writing (either by email or letter), by the second Friday after release of the final results for that Semester, of their decision to sit the special test or examination. No late applications, after this deadline, to sit a special final exam or test will be accepted.

All special tests/exams for Semester One courses will be held in the mid-semester break in Semester Two (usually late August/early September). All special tests/exams for Semester Two/Whole Year courses will be held in late January/early February the following year.

No Special Consideration applications in relation to a Special Test/Exam will be accepted by the School of Law unless as a result of exceptional circumstances, such as a bereavement during the special examination period.

For any student there remains the discretion of the Dean to make the final decision on their result following an approved Special Consideration application.

For further details, including the need for supporting evidence and the right of appeal, reference should be made to the University of Canterbury Calendar, Special Consideration Regulations and the University's [Special Consideration information](#) online.

It should be noted that in the case of assessed work (quizzes, essays and assignments), other than tests or examinations, a Special Consideration application is NOT available in the School of Law. In these situations the School may offer an extension of time without penalty to complete the work. Please see below for information in relation to Extension Requests.

Extensions in the Faculty of Law

Extensions of time without penalty for the submission of assessed work such as quizzes, essays and assignments may be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as illness, injury, bereavement or other unforeseen critical events.

Supporting documentation is required (eg, medical certificate in the case of illness) and must be presented, with the application form, **prior to** the assessment due date.

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.

Students must plan their year's work to enable them to meet their academic deadlines.

Students are also advised that computer failure is unlikely to provide a sufficient reason for an extension save in exceptional cases.

Decisions on applications for extensions are made by the Head of School or their delegated representative. Enquiries regarding extensions can be made to the Law Administrator. Applications must be made on the appropriate form (which can be obtained via the Law website - click [here](#)) and emailed to the School of Law Administrator together with supporting documentation.

Tutorials

If a subject includes tutorial teaching, **all** students taking that subject **must** enrol in a tutorial group. Students will be notified by email when the online tutorial self-allocate system is available for students to choose their tutorial group. Students who do not self allocate, will be automatically allocated before tutorials commence.

Students **must** attend the tutorial group in which they are enrolled. Students will only be permitted to change their tutorial groups in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Academic Administrator.

Changes for work, social, sporting or other recreational convenience are unlikely to be accommodated.

Any student who needs to change groups should contact the Senior Tutor as soon as possible.

A student whose preparation for a tutorial is inadequate or who fails to attend a tutorial may be required to do written work in lieu.

Course assessments

Most full year subjects are assessed by a test and final examination. In some subjects, essay work instead of, or in addition to the test, also counts towards the final grade. Assignments, tests and examinations will only be assessed once. **Re-submissions or re-sits are not permitted.**

In some courses there are optional assessments which may contribute to the final grade.

For some subjects, written work may be set which does not count formally towards the final grade. Such work may, however, be taken into account informally, and may improve a student's grade in cases where the formally-assessed work is marginal. The standard of the year's work may be particularly important if the student is a borderline pass/fail candidate, and also in the case of any student who has applied for a Special Consideration.

Failure to submit compulsory written work and complete it to the required standard may result in failure in the course.

Written course work submission

Written course work, other than tutorial exercises, is marked anonymously. To facilitate this, please include your student ID rather than your name on each page of all course assessments. A School of Law essay/assignment template should be downloaded and used for all such work. This has all the required information including student ID, and formatting for essays and assignments. The essay template is on the Law [webpage](#), or on the relevant Learn page.

In March each year an email is sent to all Law students stating the assessment methods for Semester 1 and Whole Year courses. In July each year an email is sent to all Law students stating the assessment methods for Semester 2 courses .

This is important information for all students and outlines which assignments, tests and examinations will be used for final assessment, their relative percentage importance and when they will occur. This also details the pieces of assessment in which students may apply for either a Special Consideration or Extension of Time.

In all LAWS courses, essays and assignments must be uploaded to Learn by the required due date and time.

Late assignments must be uploaded to Learn and emailed to either the Academic Administrator or the School Administrator. The date and time it is submitted will be noted for the Course Supervisors information and recorded. See page 14 for information on Extension applications. Late work submitted outside of office hours (8.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday) **must** be emailed to the Academic Administrator. Written work uploaded to Learn is for submission purposes or the submission of late work, and Turnitin and word length purposes only. Essays submitted late will be penalised - see below. Marked course work will generally be handed back from the Law Reception (Level 3). You must present your Student ID Card as proof of identity when collecting work.

Assignment deadlines

Meeting assignment deadlines is an important part of a law degree. If a student cannot meet an assignment deadline for a good reason, they may apply for an Extension (see page 14). Work handed in after the deadline (or the Extension deadline) will be subject to a penalty. The penalty will be 10% of the highest achievable mark for the assignment for work handed in within 24 hours after the deadline, and an additional 10% for each subsequent 24 hours. If the work is handed in more than 72 hours after the assignment deadline, it will not be marked and receive a mark of 0%.

Word Count (incl. footnotes)

A penalty of 1% of the total marks available for the piece of work submitted will be imposed for every 1% (or part thereof) by which the work exceeds the specified word limit. A bibliography, if required, is excluded from the specified word count for a piece of work.

Internal reassessment guidelines

For internal assessment, such as tests, essays and assignments, students have **5 working days** after they are advised that the result is available to request a re-mark/reconsideration. The process for this is as follows:

- Student returns the marked work to the Academic Administrator, with a covering note outlining the reason(s) for requesting a re-mark;
- Once the re-mark is complete the Academic Administrator will contact the student, via email, to advise them of the re-mark decision.

For reconsideration of final exam grades, see page 17.

Formal examinations

Students' attention is drawn to the following extract from the University's Examination instructions "**write clearly; illegible answers will not be marked**". Students should familiarise themselves with the examination instructions well in advance of sitting examinations – click [here](#). It is important to note that students must not communicate with any examiner except through the Registrar (see University *Calendar*) in the period between the end of examination and the publication of results.

Meaning of Grades

Grade	Min Mark*	Short Description	Fuller Description	Level
A+ (90 – 100%)	22.5/25 18/20	Outstanding/ Exceptional	All the following expected: 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%)	21.25/25 17/20	Excellent	Nearly all of the requirements for an A+	1 st Class Honours
A- (80 – 84%)	20/25 16/20	Extremely good	Meets most of the requirements for an A+	1 st Class Honours
B+ (75 – 79%)	18.75/25 15/20	Very good	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%)	17.5/25 14/20	Good	Good understanding, but not as secure as for B+	Second Class Honours/Division 2
B- (65 – 69%)	16.25/25 13/20	Reasonably good	As for B, but even less secure	
C+ (60 – 64%)	15/25 12/20	Competent	Essential points identified and answered Basic understanding A little confusion and irrelevancy tolerated	
C (55 – 59%)	13.75/25 11/20	Passable	About half of the issues answered correctly Basic understanding Some confusion and irrelevancy tolerated	
C- (50-54%)	12.5/25 10/20	Barely Passable	About half of the issues raised Very bare understanding Some confusion and irrelevancy tolerated	
D (40 – 49%)	10/25 8/20	Poor	Inadequate Confused Significant gaps in understanding and knowledge	
E (0 – 39%)		Unacceptable	Very poor knowledge and understanding	

*Minimum scores ignore rounding, which may lift some students.

Reconsideration of final grade

Within 4 weeks of the date of publication of final results, any student can apply for a Reconsideration of Final Grade. This is done by submitting a form and paying a fee to the Examination Arrangements Senior Co-ordinator. This will be refunded if the reconsideration results in a change of grade.

Academic progress

The Dean of Law is obliged to review the record of any student whose progress towards degree completion is unsatisfactory.

It is deemed unsatisfactory if the student has not passed more than half the points for which they were enrolled; or if they fail to pass half or more of the points for which they were enrolled in the last two years of study; or if they have an overall GPA of less than 1.0; or if they have withdrawn from more than half of the courses in which they enrolled in the preceding two years; or if they have otherwise failed to demonstrate any likelihood of success.

Note: A year of study is any year in which the student was enrolled for at least one course. Students whose records are reviewed may be declined further enrolment. For full details see the Academic Progress Regulations – in the University of Canterbury [Calendar](#).

Admission to LAWS 200 courses

The criteria for admission to LAWS 200 courses are as follows:

(a) Continuing LAWS 200 students:

In order to be sure of continued admission to LAWS 200 courses, a student must have passed at least one half or a majority of the LAWS 200 courses in which the student was enrolled in their most recent year of LAWS 200 enrolment.

(b) LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 students

Admission to LAWS 200 courses depends on performance in LAWS 101, LAWS 110 and non-law courses. Approximately 200 LAWS

100-level students proceed to LAWS 200 each year. Accordingly, students normally need to be ranked in the first 200 in the LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 examination results, and to have performed satisfactorily in their non-law courses, in order to gain a place in LAWS 200.

(c) Transfer students

Admission to LAWS 200 depends on these students' academic records. Each applicant is assessed individually.

(d) Graduate students

Graduate students enrolling in LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 may be concurrently admitted to LAWS 200 courses. Admission depends on these students' academic records. Each applicant is assessed individually.

(e) Students Limited out of LAWS 200 Students who passed LAWS 101 and LAWS 110 previously but did not gain entry to LAWS 200 and who have then undertaken a full-time year of non-law study which contains a significant element of advancing courses at 200 or 300-level and who gained good results for the whole of that year (normally a B average) may be admitted to LAWS 200.

(f) Special Applications

Details of Te Tono Whakatapoko | Discretionary Application and International Student Quota can be found on the Law website. Applicants must have passed LAWS 101 and LAWS 110. Application for enrolment details can be found in MyUC. The LAWS 200 application closing date is published in the [Guide to Enrolment](#) and on the Law [website](#). Applications to enrol must be lodged by this closing date.

If you are seeking to enrol in LAWS 200s for the first time in 2025 then apply as follows:

- Double degree fulltime students – at least all three of LAWS 203, 205 and 206 [and add 204, if you want to be full time and working towards your LLB only in 2025]
- Part-time students (whether double degree or not): at least one of 203, 205 and 206 only, **and** in this sequence.
- LLB only full time students: all four of LAWS 203, 204, 205 and 206.

If you are continuing in LAWS 200s in 2025 (i.e. 2025 is not your first year of LAWS 200s) then apply for all or some of your remaining LAWS 200s and LAWS301. Note that students may not enrol in any LAWS 300s unless they have completed 75 points non law and either completed all their LAWS 200s or are concurrently enrolled in their remaining LAWS 200s.

Students will be notified by email in late December of the decision on their application for LAWS 200-level courses.

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), such as ChatGPT, is not original. If you are permitted and choose to use generative AI, you must use it responsibly. You must not put data into a Gen-AI tool without the permission of the person who owns the IP. Data for this purpose includes learning materials such as lecture handouts, slides, assignments and reading references.

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 as a barrister and solicitor.

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 AI, such as ChatGPT, AI systems to create text, translated text, images, video or code except where such use is expressly permitted and is declared or referenced by students in the manner required. See also [Generative AI at UC | University of Canterbury](#).
- 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.

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 and/or refer to the Academic and Behavioural Misconduct Regulations: [General regulations | University of Canterbury](#).

IMPORTANT: Where there are concerns regarding the authorship of written course work, a student can be required to provide a formal, oral explanation of the content of their work.

Prizes

Prizes are awarded to high achievers in many Law courses each year.

The following is a list of the prizes awarded annually. Prize winners are notified in December each year.

Gold Medal in Law

A gold medal, presented by the Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Law Society, is awarded annually to the best student graduating LLB. The award is made on the student's work and examination marks during the whole of his/her degree.

Advanced Land Law Prize for the top student in LAWS393.

Anderson Lloyd Prize in Contract for the top student in LAWS203.

Anderson Lloyd Prize in Land Law for the top student in LAWS205.

Canterbury Law Review Prize

The prize is awarded annually to the student who produces the best research paper submitted to the Canterbury Law Review Committee.

Dee Morgan Prize for member of Te Pūtairiki Māori Law Students' Society and top student in LAWS301 or LAWS398.

Ewart Hay Prize in International Law for the top student in LAWS324.

Gerald Orchard Prize in Criminal Justice (Criminal Law for Criminal Justice) for the top student in CRJU202.

Gerald Orchard Prize in Criminal Justice (Principles of Evidence) for the top student in CRJU308.

Gerald Orchard Prize in Evidence for the top student in LAWS307.

Iain Johnston Prize in Law for the top student in LAWS310.

John Burrows Prize in Media Law for the top student in LAWS396.

Joseph Yates Prize in Trial Advocacy for the top student in LAWS359.

Kathryn Dalziel Prize in Legal Ethics for the top student in LAWS398.

LexisNexis Prize in Legal Foundations, Research and Writing for the top student in LAWS110.

LexisNexis Prize in Equity and Trusts for the top student in LAWS301.

Macarthur Prize in Law for the top student in LAWS305.

Mortlock McCormack Prize in Child and Family Law for the top student in LAWS309.

Neil Williamson Memorial Prize in Issues in Policing and Prosecution for the top student in LAWS365.

Neil Williamson Memorial Prize in Issues in Policing and Prosecution for the top student in CRJU307.

New Zealand Insurance Law Association Prize in Insurance Law for the top student in LAWS341

Privacy Commissioner Prize in Privacy Law for the top student in LAWS396 in answering the question on aspects of privacy in the final exam.

Raymond Donnelly & Co Prize in Sentencing Theory and Practice for the top student in LAWS366.

Raymond Donnelly & Co Prize in Criminal Law for the top student in LAWS202.

Ross and Valerie Penlington Prize in Public Law for the top student in LAWS 206.

Saunders Robinson Brown Early Legal Scholarship Prize for the top student in the cohort of LAWS203, LAWS205 and LAWS206.

Saunders Robinson Brown Trust Prize for the top student in LAWS301 in the most substantive assessment of the law of trusts component.

Tavendale & Partners Prize in Commercial Law I: Sales and Consumer Law for the top student in LAWS331.

Tavendale & Partners Prize in Commercial Law II: Personal Property Security & Credit for the top student in LAWS332.

Taylor Shaw Prize in Individual Employment Law for the top student in LAWS363.

Young Hunter Prize in Legal Systems: Legal Method and Institutions for the top student in LAWS101.

University Prize in Law

Wolters Kluwer CCH New Zealand Limited Prize in Taxation for the top student in LAWS352.

Wynn Williams & Co Prize in Torts for the top student in LAWS 204.

Wynn Williams & Co Prize in Resource Management Law for the top student in LAWS376.



‘To be given the opportunity to head my own project, essentially independently, is something not many graduates have...’

Having had the opportunity to complete an Intern Consulting Project for her UC studies, Millie quickly built the skills and confidence she needed to launch into her career.

‘To be given the opportunity to head my own project, essentially independently, is something not many graduates have,’ she says. ‘I became extremely invested in the end result and passionate about the topic. An area I initially knew very little about, I now find myself particularly interested and keen to consider a career in this area of employment law or human resource management.’

Her double degrees in Law and Commerce was the ‘perfect combination’ for her MGMT 390 internship project at the Department of Corrections.

Millie’s project was to produce a guide for managers in cases of medical incapacity – a situation where an employee is unable to fulfil their normal work duties due to a sudden illness or injury.

This involved looking at documentation, as well as interviewing individuals who are involved in some aspect of the medical incapacity process, from frontline managers through to welfare officers, and legal advisers, and external bodies such as ACC representatives and Union reps.

One key element to her project was to incorporate Te Whare Tapa Whā, the Māori health model of the

four cornerstones to well-being – physical, mental, spiritual, and family health.

‘Not only does this align with other practices within Corrections, but it indicates the overarching theme and purpose of this guide, to focus on the health and welfare of the individual employee and how this can be balanced with the interests of the Manager and their team.’

She built a lot of professional and self-confidence from her internship, particularly around interviewing skills, and project management.

‘It has helped me develop a set of skills that not all graduates would have had the chance to develop in the conventional University course. Project management is an area that one does not often get the opportunity to develop in the early stages of their career,’ she says.

‘By the end of the placement, I felt my self-assurance had developed strongly. It was a completely unique and foreign experience for me, which pushed me out of my comfort zone of academic assignments.’

The results of her project were readily taken on board, and will feed into the Department of Corrections’ nation-wide programme in this area.

‘This gave me a lot of pride and I finally felt extremely confident in the work I had produced for Corrections,’ she says.

To top it off, Millie was offered a graduate position with law firm Russell McVeagh before finishing her degrees, as a result of her internship experience. Millie works in their Banking and Finance Team on project financing, and also in mergers and acquisitions for their Corporate Team.

With all of her successes, Millie highly recommends other students take on an intern consulting project during their studies.

‘If you get the opportunity to study this course, absolutely take it on. What you will learn, develop, and experience out of this course is unparalleled to any other courses at University and is totally invaluable.’

Millie Bidwill

Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce

Student support and wellness

Māori Development Team

At UC, te Ratonga Ākonga Māori | Māori Student Development Team (MDT) offer support and advice for all ākonga Māori. Our initiatives help ākonga Māori to succeed academically while encouraging personal growth and cultural connectedness through the support of our own unique hapori Māori here at UC. We encourage you to make the most of the opportunities available. To find out more and connect with a Kaipoipoi Student Development Advisor visit: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/akonga-maori/>

Pacific Development Team

The UC Pacific Development Team offers pastoral care through two advisors who can help students with almost everything! In addition there is a tutoring programme where students can gain additional tutoring, as well as a mentoring programme. They also fill the year up with lots of fun events so keep an eye out! <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/support/pasifika/>

Coping well with stress while studying

Stress is a normal part of life that occurs when we are taking on new challenges - an unavoidable part of being at university.

The study of law can be particularly demanding. A heavy workload, high expectations for achievement, and competition between students can result in a lot of pressure to perform well. Friends and family can be supportive, but social life can be a source of stress in itself.

While a moderate amount of stress is perfectly healthy, intense or prolonged stress can be a problem worth doing something about.

The Mental Health Foundation recommends five strategies to increase our resilience: 1) connect with others, 2) be physically active, 3) give some

of your time to helping others, 4) take notice of the simple things in life that give you joy and 5) be open to new experiences and learning. Fitting these principles into daily life, even in small ways, can help us cope with the demands of life.

Sometimes we are tempted to cope with stress by doing things that provide short-term relief: procrastination, alcohol or drug misuse, withdrawing from challenges or even just staying in bed. Unfortunately, these approaches often create more problems in the long term, and it is better to cope more actively.

Working out what is important to us and committing to taking action towards meaningful personal goals, even when that is challenging, is a more effective approach to take in life. This might mean giving and receiving support, sticking to a study schedule, practicing assertiveness, following a healthy lifestyle, doing volunteer work, being an active club member or engaging in other valued activities.

Our university has some great resources to call upon when the struggles are becoming too much. You can talk to these members of staff in the Law School: Professors Ursula Cheer, Lynne Taylor or Neil Boister.

You can, of course, speak to any other member of staff if you would prefer that. You can also access the following via email:

- Counselling or medical care from UC Health Centre: healthcentre@canterbury.ac.nz
- Advice and support from Student Care: studentcare@canterbury.ac.nz
- Advice and support from the Māori Student Development Team: maoridevelopment@canterbury.ac.nz and the Pacific Development Team: pasifika@canterbury.ac.nz

Student organisations



LAWSOC The Law Students' Society

The University of Canterbury Law Students' Society (LAWSOC) is a body that exists primarily for the benefit of University of Canterbury Law students, by representing their interests, and providing academic and social support. Membership is optional and is available to all Law students. Members can sign up in week 1 of term 1 on Clubs days at the LAWSOC tent and receive a membership pack full of goodies, ongoing members' benefits, as well as a LAWSOC t-shirt.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/law/law-clubs-and-societies>

Te Pūtāiki – Māori Law Students' Society

Nau mai haere mai ki te Kura Ture o te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha.

Ko te rōpū o Te Pūtairiki tenei.

Ka whakatū tenei rōpū ki te āwhina, ki te tautoko hoki i nga tauria Māori e ako ana i te ture.

Otirā, ko te mea tino nui o te rōpū, ko te whakawhanaungatanga i waenganui i a mātou.

Nō reira, he mihi nui, ki a koutou.

Te Pūtāiki is the Māori Law Students' Society here on campus at the University of Canterbury. It is run entirely by students for students, and our main objectives are to foster, promote and nurture the whakawhanaungatanga of our students, to provide support, guidance and pastoral care, and to facilitate academic excellence. We operate according to tikanga

Māori, which creates a really welcome whānau atmosphere.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/law/law-clubs-and-societies/te-putairiki--maori-law-students--association>

UC Pasifika Law Students' Society

The UC Pasifika Law Students' Society is a society dedicated to providing support and fostering networks for UC Pasifika law students, both on campus and with other campuses. The group was formed in 2016 following a trip by several UC Pasifika Law students to the Pasifika Law and Culture Conference in Wellington.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/law/law-clubs-and-societies/pacific-law-students--society>

University of Canterbury Students' Association

Established in 1894, our aim is to provide students with the best possible experience while they are at the University of Canterbury. We aim to do this by providing representation, services, facilities and phenomenal events for every student at UC.

There are three main areas of service that we provide as a students' association: our welfare and advocacy team deal with hardship grants, foodbank support and emergency and subsidised dental care.

For more information, check out: www.uca.org.nz or come and see us in our offices.

Queer in Law (QUIL)

Further information can be found at: <https://uca.org.nz/club/8676/> and @quil_uc on Instagram.

MootSoc

The University of Canterbury Mooting Society (MootSoc) is an academic club for law students interested in court work.

Further information can be found at: <https://uca.org.nz/club/8740/>

Law for Change Canterbury

We are the University of Canterbury branch of the national charitable trust Law For Change.

Join us if you want to learn more about public interest legal issues, explore the opportunities available once you have graduated with a law degree or gain legal-related volunteering experience.

We run career events, an annual Quiz Night and a lunchtime speaker series throughout the year, 'Lunch For Change'.

You can sign up for free at our stall on Clubs Day to get updates from us throughout the year.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/law/law-clubs-and-societies/law-for-change>

UC Women in Law

We want to encourage the young women studying law to thrive in their future careers and at law school as we continue to fight to minimise the gender gap in current New Zealand law firms. Despite the title our society will always be somewhere that encourages the spirit of inclusiveness, equality and intersectionality.

We welcome anyone to join us, male or female, law student or not - everyone is welcome and membership is free! You can also email us at: ucwomeninlaw@gmail.com

Further information can be found at: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/law/law-clubs-and-societies/uc-women-in-law>

UC Asian Law Students' Society

Established in 2019, ALSS aims to promote equity and diversity, build up the social links between Asian students across years, and connect with other Asian Law Societies across New Zealand. Further information will be on the Law Clubs and Societies page soon.

Competitions

Mooting, witness examination, client interviewing and negotiation competitions give law students an enjoyable and practical opportunity to develop legal skills.

Faculty of Law Mooting Supported by Bell Gully

Mooting gives students the opportunity to research and then argue legal problems in accordance with the formalities of a real court hearing. A moot is not a mock trial but rather it develops the skills normally used in an appeal where counsel address the judge or judges directly on points of law and (generally) no evidence is heard. This provides mooters with a valuable chance to practise the skills needed as advocates making legal submissions in court.

There is no compulsory programme of mooting and students take part voluntarily, gaining enjoyment and experience from participating. UC Law has a strong reputation in this field, not only in New Zealand, but also internationally. Moots at UC are organised by the Moot Master, who is a member of the Faculty teaching staff. The Moot Master is assisted in organising the competition by LAWSOC.

Internal Moots

The School of Law's mooting programme is open to all Law students who have successfully completed the necessary LAWS 100-level courses. Students participating in the mooting programme compete for the Judges' Cup (overall winner) and the Faculty of Law Trophy (best junior mooter). In 2014 a new trophy – the Blue Cup – was introduced. This was donated by the former

Dean of Law, Associate Professor Richard Scragg, and is awarded to the best mooter competing for the first time in the open competition.

Preliminary rounds in the mooting competition are judged by members of the Law School staff, local barristers, and solicitors specialising in litigation. Final moots are presided over by a Bench which usually includes a Judge of the High Court, the President of the Canterbury-Westland branch of the New Zealand Law Society and the Dean of the Faculty.

External Moots

UC mooting teams compete at the annual New Zealand Law Students' Association (NZLSA) Mooting Competition and the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Mooting Competition held in Australia. Teams that win at the national competitions have opportunities to compete further afield including at the prestigious Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in the USA. The UC Mooting Team has also competed in the National Human Rights Moot held in Wellington and the Australasian round of the Stetson University College of Law International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition held in Brisbane.

National Māori Issues Moot: Te Hunga Roia Māori

The objective of the National Māori Issues Moot, held annually, is to “showcase” Māori student talent and to provide an opportunity for students to argue current legal issues affecting Māori in a challenging but supportive learning environment. Overall, the Moot is intended to foster teamwork in an ethic of whanaungatanga, rather than encourage individual or campus rivalry. The UC

School of Law, in combination with Te Pūtairiki, holds a round of preliminary moots for Māori students to select the mooter or mooters who then represent UC at Te Hunga Roia. Participation in the preliminary Moot at UC is open to any law student who has an interest in Māori issues. However, entry to the National Moot is limited to those of Māori descent.

Minter Ellison Rudd Watts Witness Examination

Witness examination is more akin to a mock trial than to a moot.

The competitors must elicit evidence from “witnesses”, who have been briefed prior to the event on what they are to say, and establish the facts of the case in accordance with the rules of evidence and the principles of witness examination, including evidence-in-chief and cross-examination. The skills this competition teaches are the ones needed in both civil and criminal trials, where the Court is primarily interested in hearing the evidence given by the witnesses.

Students who have successfully completed their LAWS 100-level courses and their second year of law may enter the competition, which is organised by LAWSOC and sponsored by Minter Ellison Rudd Watts. The winner represents UC at the NZLSA and ALSA competitions.

NZLSA Client Interviewing

This involves students, in teams of two, conducting an interview of a client. The interviewers are given a concise memorandum which identifies the general nature of the client’s problems. The client receives a detailed brief

of facts to be elicited by the interviewers. The interviews are evaluated by a panel of two judges against criteria covering the skills of listening, questioning, planning and analysis.

Students who have successfully completed their LAWS 100-level courses may enter the client interviewing competition organised by LAWSOC and sponsored by NZLSA. The winners represent UC at NZLSA and ALSA competitions. The winners of the national competition go on to compete in an international championship, which in 2010 was won by a UC pairing.

Buddle Findlay Negotiation

This requires students, in teams of two, to conduct a negotiation with another team of two. Each team receives a common brief on the dispute and a brief of confidential instructions from their client. Two judges evaluate performance against a range of criteria.

Students who have successfully completed their LAWS 100-level courses may enter the negotiation competition organised by LAWSOC and sponsored by Buddle Findlay. The winners represent UC at NZLSA and ALSA competitions. The winners of the national competition go on to compete in an international championship, which in 2013 was won by a UC pairing.



‘Canterbury’s a nice place to be, and everyone seems very friendly in this part of the world...’

Originally from Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, Zhe found it easy to settle into life as an international student at UC.

‘It’s been great!’ he says. ‘I met lots of people when I came to New Zealand. Everyone was really friendly and I made many friends in my first year. There is a large Malaysian community here as well, so it really feels just like home.’

He says that the change in pace was exactly what he was looking for when he decided to move here.

‘I wanted a different experience from the big city life that I’m used to, and I needed a change in scenery. Canterbury’s a nice place to be. Life seems less hectic, and everyone seems very friendly in this part of the world.’

With maths as his strongest subject at high school, Zhe says it made sense for him to study Finance at university. He went for the popular option of adding a Law degree to give him even more options after graduation.

By studying towards a double degree, Zhe had taken on a considerable workload, but he found time to relax by travelling, reading, and spending time with his friends. He also augmented his Law studies by volunteering as a caseworker at Community Law Canterbury.

‘I would encourage anyone studying law to volunteer at Community Law Canterbury. I volunteered there before I got a job and it taught me skills that I would not have learnt in a classroom environment,’ he says.

After graduating, Zhe started work at Community Law Canterbury as a Solicitor within the Residential Advisory Service team, assisting homeowners with unsettled insurance claims after the Canterbury earthquakes.

‘It’s an interesting space to work in because of the ever-changing nature of the job,’ he says. ‘As it has been more than five years since the first earthquake, the issues that arise are more complicated than ever. My role is to engage with clients, identify the outstanding issues, work to resolve those issues through utilisation of the expert technical advisors available and to negotiate the homeowner’s claim with the insurer and EQC.’

Zhe says that the major highlight of his time at UC was the MGMT 228 Chinese Business Practices and Culture course, a study tour involving a three-week stay at Zhejiang Gongshang University in Hangzhou and a five-day business trip to Shanghai.

‘One of our group’s tasks was to research the dairy industry and dairy habits in China. It was fun as we got to learn about business practices in China as well as interact with the locals at the same time. It is definitely my favourite course so far! I would definitely recommend it to other students who are looking to do something fun and out of the ordinary while at university.’

Zhe Kwan

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce

Internships and Community Engagement

Community Law Canterbury – student volunteers

From third year and above Law students may apply to volunteer with Community Law Canterbury (CLC). CLC provides legal advice, information, assistance, representation and education to over 15,000 people per year. Law students are pivotal to this service.

Initially, most Law students work as caseworkers within the General Legal Advice Service. This involves providing advice to clients under the supervision of practitioners.

Students may also volunteer to work for one of CLC's specialist services, for example the Employment or Family Services. Volunteering within any of CLC's services can provide students with valuable practical experience and an opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge.

Advice Sessions take place

Mon-Thurs 5.30pm – 7.30pm, and
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

A Legal Telephone Information Service is also staffed by volunteers .

Information Sessions take place

Mon-Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

CLC recruits volunteers in March and November. This is followed by an in-depth training course that each volunteer must complete.

For more information please or visit their website: <https://www.canlaw.org.nz/>

or email: admin@canlaw.org.nz

Legal Internships

Law students can choose to complete a legal internship as part of their LLB degree. Through an internship, students are given the opportunity to develop expertise in the real-world environment by learning and applying legal and business skills in the workplace.

Internships can take many forms and may be completed anywhere in New Zealand, or overseas (with the approval of the School of Law). Previous interns have worked in a variety of businesses, law firms and NGOs including Community Law Canterbury and Anglican Advocacy.

Students may also apply for specialised internships with the NZ Police and with the United States Congress in Washington offered annually.

For more information, search for LAWS382 on the UC website or contact [Professor Robin Palmer](#).

Applied Professional Skills

Participating in the Clinical Legal Studies programme provides students with an authentic legal practice experience and the opportunity to engage with the local community. As part of the Law Clinic, students assist actual clients with real-world issues. They also partner with pro bono lawyers and Community Law Canterbury to pursue legal action in suitable cases.

For more information, search for LAWS386 on the UC website or contact [Professor Robin Palmer](#), the Director of Clinical Legal Studies.

General information

The Library

Our job is to help you!

We (Theresa Buller and John Arnold) are the dedicated Subject Librarians for Law.

We are here to help you to develop the skills you'll need to find information for your assignments as well as to explain and assist with the intricacies of the New Zealand Law Style Guide. These skills will set you up to get your degree and to succeed as a lawyer in the workforce.

Much of what you'll need is available online and can be accessed from the Law Subject Guides. We have copies of all required and recommended textbooks on 3 hour or 3 day loan, which can be found on Level 2 of the Central Library.

We are based on Level 5 of the Central Library in Puaka – James Hight. Please come and visit us at our desks for a one-to-one consultation during the year. Alternatively you can email, phone, use AskLIVE or ask for us at the Information Desk on Level 2 of the Central Library. We are experts at using the library databases, finding obscure cases and journal articles as well as helping students get started with their assignment research.

We are looking forward to meeting all first year students in LAWS110. For returning students we offer a programme of legal research skills at the start of Semester One as well as assignment-specific tutorials in selected 200 level papers.

Visit the Law Subject Guide at:

<http://canterbury.libguides.com/laws>

Library hours

See the library website:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/library/>

Studying abroad

Student Exchange schemes

The University has bilateral agreements with a number of overseas universities for the exchange of students, generally for a period of up to one year. Participants take courses at partner universities to substitute for courses that they would normally have taken as part of their degree programmes at their home universities. Courses to be taken at the overseas university must be approved in advance by the Dean, via the International Mobility Co-ordinator, Student Services.

A feature of all exchange agreements is that students pay for their tuition at their home university and not at the partner university, which results in significant savings in tuition fees for NZ students studying abroad.

Normally, Law students require a B average in Law courses in order to participate in an exchange. Students who wish to participate in an exchange should attend an introductory seminar. Further details are available from the International Mobility Co-ordinator.

In addition, the School of Law is fortunate to have exchange agreements with the Schools of Law at the Universities of Nottingham and Sheffield in England and the University of Cincinnati in the USA. Official application must be made via the International Mobility Co-ordinator.

LLB Honours students must discuss possible exchange options with the Academic Administrator and Honours Advisor prior to applying for an exchange, as exchange course results are included when assessing the division of honours.

Communications

Students should consult the School of Law webpage and Learn pages **regularly**. Student email will be used extensively to keep you informed about tutorial changes, notices from lecturers, deadlines and other vital information, especially when changes or cancellations are required to be made at short notice. Emailing information, displaying it on webpages and on the relevant Learn pages is regarded by the School as notice to all students.

Please check the website frequently to learn where this information is displayed.

It is essential that you check your student email daily. You may wish to forward your UC email to your personal account – if so, please consult IT.

Using UC Learn

Students will extensively use the UC Learn pages as part of their studies. Each course has a Learn page on which the lecturers post the Course Outlines and readings that are an integral part of the course. Other relevant information, relating to assessments, tutorials, workshops, etc, will also be posted on Learn pages. All essays and assignments will be uploaded on Learn as the submission process to be checked for submission deadlines and through Turn-it-in.

Students are encouraged to make use of the Learn site on a daily basis. The Learn site is accessed here: <http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/>

Using My Timetable

Students will use My Timetable as the primary source of information for their lecture, tutorial and workshop days, times and rooms. They will also be able to find details of their internal tests on My Timetable.

Students are urged to use My Timetable on a daily basis. It is possible to sync My Timetable with other devices so a student will be able to view their timetable on, for example, their iPhone. It is important to resync to your phone at regular intervals throughout the year as changes are made to timetable information.

My Timetable can be found at this link: <https://mytimetable.canterbury.ac.nz/aplus/student>

UC Careers

The UC Careers team are professionally qualified Career Consultants and Graduate Recruitment Specialists.

Located at the UC Careers, Internships & Employment Centre, Level 1 Geography, the team provide a comprehensive range of services which assist students to :

- Make informed course and career decisions.
- Develop career management competencies.
- Make the most of University from a careers perspective.
- Prepare for and transition successfully to the world of work.

Career consultations, online career development modules, seminars and workshops, online and printed resources, UC Careerhub, the online job board, Employer Information Sessions and career fairs are just some of what is available to students at UC.

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

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