Please read the course description for the Research Thesis courses on the online handbook listed below:

UG 2UOC – LAWS3421
UG 4UOC – LAWS3425
UG 6UOC – LAWS3423
UG 6UOC (extended) – LAWS3434

JD 2UOC – JURD7521
JD 4UOC – JURD7423
JD 6UOC – JURD7823
JD 6UOC (extended) – JURD7434

**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. The academic convenor for the research thesis subjects is Emma Armson, although all queries should be directed initially to Student Services (see below) or your supervisor.
Research Consultations

Undergraduate students enrolled in a **6 or 12 UOC Research Thesis course (LAWS3423/LAWS3434)**, and all Juris Doctor students, are entitled to book a Research Consultation 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](#)

**Undergraduates** – please mention on the booking form that you are enrolled in a 6 or 12 UOC Research Thesis course. This will allow your request to be processed. Undergraduates are not otherwise eligible for Research Consultations.

Research consultation queries can be directed to Michelle Murray at [michelle.murray@unsw.edu.au](mailto:michelle.murray@unsw.edu.au).

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. As a general rule a weighted average mark of at least 65% (Credit) in previous law courses is required.
- 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 (eg a course containing a research essay of a minimum of 3,000 words) 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 UG/JD 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/areas-of-expertise

2. Once you have found a supervisor, please complete the Research Thesis Form: http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/42330 including emailed approval from your supervisor. Note: Supervisor is required to organise a second marker for 6 UOC Research Thesis. The student is required to advise the Student Services who this will be.

3. If you are planning to undertake a 6 UOC (extended) Research Thesis, 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 (LAWS3423/JURD7823). Note: we cannot enrol students in the extended course once a grade has been entered for the 6UOC research thesis (LAWS3423/JURD7823). Note also: Supervisor is required to organise a second marker for the extended thesis. The mark for LAWS3423/JURD7823 and LAWS3434/JURD7434 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 the Research Thesis course.

The deadline for submitting a Research Thesis Enrolment form is the Friday of week 1 in the relevant semester (S1, S2 or Summer).

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 with the exception of students enrolling in the extended 6UOC Research Thesis (LAWS3434/JURD7434). Such students should submit
their thesis at the end of the semester they are enrolled in the extended course, with work done in LAWS3423/JURD7823 contributing to the extended 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 6UOC 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](http://mulr.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/aglc) unless the supervisor indicates otherwise. An electronic version must also be sent to your supervisor.

**Word Count**

The word limits apply as below unless specified by your supervisor. All words in the thesis, including citations whether in the main text or in footnotes or elsewhere, will count towards the word limits. Table of Contents, Bibliography and Table of Cases/Statutes do not count towards the word limit. The Word Count function of Microsoft Word will be the official count for these purposes.

Word count limits for UG/JD Research Thesis are:

- 2UOC: 3,000 words
- 4UOC: 5,000 words
- 6UOC: 7,500-9,000 words
- 6UOC (Extended): 15,000-18,000 words (including work done in LAWS3423/JURD7823)

**Penalties**

Penalties will apply to assessed work which exceeds the word limit as follows:

- <10% no penalty
- 10-30% 15% penalty
- Over 30% 30% penalty

**Further Queries:**

Please direct general inquiries to:
Nadia Jez
Student Services Officer Ph 02 9385 9633 n.jez@unsw.edu.au