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
- Honours Class 2, Division 2

The award of Honours in the LLB is based on ALL FOUR of the following requirements:

1. Completion of both degrees of the Dual Law Program or the Graduate Law Program (LLB);
2. Attainment of the Honours Weighted Average Mark (WAM) in Law;
3. Sufficient performance of research-based assessment tasks; and
4. No academic misconduct and not more than one failure in the Law Program.

1. Completion of Law Program

Dual Law students must have completed all the requirements of both degrees of the Dual Law Program to be eligible for an award of Honours.

Graduate Law students must have completed all degree requirements of Graduate Law (LLB) Program to be eligible for an award of Honours.

All applications for honours must be made in the final semester of enrolment and be before the closing date 20 November 2015. Applications made after this date will not be accepted, including from students who are not enrolled in the final semester.

2. Honours Weighted Average Mark

Determination of Honours WAM will be calculated by using the WAM from compulsory courses as 60% of the Honours WAM and the WAM from elective courses as 40% of Honours WAM.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>WAM (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>75.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>76.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Honours WAM (75.15 X 60%) + (76.80 x 40%)</td>
<td>75.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In general terms, as determined by the Academic Quality Assurance Committee, students who score an Honours 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 receive Honours Class 2 Division 1 and the next 10% Honours Class 2 Division 2.

Note: All graded law courses taken at UNSW Law School will count towards the Law Honours WAM.

3. Sufficient performance of research-based assessment tasks

For the purpose of awarding Honours in the Law School, a ‘research-based assessment task’ refers to an item of assessment that requires students to conduct independent research of primary and secondary materials (with which they have not been provided) in order to compose a written response to a single question. The question may be one selected from a number or one devised by the student with the course convenor’s approval. The answer must be written in a legal academic essay style, with appropriate reliance on sources and full citation. Examples of assessable tasks that will NOT satisfy this definition include problem-based exercises, take-home exams, and assignments comprising a series of short-answer questions.

Students can meet the requirement of sufficient performance of research-based assessment tasks as follows:

a) By demonstrating that you have already completed at credit level or above:
   (i) One Law Research Thesis course of 6UOC or above; or
   (ii) A Research-based assessment tasks with a cumulative total of 9000 words or more, where each task is at least 3000 words. Assessments can be taken in any courses and any semester in the LLB.

b) Evidence of Research Requirement:
   Students will need to provide with their Honours application excluding 6UOC research theses:
   (i) marked research papers with grades clearly visible and
   (ii) length of research essay.

Results for research theses and research papers over 3000 words completed in current semester will be notified by teachers directly to Student Services. All research completed prior to current semester requires the evidence outlined above.

If the research papers are not available, students must obtain written verification from the marker:
(i) details of the research paper outlining word length requirement; (ii) the semester it was completed; and (iii) result achieved for the research paper.

IMPORTANT:

- Effective from S1 2013, research essays completed while on Exchange will NOT be accepted for the purpose of Honours Nomination.

- No assessment completed outside of UNSW (i.e. not supervised or marked by UNSW staff) will be accepted.

- It is the student’s responsibility to keep all original research essays for the purpose of Honours Nomination. It is NOT the marker/Student Services responsibility to provide research paper marks obtained prior to current semester.
4. **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

B. **How to Apply**
If you wish to be considered for the award of Honours, you must notify Student Services by **20 November 2015** by completing and signing the relevant Honours application form available on the [Law Honours page](#). On the form you will be asked to identify the courses in which you have already met the requirement of sufficient performance in research-based assessment tasks, or in which you will meet this requirement.

If you have met the research requirement, please provide evidence of this as detailed above in point 3b. Applicants will need evidence of all research papers you nominate (except Research Thesis) which have been completed prior to Semester 2 2015 & Summer 2015/16. Research papers completed in Semester 2 2015 & Summer 2015/16 will be notified directly to Student Services.

**Commencement of JD with Distinction**
JD students completing requirements for their degree in semester 2 2014 were the final cohort who were eligible for honours. From Summer 2014/15 onwards, JD students are eligible for the Juris Doctor with Distinction. For more information, please refer to the [Law JD Honours Policy from S1 2015](#).

C. **Historical Information regarding Honours WAM cut-offs**
Following is the WAM cut-off history for previous graduating cohorts based on Honours WAM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SemesterCohort</th>
<th>Semester 1 2015</th>
<th>Semester 2 2014 &amp; Summer 2015**</th>
<th>Semester 1 2014</th>
<th>Semester 2 2013 &amp; Summer 2014**</th>
<th>Semester 1 2013</th>
<th>Semester 2 2012 &amp; Summer 2013**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honours Class 1 (top 10%)^</td>
<td>79.00</td>
<td>79.35</td>
<td>79.18</td>
<td>80.36</td>
<td>81.42</td>
<td>79.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Class 2, Division 1 (next 10%) ^</td>
<td>77.00</td>
<td>77.55</td>
<td>77.31</td>
<td>77.94</td>
<td>77.52</td>
<td>77.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Class 2, Division 2 (next 10%) ^</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>76.09</td>
<td>75.81</td>
<td>76.40</td>
<td>73.87</td>
<td>76.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY:**
**Students completing in Summer semester will be compared against the preceding semester 2 honours cut-off.**
^ In general terms, as determined by the Academic Quality Assurance Committee
It is important to note that:

- WAM cut-offs are likely to vary from cohort to cohort depending on the overall performance of a particular graduating cohort. Students should use past cut-offs as a guide only as to the required WAM cut-offs for this year and future years.
- If you have applied and met the Honours eligibility, you will not be able to withdraw your nomination and reject the award of Honours.
- Students completing in Summer semester will be compared against the preceding semester two honours cut-off.

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 Law Student Services as soon as possible.

D. Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC)

The Academic Quality Assurance Committee, consisting of the Associate Dean (Academic), Head of School, Associate Dean (Education), Co-ordinator of Undergraduate/Juris Doctor Education, JD Director and Student Services Manager is established with 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 Services.