

INFORMATION REGARDING THE AWARD OF HONOURS IN THE BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE

SEMESTER 2 2009 AND SUMMER TERM 2010

A. Award of Honours

The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) will be awarded with the following levels of Honours:

Honours Class 1; Honours Class 2, Division 1; and Honours Class 2, Division 2.

The award of Honours in the LLB program is based on three requirements:

- 1) The Weighted Average Mark (WAM) in law; and
- 2) Satisfactory performance in written research; and
- 3) No academic misconduct and not more than one failure in a course.

1) Weighted average mark

In general terms, students who score a law WAM in the top 10% of the graduating cohort in each semester will be eligible for the award of Honours Class 1; students with a WAM in the next 10% will be eligible for the award of Honours Class 2, Division 1; and students with a WAM in the next 10% will be eligible for the award of Honours Class 2, Division 2.

All courses taken towards the Law degree will be taken into account for written research requirements, but only those taken at UNSW Law School will count towards the WAM.

2) Satisfactory performance in written research

Students can meet this requirement as follows:

1. by demonstrating that you have **already completed** at credit level or above:
 - a. LAWS 2423 Research Thesis (8 uoc); or
 - b. LAWS 2422 Research Thesis (16 uoc); or
 - c. 3 research papers of 3000 words or more, taken in any three courses, any semester, in the LLB program.

In the case of c) if the research paper was completed prior to 2009, students will need to provide the Honours Committee with appropriate evidence, such as the marked papers, or, if the papers are not available, students must obtain verification from the marker for details of the research paper, the semester it was completed, the length of the paper and the result achieved.

2. by enrolling in and passing at credit level or above in Semester 2 2009 or Summer Term 2010:
 - a. LAWS 2423 Research Thesis 8 uoc (please check course availability for Summer Term); or
 - b. 3 research papers of 3000 words or more taken in any 3 courses in the LLB program.Results for research theses and research papers over 3000 words completed from Semester 2 2009 onwards will be notified by teachers directly to student administration. Research papers falling under 2.b) completed prior to Semester 2 2009 require evidence as detailed in 1c) above.

3) Academic Conduct and Single Failure Rule

No student will be eligible for the award of Honours if he or she has

- a. been found guilty of plagiarism or serious misconduct on more than one occasion; OR
- b. failed more than one course in the LLB program.

B. Honours Committee

An Honours Committee of the School has been established, consisting of the Co-ordinator of Undergraduate Studies and three other members of the academic staff chosen by the school. The Honours Committee has the following responsibilities:

- 1) to oversee the implementation of Honours and to review the award of Honours each year;
- 2) to determine the precise WAM cut-offs for the different classes of Honours on a cohort by cohort basis;
- 3) to hear appeals concerning Honours;
- 4) to monitor the breadth of offerings of qualifying research papers across the courses in the curriculum;
- 5) to monitor the spread of marks in qualifying research papers;
- 6) to remind academic staff during the examination period to record the marks in qualifying research papers separately and to submit those marks simultaneously with their other marks to student administration.

C. Instructions for students expecting to complete degree requirements in Semester 2 2009 or Summer Term 2010

If you wish to be considered for the award of Honours, you must notify Student Administration by 30 November 2009 by completing and signing the approved Honours notification form available on level 2 or on the law school website. On the form you will be asked to identify the courses in which you **have already met**

the research requirement, or in which you **will meet** the requirement. If you have met the research requirement, please provide evidence of this as detailed above. You will need evidence (as above) of any research you rely on (except for 8uoc or 16uoc theses) which was completed prior to 2009. Research completed in Semester 2 2009 onwards will be notified directly to student administration.

D. Information regarding Honours for the first Honours cohort

The assessment of Honours awards has been finalised for Law students completing in Semester 1 2009. Following is the WAM cut-off history for previous graduating cohorts:

LAW WAM Cut-off \ Semester Cohort	Semester 1 2009	Semester 2 2008 and Summer term 2009	Semester 1 2008	Semester 2 2007 and Summer Term 2008
Honours Class 1 (top 10%)	78.42%	79.75%	80.05%	78.53%
Honours Class 2, Division 1 (next 10%)	75.8%	77.31%	77.74%	77.14%
Honours Class 2, Division 2 (next 10%)	74.33%	75.63%	74.22%	75.69%

It is important to note that the WAM cut-offs are likely to vary from cohort to cohort, and that they depend on the overall performance of a particular graduating cohort. Students are strongly advised to use past cut-offs as a guide only as to the required WAM cut-offs for this year and future years.

In addition, if you are eligible for honours, you will not be able to withdraw your nomination and reject the award of Honours.

The WAM required for the award of Honours for students completing in each cohort will not be known until all results for that cohort are finalised. Honours students will be notified of their Honours class by email once the process for checking eligibility has been completed.

If you have any queries about any of the above, please contact student administration as soon as possible.