Please read the course outline for the Research Thesis in the online handbook:

LAWS8423 – 6UOC

LAWS8422 - 6UOC (Extended)

**General information**

Researching and writing a research thesis is intended to give you the opportunity to focus in depth on an area of particular interest to you, learn more about that area, view it in context, offer commentary on the area, and demonstrate your ability to communicate that material in written form. Writing a research thesis should give you the opportunity to present a more sustained and developed argument than would shorter or alternative assessment forms.

Students are only allowed to complete Research Thesis once they have completed a semester of study.

In special circumstances, students may be allowed to undertake a research thesis in their first semester of study subject to the approval of their Program Convenor and Coordinator of Postgraduate Education.

**Requirements**

The following requirements have to be met before enrolment in a Research Thesis can be approved:

- A member of staff has agreed to supervise the project.
- The project is clearly defined and is approved by the supervisor.
- The student has a sufficient academic background in legal study to enable the thesis to be completed in a satisfactory manner.
- Students who have recorded an academic failure in the year prior may have their application refused.
- Students who have recorded an academic failure in a research intensive course at any point in the past may have their application refused.
- A permanent or sessional member of academic staff may be the primary supervisor, but in the latter case a permanent member of staff must also be recorded on the enrolment. Generally this will be the sessional staff members’ Faculty contact person.
Marking criteria

In assessing your research thesis examiner/s will be looking for:

- evidence of initiative in researching;
- well structured and fluent writing style (with sufficient attention to detail);
- persuasive and well thought out argument/s;
- evidence of critical and analytical engagement with the subject matter;
- appropriate use of resources;
- appropriate use of evidence or examples to support your argument;
- appropriate references and referencing system.

How to Apply

Please note: you cannot enrol in the PG Research Thesis on myUNSW. Enrolment can only be processed by Student Services once the following steps have been completed:

1. You will need to find a supervisor for your research thesis. You should email your proposed supervisor with a 1 page outline of your research topic. A list of academic staff and their research interests can be found on the Faculty of Law website: http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/research/research-interests

2. Once you have found a supervisor, please complete the Research Thesis Enrolment form online: http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/pg-research-thesis-enrolment-form including emailed approval from your supervisor.
   Note: Supervisor is required to organise a second marker for 6UOC Research Thesis.

3. If you are planning to undertake a 6UOC Research Thesis: Extended, you should first discuss this with your supervisor. Once an approval is granted by the supervisor, you are required to indicate this to Law Student Services before the last week of classes in the semester in which you are enrolled in the 6UOC research thesis (LAWS8423). Note: we cannot enrol students in the extended course once a grade has been entered for the 6UOC research thesis (LAWS8423). Note also: Supervisor is required to organise a second marker for the extended thesis. The mark for LAWS8423 and LAWS8422 will be the same (being the mark awarded for the extended thesis)

4. An email will be sent to you to confirm your enrolment in LAWS8423 Research Thesis.

The deadline for submitting a Research Thesis Application is the Friday of Week 1 in the relevant semester (S1, S2 or Summer Semester)

Students enrolled in the following Programs please note:

- **Master of Criminal Justice and Criminology** (MCJC) students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or CRIM5000 CJ Research Thesis, but not both. MCJC students must complete 24uoc before being eligible to apply for a Research Thesis, unless they have permission from the program convenor, in order to ensure they have the adequate foundation for the research. Ideally students should have a WAM of 75% based on 24uoc in order to be eligible for admission to this course or have achieved Honours 1 or 2:1 in a prior relevant degree, other than with the permission of the program convenor. MCJC students may request to convert the LAWS8423 (6UOC) course into a 12UOC Research Thesis option extending over two semesters; subject to the approval of the Supervisor/s, the program Director/s and the Coordinator of Postgraduate Education.
• Master of International Law and International Relations (MILIR) students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or POLS5113 Thesis, but not both.

• Master of Human Rights Law & Policy (MHRLP) and Master of Laws (LLM) students may request to convert the LAWS8423 (6UOC) course into a 12UOC Research Thesis option extending over two semesters; subject to the approval of the Supervisor/s, the program Director/s and the Coordinator of Postgraduate Education.

• Master of International Law and Security (MILS) students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or ZHSS8400 Research Project, but not both.

Submission details

Research Thesis Due Date

The final date for submission shall be the last day of classes for the Semester in which the student is enrolled in the Research Thesis. Examiners may require a candidate or group of candidates to attend an oral examination on the subject matter of the thesis; examiners may require a thesis to be resubmitted under such conditions as the examiners may determine. If you require an extension to the submission of the Research Thesis you must contact your supervisor and arrange this with them.

Presentation of the Research Thesis

The thesis must be printed 1½ spaced, single sided, on A4 bond paper. Where the thesis is 6 UOC or more, two copies need to be submitted with suitable, robust binding. Referencing should be in accordance with the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (3rd Edition) http://mulr.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/aglc.

An electronic version must be sent to your supervisor and your second marker.

6 UOC: 12,000 words
12 UOC: 24,000 words

Penalties

The following penalties will apply to the total available marks for your thesis:

Up to 10% excess – 10% penalty
10%+ up to 20% excess – 15% penalty
20%+ up to 30% excess – 25% penalty
30%+ excess and above – 30% penalty

Late Work

If you fail to submit work for assessment on time you will find that marks will be deducted for lateness, unless you have obtained an extension prior to the date for submission. The penalty applied will be at the rate of 5% of the available marks for that assignment for each day or part thereof that the essay is late up to a maximum of 50% penalty.
Research Consultations
All Postgraduate students are entitled to book Research Consultations at the UNSW Library.

UNSW Library Research Consultations connect researchers to the information and skills needed to support research.

What you can expect from a Research Consultation:
- help finding scholarly information related to research topics
- strategies for searching specific databases
- access to the information identified
- assistance with systematic reviews

Book a Research Consultation
Research consultation queries can be directed to Branko Bulovic at b.bulovic@unsw.edu.au.

Further Queries:
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