UNSW Law – one of the world’s top ranking Law Schools and a leader in progressive and rigorous legal education and research.
Teaching and learning

Our innovative curriculum sets the benchmark for legal education worldwide:

- interactive seminar-style classes;
- Australia’s largest program of experiential learning opportunities;
- teachers include former judges, industry professionals, international scholars and award-winning lecturers;
- pathway from UNSW JD to Oxford BCL or MLF;
- overseas electives in Chile, China, Switzerland, USA and Vanuatu;
- exchange agreements with over 70 Law Schools around the world.

Facts in Brief

RANKINGS

- Ranked 14th Law School in the world (QS World University Rankings 2017)
- Rated 5 (“well above world standard” in the 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA))

STUDENTS – DOMESTIC

- 1,710 undergraduate students
- 962 postgraduate students
- 95 PhD candidates

STUDENTS – INTERNATIONAL

- 333 international students
- From over 130 countries

GRADUATES

- 16,464 alumni

STAFF

- Academic Staff: 90
- Professional and Technical Staff: 60
- Sessional Lecturers: 130/Semester
Our Dean,
Professor George Williams AO

George Williams AO is the Dean, the Anthony Mason Professor, and a Scientia Professor at UNSW Law. He has held an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship, and visiting positions at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Columbia University Law School in New York, and Durham University and University College London in the United Kingdom.

Professor Williams has written and edited 34 books. He has appeared as a barrister in the High Court in many cases over the past two decades, including on freedom of speech, freedom from racial discrimination and the rule of law. As chair of the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee in 2005, Professor Williams helped bring about Australia’s first State bill of rights, the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. In 2007, he chaired a NSW Government inquiry into Options for a New National Industrial Relations System which produced the historic referral of State industrial power over the private sector to the Commonwealth.

Professor Williams is a well-known media commentator on legal issues. He is a columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald, and reviews science fiction and fantasy books for The Weekend Australian and Books and Arts Daily on ABC Radio National.

Professor Williams was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2011: ‘For distinguished service to the law in the fields of anti-terrorism, human rights and constitutional law as an academic, author, adviser and public commentator’.

UNSW Law is one of the world’s top ranking Law Schools and a leader in progressive and rigorous legal education and research. Grounded in black letter law and inspired by principles of justice, we study law in action and make a difference in this world.

Student engagement is fundamental to everything we do. Renowned for our teaching method, we offer smaller class sizes, interactive teaching and a wealth of opportunities for studies beyond the classroom, both locally and overseas.

As a leading research-intensive university, we focus on interdisciplinary and collaborative research that leads to real change in public policy and the law. This research is used to inform, inspire and enliven our teaching.

Innovation is key to our success. From student hackathons and app-based law subjects, to ground-breaking research in big data and fintech, we are a progressive hub at the intersection of law and technology.

A leading global Law School
Undergraduate Law

Undergraduate students study Law as a dual degree, combining the study of Law with one of 25 partner degrees. Students gain a broader education and graduate with a better understanding of the value of the law in practice.

The undergraduate program features student-focused, interactive teaching in small classes, with an emphasis on experiential learning.

In 2016, UNSW Law introduced the Law Admission Test (LAT) for entry to the Undergraduate Law dual degree program at UNSW. The LAT is a written test which allows students to demonstrate their aptitude and suitability for studying Law at UNSW. UNSW Law will use the LAT, together with academic results (e.g. ATAR) to better differentiate between the many high achieving applicants to Law.

UNSW JD (Juris Doctor)

The UNSW JD is a three year professional Law degree for graduates of disciplines other than Law, or with a Law degree from an overseas institution. It can be used as a basis for seeking admission to legal practice. The UNSW JD cohort is extremely diverse, with students ranging in age from 20-72 years, and holding degrees from across Australia and more than 70 international universities.

Postgraduate Law

UNSW Law offers a range of flexible postgraduate programs to both Law and non-Law graduates.

The well-established Master of Laws offers law graduates an opportunity to acquire further expertise and enhance their career prospects, with the option to undertake one of 11 specialisations or a generalist degree.

Specialised legal education available to students whose first degree was not in Law includes the Master of Business Law, the Master of Criminal Justice & Criminology, the Master of Dispute Resolution, the Master of Environmental Law & Policy, the Master of Human Rights Law & Policy, the Master of International Law & International Relations, the Master of International Law & Security, and the Master of Law, Media & Journalism. Many of these programs are also offered to Law graduates.

Higher Degree Research Programs

UNSW Law is a leader in legal research and, in addition to the work of its Faculty members, has a strong cohort of research students enrolled in 3 research programs: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD); and Master of Laws by Research (LLM by Research).

Scholarships

Over 35 scholarships and financial awards are available exclusively to UNSW Law students to assist them to study at a world-leading Law School and to partake in the wide range of unique learning and extra-curricular opportunities that the Law School offers.
Research

UNSW Law is a world-leading law faculty. It comprises the Law School and 12 affiliated legal research, education and advocacy centres. The quality of the Faculty’s research is recognised by a consistently high level of prestigious funding from the Australian Research Council and other bodies.

With an academic staff comprising world class researchers, practitioners and industry experts, UNSW Law has a long tradition of excellence in applied legal research which has been used to strengthen and enhance the practices of both the legal profession and industry.

Areas of research strength

- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Criminal Law, Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Environmental Law
- Evidence and Procedure
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Indigenous Peoples and the Law
- Intellectual Property
- International Economic Law
- Law & Development
- Law, Science & Technology
- Laws of the Asia Pacific Region
- Legal and Social Theory
- Legal Education and Pedagogy
- National Security and Terrorism
- Private Law
- Public International Law
- Regulation and Regulatory Theory
- Transnational and Comparative Law

Research snapshots

UNSW Law has a long and proud history of engaging with the wider community to find innovative solutions to complex social, political, economic and environmental problems. A number of our top researchers are undertaking research projects that foster closer ties with government, business, industry and the community.

Fintech

A Scientia Professor and CIFR King & Wood Mallesons Chair in International Finance Law, Professor Ross Buckley’s current work includes a project focused on how best to regulate the delivery of financial services over mobile devices in least developed countries. Global access to financial services – that is, the ability to store funds securely, make and receive payments, and access emergency finance via so-called “mobile money” – is regarded by the World Bank and the UN as key to lifting millions out of poverty. Yet robust law and policy infrastructure is vital to ensuring that mobile money works effectively and attracts and retains community trust. Ross’ team works in the Solomon Islands, assisting the Central Bank with its policy and regulatory settings in this area.

Big data

As part of the multi-million dollar Data to Decisions Cooperative Research Centre (d2drc.com.au), which brings together researchers and industry to be a leading provider of big data capability, Professor Janet Chan, Associate Professor Lyria Bennett Moses and Dr Alana Maurushat are building a safer more secure nation. For instance, Professor Chan’s project examines the policies, regulatory approaches, processes and strategies used by Australia, the UK and Canada to balance the management and exploitation of big data for national security and law enforcement purposes, while safeguarding confidentiality and security of sensitive personal information, as well as the accuracy of data sets.

Social enterprise

Many in the community are turning their minds, skills and industry to solving complex social and environmental problems. Professor Bronwen Morgan works on multiple projects designed to create a legal and policy framework to encourage such innovative social entrepreneurs. Working with the Social Enterprise Legal Models Working Group in discussion with the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership, Professor Morgan is working on a project directed at legal and legislative reform to create a new hybrid legal model for social enterprise.
Centres

UNSW Law incorporates a range of legal research, advocacy and education Centres which are integral to the Faculty’s research output. They also play an essential role in the education of UNSW Law students through the provision of internships and clinical legal education.

- Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
- Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)
- Australian Human Rights Centre
- Australian Pro Bono Centre
- Centre for International Finance & Regulation
- Centre for Law, Markets & Regulation
- China International Business & Economic Law Initiative (CIBEL)
- Cyberspace Law & Policy Community
- Diplomacy Training Program
- Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law
- Indigenous Law Centre
- Kingsford Legal Centre
- National Children’s & Youth Law Centre
- Refugee Advice & Casework Service
- The Social Justice Project

UNSW Law Careers Service

In 2015, UNSW Law established a dedicated careers service, offered exclusively to UNSW Law students, and led by a team of experienced lawyers. The first of its kind in NSW, the Careers Service offers one-on-one counselling sessions, a broad-ranging jobs board, and a variety of resources, presentations and workshops aimed at maximising students’ employability in whatever career path they choose to pursue.
Continuing Legal Education

UNSW CLE offers courses and electronic resources to assist legal professionals to keep up to date with the latest developments in the major practice areas, to refine legal and business skills, and to earn points towards their mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD). UNSW CLE’s courses are presented by leading practitioners and academics. Many UNSW CLE events are “Advanced Standing” approved, offering attendees the opportunity to earn credit points towards a post-graduate degree.

Distinguished alumni

Some of our distinguished alumni in law, government, business and the arts include:

- **Lea Armstrong**
  NSW Crown Solicitor
- **Hon. Justice Annabelle Bennett AO**
  Former Judge of the Federal Court of Australia
- **Elizabeth Broderick**
  Former Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner
- **Karl Chong**
  Co-Founder, Groupon Singapore
- **Michael Del Nin**
  Co-Chief Executive Officer, Central European Media Enterprises
- **Stuart Fuller**
  Global Managing Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
- **Dr Michael Fullilove**
  Executive Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy
- **Hon. Justice Barnabas Fung**
  Judge of the High Court in Hong Kong and Chairman of the Electoral Affairs Commission
- **David Gonski AC**
  UNSW Chancellor, Chairman for ANZ Banking Group, Coca-Cola Amatil, UNSW Foundation and Sydney Theatre Company
- **Matthew Grounds**
  CEO, UBS Australasia
- **Hon. Justice Anna Katzmann**
  Judge of the Federal Court of Australia
- **Hon. Justice Megan Latham**
  Former Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)
- **Hon. Justice Lucy McCallum**
  Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW
- **Matthew Reilly**
  Best-Selling Author
- **Hon. Justice Stephen Rothman AM**
  Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW
- **Gabrielle Upton MP**
  Attorney-General of NSW
- **Shemara Wikramanayake**
  Director, Macquarie Funds Group
- **Rebel Wilson**
  Comedian and Actress
- **Elizabeth Broderick**
  Principal, Elizabeth Broderick & Co
- **Nicholas Carney**
  Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills
- **Marissa Freund**
  Executive Director, M&A, Goldman Sachs
- **Rebecca Gilsenan (Chair)**
  Principal, Maurice Blackburn
- **Cassandra Goldie**
  CEO, Australian Council of Social Service
- **Tim Gordon**
  Partner, Gilbert + Tobin
- **Phil Harvey**
  Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
- **Ian McGill**
  Partner, Allens
- **Allistair McKeough**
  Managing Director, Whittens & McKeough
- **James Nguyen**
  Legal Counsel, Rabobank
- **Edward Santow**
  Human Rights Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
- **Michael Sirmai**
  Senior Manager, Product & Quality, Consumer Bank, Westpac Group
- **Grant Smith**
  Senior Managing Director, Head of Infrastructure Assets, Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets
- **Sue Thomas**
  Non-Executive Director, BT Financial Group, PEXA Limited, Temple and Webster Limited, Grant Thornton Australia Limited, Fitzroy River Holdings Limited, Clearview Wealth Limited

Law Advisory Council

- **Elizabeth Broderick**
  Principal, Elizabeth Broderick & Co
- **Tim Gordon**
  Partner, Gilbert + Tobin
- **Phil Harvey**
  Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
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