

Postgraduate Law Welcome and Advisory Session

Semester 1, 2026

Professor Rick Bigwood

Academic Dean and Head of School
TC Beirne School of Law



Acknowledgement of Country

- The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.
- We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.
- We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

The Brisbane River pattern from A Guidance Through Time
by Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow.





THE UNIVERSITY
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CREATE CHANGE

Welcome and Introduction

Professor John Swinson

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Director of Postgraduate Programs



Welcome!

The UQ Law School is excited to have you join
our LLM program in 2026!

Our LLM Program aims include:

- Providing you with opportunities to learn about legal topics in detail
- Allowing you to think deeply about the law
- Considering how the law should change
- Enabling you to develop friendships and connections



Our LLM Program is International

- We have students from many countries
- We cover international legal issues
- We look at the laws of Australia and elsewhere, and we learn from the differences



Our LLM Program is diverse

We have over 60 students commencing this semester

- Australian students with a law degree and/or business degree
- International students with a law degree from a common law country
- International students with a non-common law degree (e.g. from a civil law-based country)
- International students with a non-law (business) degree

Postgraduate orientation: welcome

Director of Post Graduate Programs – **Professor John Swinson (孙坚)**

Email: j.swinson@law.uq.edu.au

Room: W415 Forgan Smith

What is my role?

Providing operational and strategic leadership for our PG programs:

- Welcoming you to the UQ Law School LLM program
- Ensuring the LLM program runs smoothly so that you have an excellent educational experience at UQ
- Helping you navigate through course offerings, with their dissertation choices, and facilitating career advice
- Learning from you to improve the LLM program so that it is relevant for you and future LLM students
- Course monitoring and course development
- Working with my Law School colleagues in respect of teaching and learning activities
- Oversight of LLM student recruitment, enrolment and progression to graduation
- Liaising with International Services (BEL Faculty) to ensure our international students are properly supported



Tips for Success

Select the right courses

- Courses have different aims and styles
- Not every course is suited for every student
- **Participate in Class**
- Prepare for class
- Study the readings
- Ask questions in class
- Provide your point of view

Tips for Success

Start work on Assignments early

Do other activities – don't spend all your time studying – have balance.

If you need more guidance, ask

The pathway to academic success and graduation

- Read over your **course profiles**: the electronic course profiles (ECPs) are accessible via **Learn.UQ** (Blackboard). Learn.UQ is the Learning Management System for all UQ courses.
- **Unsure about which courses to enrol in?** Ask me or Daniel Lim or individual academic staff about their courses.
- **Preparation** is key: up to eight hours before each seminar. Effective participation and engagement with academic staff is dependent on your careful reading and consideration of study materials. There are no short cuts.
- Study materials for each seminar can usually be found in 'Learning Resources' via **Learn.UQ** or in the **UQ Libraries**.
- **Attendance**: Go to every class. The **process of learning** takes place before, during and after seminars. Missing seminars hampers your chances of academic success.

The pathway to academic success and graduation

- **Participation:** Be prepared to actively contribute to seminar discussions by demonstrating (orally and/or in writing) your understanding of the study materials and their application. Seminars are not a forum in which the course tutor simply ‘lectures’ you for two to three hours.
- Your **assessments** will be measuring the process and the outcomes of your learning; and, typically, your learning is based on the study materials that have been prescribed for you to read independently, think about, and then discuss in seminars.
- **Look after yourself** and seek assistance if you are struggling for any reason; contact your teachers and alert them to any issues arising that may be impacting our studies or, health. The Law School’s **well-being officer Dony Rodriguez** can provide support.

Advice for success

Turn up on time

Know what is going on

Actively participate

Have an idea

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV_PSbMzSeM





Suitable course offerings for international students

- *Fundamentals of the Common Law (LAWS7936) (compulsory for LLM students from a non-common law background)*
- *Principles of International Law (LAWS7710)*
- *International Commercial Arbitration Law (LAWS7868)*
- *AI & Internet Law (LAWS7777)*
- *Current Issues in International Law (Public) – International Disability Law (LAWS7724)*
- *LAWS7728 International and Comparative Competition Law*
- *Mediation and Conflict Management (LAWS7851)*
- *International Admiralty and Maritime Law (LAWS7865)*
- *International Maritime Trade Law (LAWS7876)*
- *International Human Rights Law (LAWS7156)*
- *Law, Terrorism and Human Rights (LAWS7713)*
- *International Refugee Law (LAWS7714)*
- *Law, Technology and Global Business (LAWS7855)*
- *Theories in Dispute Resolution (LAWS7841)*
- *International Criminal Law (LAWS7724)*
- *Comparative Criminal Law (LAWS7970)*
- *Current Issues in Legal Practice – Doing Business Internationally (China and Australia) (LAWS7725)*
- *Intellectual Property Law (LAWS7708)*
- *The International Legal Profession (Plus new courses for 2027... details coming soon)*



Suitable course offerings for international students with common law background

- Commercial Equity Litigation (LAWS7835)
- Advanced Civil Litigation (LAWS7721)
- Advanced Studies in Contract (LAWS7948)

The above courses are only suitable for students who have a law degree from a common law country.





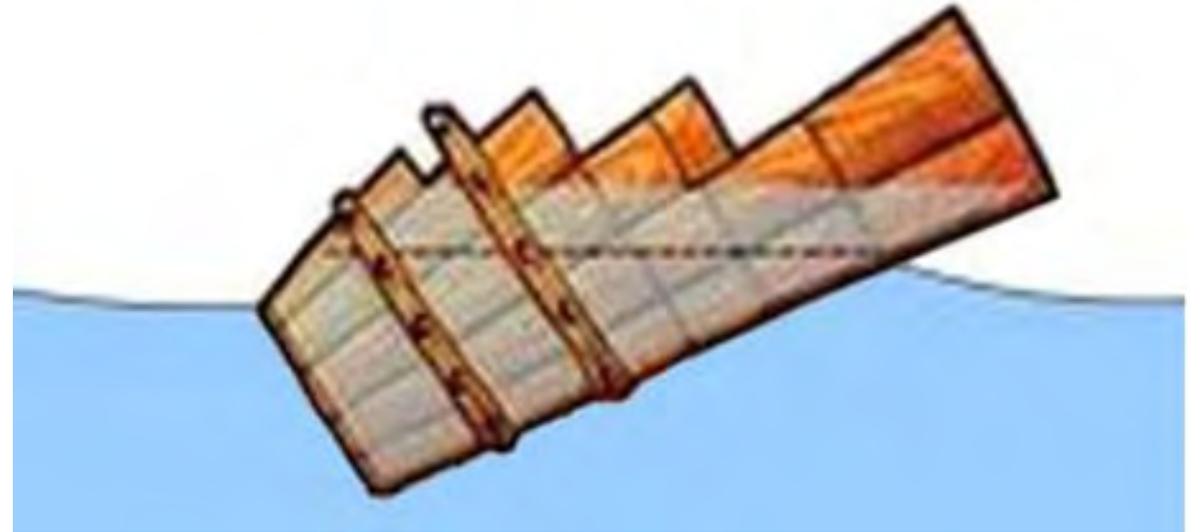
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Dr Wenting Cheng

Senior Lecturer
TC Beirne School of Law

Find your strength and work on it





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Law Life and Wellbeing

Dony Rodriguez

Senior Coordinator, Student Wellbeing and Co-curricular Programs

Dony Rodriguez

Senior Coordinator, Student Wellbeing and Co-curricular Programs
Office: W362

The UQ Law School, through its **Law life & wellbeing** co-curricular program, is proactively committed to supporting our student community and equipping you with the tools you need to thrive.

Studying law can be challenging and involve hard work, so maintaining your wellbeing throughout your journey is fundamental.

We have resources to assist you to practise self-care, connect with friends and access professional support if you need to.



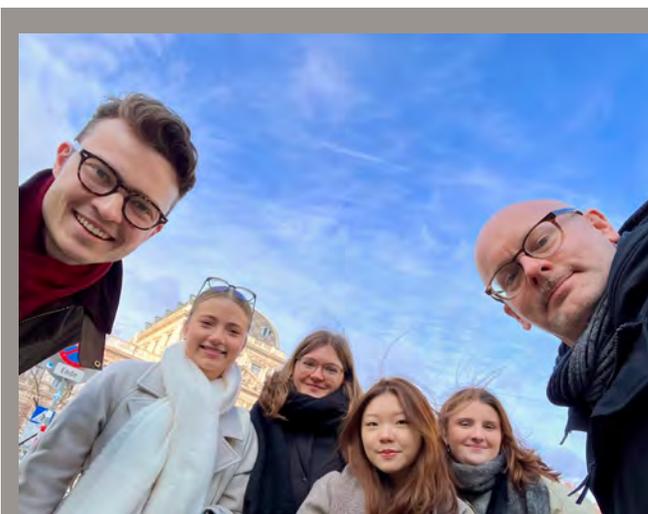
law.uq.edu.au/current-students/wellness

lawlife@uq.edu.au

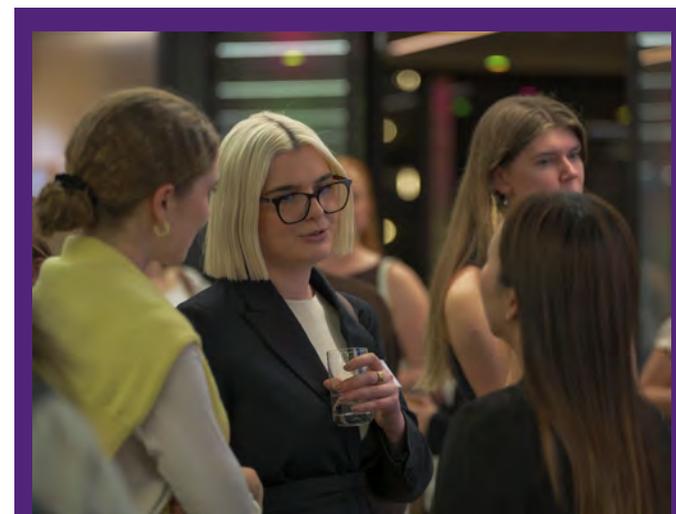
Law life & wellbeing



Wellbeing Support Stalls (Exam Weeks)



Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn 'UQ Law School'



Events for engagement with the profession, community building and social interactions



law.uq.edu.au/current-students/wellness
lawlife@uq.edu.au

Pizza Lunch for Post-Graduate and International UQ Law Students

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2026

Time: 12pm – 1pm

Location: Law School Boardroom (W353)



Law life & wellbeing

Study Skills Support

- Explore a range of workshops and sessions aimed at helping you improve your academic, life and wellbeing skills. From creating a budget to HDR support, there is something for all ages and academic stages.



Connection and community

- Student Monthly Update and 'The Hub'



Law Life
for UQ law students

in | globe | f

The Hub
A full round-up of the latest news and events, just for current UQ law students.

[Subscribe to the hub](#)

Upcoming Events

People, Plants and the Law Lecture

Register for the next webinar in the *People Plants and the Law* series: *Re-imagining (Re)production in Intellectual Property Law: Proprietary Fruit and the Making of Botanical Kinds*

Tue 28 October | 5-6pm | L3 Boardroom (W355)
Find out more and register here!

Careers in Social Justice Panel Event & End of Year Celebration

Register now for the PBC end of year celebration! The afternoon will feature a panel discussion focused on careers in social justice, as well as the presentation of the 2024 Sandra Aisac Award. Enjoy the



Effective learning and studying

- UQLS PALS 'Peer Assisted Learning Sessions'
- Library courses/resources



Physical health and wellbeing

- Law school running clubs or social sport teams



Diversity, disability and inclusion

- If you have a disability, mental health or medical condition, illness, injury or exceptional circumstance, there are services available to assist you with your studies – act early!



Recent research into Australian law students, suggests they are **2.4 times** more likely than medical students, and **3.5 times** more likely than the general population, to report **high, or very high levels of distress**.

Larcombe W, Malkin I, Nicholson P. Law students' motivations, expectations and levels of psychological distress: Evidence of connections. Legal Education Review. 2012;22(1/2):71-98.

I have no or mild symptoms		I have mild symptoms		I have moderate symptoms	
<p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Basics (MHB): Mental Health Knowledge and Supports at UQ Sharper Minds (Online and in-person modules) UQ Wellbeing GROUP Programs UQ self-help resources <p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access MHB via Blackboard or Workday Sharper Minds via UQ Counselling website UQ Self-help resources webpage <p>Costs? Free to all UQ Students</p> <p>Wait period? None.</p>	<p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with UQ Mental Health Champions Network If symptoms are impacting study, talk to tutors or staff, connect with the team of Accessibility and Welfare Advisors at UQ <p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UQ Mental Health Champions Network website UQ Accessibility and Welfare website <p>Costs? Free to all UQ Students</p> <p>Wait period? None.</p>	<p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UQ Counselling UQ With You UQ Psychology Clinic <p>Costs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free to all UQ Students (UQ Counselling and UQ With You) \$25 per hour (UQ Psychology Clinic) <p>Wait Period? Varies, book an appointment.</p>	<p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person: Student Central (Bld 41, St Lucia) Telehealth via phone or Zoom (UQ Counselling) In-person: Student Central (Bld 8101A, Gatton) In-person: 17 Upland Rd, St Lucia, Telehealth: Zoom or phone (UQ With You) 25 Upland Rd, St Lucia (UQ Psychology Clinic) 		
<p>I want individual therapy</p> <p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional psychologists Visiting psychologists Visiting psychiatrists <p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Lucia UQ Medical Centre (Gordon Greenwood Bld 32, St Lucia) Gatton UQ Medical Centre (NW Briton Annexe, Administration Annexe Bld 8101A) UQ Psychology Clinic (25 Upland Rd, St Lucia) <p>Cost?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free/bulk-billed at UQ Medical Centres Referral from GP required for visiting psychologists and psychiatrists \$25 per hour (UQ Psychology Clinic for Provisional Psychologists) <p>Wait period? Varies, book an appointment.</p>		<p>I want a referral for private therapy</p> <p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private psychologists (GP Referral required) Private psychiatrist (GP Referral required) <p>Where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UQ Medical Centres or your local GP <p>Cost?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free/bulk-billed at UQ Medical Centres Gap-fee may be charged at local GP Fees vary for private psychiatrists and psychologists <p>Wait period? Varies, book an appointment.</p>		<p>I am in crisis</p> <p>Who?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call 000 if life-threatening UQ Mental Health Crisis Line (1300 851 998) Emergency Services call Campus security (3365 3333) Suicide Call Back (1300 659 467) <p>Costs? FREE</p> <p>Wait period? None.</p>	

Health and wellbeing

UQ also provides a range of programs and counselling services to help improve your overall physical and mental wellbeing, including:



Mental Health Champions Network



UQ Ally Network



Counselling



UQ Psychology Clinic



Health clinics



UQ Sport



UQ Pro Bono Centre

Pro Bono Roster

- Dozens of legal **volunteering opportunities** each year, mostly in community legal centres and other not-for-profit organisations
- Some projects are **short-term** (for a few weeks) and others are **longer term**, like our case law database projects
- Our new **Rural, Regional and Remote Project (RRR)** enables students to travel to RRR areas to deliver legal services in RRR communities

Visit the Pro Bono Centre:
law.uq.edu.au/pro-bono



UQLS

Graduate & International Students Portfolio

We have many exciting events planned this year for Graduate and International Students! Stay up to date with the UQLS Facebook and keep an eye out for our fun events!

Feel free to reach out to your representative for Graduate and International students anytime on: graduateandinternationalofficer@uqls.com

If you want to know more about life at an Australian university or who to talk to at TCB, we'd love you to get in touch!





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Academic Communication Skills: ACS Law



Why attend ACS Law?

New students not only have to learn their discipline, they also have to learn the language and genres of their discipline.

Academic English is nobody's mother tongue.



Overview

The ACS Law course was developed in conjunction with the School of Law and is a 4-week, discipline-specific program for postgraduate students from a non-English speaking background.

The course is delivered by UQ College teachers – specialists in teaching Academic English.

It focuses on developing written and spoken academic communication skills required for successful completion of postgraduate legal studies.

The course aligns closely to assessment for **Fundamentals of the Common Law (LAWS7936)**.

EAC Law Structure (Sem 1, 2026)

Semester Week	Date	EAC Content	Links to LAWS7936 Assessment
1	Lecture Visit 23rd of February	Diagnostic Writing Task	
2	Workshop One 5th of March	Common Law and Legal English Unpacking an Assessment	Assignment One
3	Workshop Two 12th of March	Writing Concise Language Writing a Summary	Assignment One
4	Workshop Three 19th of March	The Writing Process Incorporating Sources into an Essay Writing a Reflection	Assignment Two
5	Workshop Four 26 th of March	Revision and Editing Skills Open Session	Assignment Two

So how can you register for ACS Law?

1	Lecture Visit 23rd of February	Diagnostic Writing Task
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- ✓ We will visit the LAWS7936 Lecture next Monday (23/2).
- ✓ You will do a short writing task during the lecture period, so bring your laptop!
- ✓ We will then send you an email with some helpful feedback on your writing.
- ✓ We will also say if we think you might benefit from participating in the ACS Law Course.
- ✓ The email will contain details about how to register, and dates/location of the 4 workshops.

Got any questions? Speak to me after this orientation or email: c.nuttall@uqcollege.uq.edu.au

You must register for ACS

You can register now by following this link.

LAWS7936 students will receive more information in Week 1.

Got questions? Drop us a line:

manager-eac@uqcollege.uq.edu.au



Assessment Helpers

Embedded Language Support Office (ELSO) for BEL – Tricia Hicks

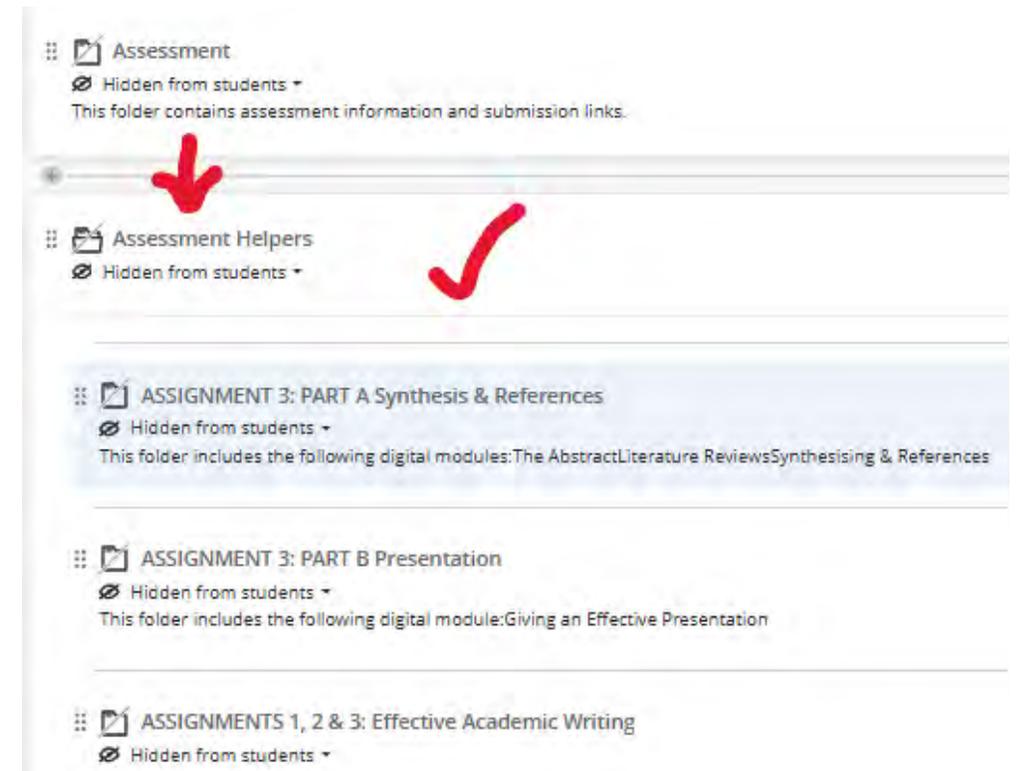
- *What can a Language Support Officer help you with?*

Self-access Assessment Helpers

view them
in your
own time

Online assessment helpers help you:

- understand the assessment task requirements
- breakdown your assessment into bitesize chunks
- get started
- understand assignment styles & structure
- review checklists
- review vocabulary



The assessment helpers closely align to your assessment for **Fundamentals of the Common Law (LAWS7936)**.



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Post Graduate Advisory Session

Daniel Lim

Coordinator, Academic Programs

Contact

Mr Daniel Lim

Coordinator, Academic Programs

pglaw@law.uq.edu.au

Ph: (07) 3365 1492

For assistance with administrative aspects of your study such as:

- Program rules
- Enrolment
- Credit or exemptions from previous study
- Progression checks and eligibility to graduate
- Cross-Institutional study

Email pglaw@law.uq.edu.au with your query or if you wish to arrange a meeting.
Meetings available in person at St Lucia.

Please quote your student ID number in all your written correspondence with the University.

Important dates

- You should have enrolled in at least one course on mySI-net by now via www.sinet.uq.edu.au
 - If you have any issues email pqlaw@law.uq.edu.au
- Final date to add/drop courses freely: **8 March 2026**
- Final date to drop course without penalty (Census date): **31 March 2026**
- Final date to drop course without academic penalty but financial applies: **30 April 2026**
- LAWS7936 (Fundamentals of the Common Law) first class commences **23 February 2026**.
Mandatory for LLM students from non-common law jurisdiction.

UQ academic calendar: <https://about.uq.edu.au/academic-calendar>

Assessment Tips

Applying for extension

- Do not submit assessments late! 10% penalty each day late and zero marks after 7th day.
- **DO NOT** simply email course coordinator for extension.
- Request for an extension through my.UQ (<https://my.uq.edu.au/>).
- More information on website: <https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/manage-my-program/exams-and-assessment/applying-extension>

Plagiarism and Referencing

- Intentional plagiarism will be treated as misconduct. If you are confused about what plagiarism means, please ask questions.
- Read 'Avoiding Plagiarism' attached in booklet.

Referencing and the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC4)

- Online module available through the UQ Library: <https://web.library.uq.edu.au/library-services/training/legal-research-essentials/introduction?p=6#6>
- Introduction to legal referencing video from the UQ Library: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVR8RNnbMh8>
- Contact: librarians@library.uq.edu.au

School of Law Website

Most information about your program and courses is available from the Law School website.

For information on your program:

1. www.law.uq.edu.au
2. Go to 'Study' on the menu bar
3. Select 'Masters Guide' from the dropdown menu.
4. Select the option for your program

Master of Laws

A tailor-made, unique and transformative learning experience at the premier Law School in Queensland. We offer world-class teaching quality and an extensive suite of law courses relevant for the legal profession in Australia and internationally. Our LLM (Master of Laws) program inspires independent and critical thinking about the law and legal methods, the application of law in contemporary legal practice, and how the future of law and legal practice may be impacted by digital disruption and new technologies.



For qualified legal practitioners seeking to gain advanced knowledge in their field of interest. Select from the broadest range of courses and research options.

[✍️ Prospective students - see program details and how to apply](#)

[☰ See LLM courses offered in 2026](#)

[Download the brochure](#)

Supervised Research Projects/Dissertations

Course Code	Units	Duration
LAWS7825	2	One Semester
LAWS7944	4	One Semester
LAWS7716	4	Two Semesters commencing in Semester 1
LAWS7717	4	Two Semesters commencing in Semester 2
LAWS7701	8	One Semester
LAWS7718	8	Two Semesters commencing in Semester 1
LAWS7719	8	Two Semesters commencing in Semester 2

Application form:

<https://law.uq.edu.au/files/105672/Application%20for%20PG%20Research%20Project%20or%20Dissertation%20Form.pdf>

Only available after completing at least one semester of studies.

- UQ GPA of 4.5 to enrol in a #2 supervised research project, and a minimum UQ GPA of 5.5 to enrol in #4 and #8 dissertations.
- Supervisor must be from UQ Law School: <https://law.uq.edu.au/team/academic-staff>
- Email application and proposal to pqlaw@law.uq.edu.au **no later than two weeks prior to the commencement of the semester** during which the project is to be undertaken.

Week to week courses vs intensive courses

- Week to week usually means the course is semester long. Check timetable or ECP for details.
- Intensive usually means the course is taught over four days (sometimes six). Could be consecutive days or across weeks.
- Several courses are taught intensively. See the school website.
 - <https://law.uq.edu.au/current-students/course-information-and-support/postgraduate-intensive-timetable>
 - We recommend international students avoid enrolling in too many intensive courses in the first semester of study at UQ. It can be a bit overwhelming!

Learn.UQ (Blackboard)

[LAWS7936] Fundamentals of the Common Law (St Lucia). Semester 2, 2025

[Content](#) [Calendar](#) [Announcements](#) [Discussions](#) [Gradebook](#) [Messages](#) [Groups](#)



Course Content



 **Course Profile**
Click on the Course Profile link to view the course aims and learning outcomes, required resources, assessment criteria and due dates, and other important information.

 **Course Resources**
This folder contains links to lecture recordings, the course reading list and subject guides. It also contains course help and course staff information. Your learning resources are located below. 

 **Blackboard Ultra Student Tour (Video)**

 **Assessment**
This folder contains assessment information and submission links. 

<https://learn.uq.edu.au/>

Student Central

For all administrative enquiries and information related to your student journey

- Academic records
- Admissions and changing programs
- Enrolment and fees
- Exams and calculator approvals
- Forms and certified documents
- Graduation queries
- Orientation and timetables
- Study (or academic progression)
- Withdrawing from a course or program

Student Central, Prentice (Building 42)
Student.services@uq.edu.au
1300 275 870 (option 2)
Live chat: 8.30am to 4.30pm
<https://my.uq.edu.au/student-support>

facebook.com/uniofqld

[Instagram.com/uniofqld](https://instagram.com/uniofqld)

Student Services

Student Services provide assistance to all UQ students (and staff) via a number of services, including:

- Counselling
- Diversity, Disability & Inclusion
- Accommodation advice
- Financial Hardship
- International and remote Student Support
- Learning support
- Chaplaincy Services
- Mentoring
- Volunteering
- Student Staff Partnerships
- Campus Activations.



BEL Student Centre

Contact us for help

Visit: Level 2 Colin Clark Building (39)

Email: bel@uq.edu.au

Call: 3365 7111

bel.uq.edu.au/for-students



Helpful online resources

Scan the QR codes and save the links to these online orientation resources!

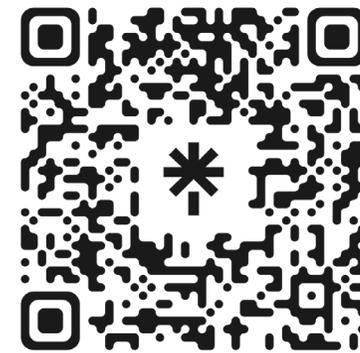
Your Support Services Module

This resource explains the key support services available to help you have the best experience at UQ.



@YourBELStudentExperience Linktree

Web links to all the information you may need to find during your time at UQ, saved in the one place.



Questions?

- pglaw@law.uq.edu.au
- Ph: +61 7 3365 1492

Share your feedback to win!

Tell us about your orientation experience to enter the draw to win a huge UQ prize pack, including:

- \$100 voucher for UQ food outlets
- UQ varsity jacket
- UQ cap
- Insulated lunch bag
- Bento box
- Glass coffee keep-cup
- UQ socks

