

Welcome to Law School

University is a hugely exciting time full of endless personal and career opportunities. However, the early years of Law School can be uniquely stressful as it is difficult to know how to make the most of your time. This Guide seeks to provide some useful considerations to make your journey a bit easier.



About This Guide

This has been prepared by the 2017/18 Careers & Sponsorship Portfolio, with the assistance of other publicly available materials. The information is merely advisory, and should not be relied upon without independent verification.

Early Stage Law Students





Grades

Your university results are not the be-all and end-all of your time at university. However, getting into good study habits and improving your academic performance can be important when you get to future job applications, work or justifying your HECS debt. Our tips are:

- Figure out what study patterns work for you (times of study, style of revision and notes)
- You can find past exams in the Law School tab on Unified and past answers on the AULSS Answer or Law Chats Facebook
- If you don't understand, ask - tutors are happy to help
- The University runs consultations in the Writing Centre and PASS Classes to support your study
- Improvement is key - review your exams and assignments and ask for further feedback if it'd help!

Work Experience



Gaining work experience at university is critical to develop employability skills. It's not just legal work which is important - hospitality, retail or administrative positions are often favourably looked at by employers.

If you're looking for legal work experience in the early years of your degree, you may consider:

- Firms may advertise Law Clerk positions online
- Contact firms you would like to work with if they would be happy to take work experience students
- Write to barristers asking if they require research assistance
- Ask people you know

To find opportunities, keep an eye on the AULSS website, university's CareerHub website or other job sites, such as Seek and CareerOne.



Exploring Career Paths

The first few years of law school are a great time to figure out what career paths you may be interested in. Take a look around online or at AULSS Careers Publications to see what sorts of opportunities exist.

Think you might be interested in something? Find out more by talking to people in the field. Cold calling can be intimidating, but most people are very happy to discuss their experiences with you.

Trying to find a work experience or volunteering placement in an organisation that does the work you are interested in is a great way to learn more about the area.

Your career interests may change throughout your time at law school - keep your mind open and take all the opportunities you can find!



Volunteering

The flexibility of Law School gives you a great opportunity to set aside some time to help the community or causes you care about. Volunteering of any and all kinds also provides huge professional development opportunities as you gain experience and widen your perspective on issues that face the community.

Volunteering with any organisation you are passionate about is immensely valuable. Don't know where to start? The Volunteering SA website provides a rolling list of vacancies.

If you're looking for a legal focus, the Roma Mitchell Community Legal Centre, Environmental Defenders' Office, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Womens' Legal Service and JusticeNet SA all provide amazing opportunities for law students.

Health & Wellbeing



The pressure of study, work and maintaining a social life can be difficult and stressful. Many people struggle with mental health in law school, so your early years are a great time to make sure you have set up positive habits.

Setting aside time for activities you enjoy is also valuable from a careers perspective. Increasingly, employers look for well-rounded candidates. You'll be surprised about how many times your weekend hiking trips or reading interests come up in interviews.

Make sure you take time out to do activities you enjoy or that you find relaxing. Maintaining positive physical and mental health habits will always be worthwhile. If you're struggling at all, please seek out help (whether it be from your own support system or the university's free counselling service).



Competitions

Participating in competitions is a great way to learn real-world practical skills and learn from industry professionals. Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone and try competitions early and often in your degree - there's a competition for everyone, and you only improve with practice!

The AULSS run multiple legal competitions, including mooting, witness examination, negotiations and client interviewing. Don't just limit yourself to the confines of the Law School - several state and national organisations offer competitions for university students. This includes moots, debating, essay writing and business case pitches, Research and conference presentation options also can arise. Keep an eye on CareerHub or do a quick google search to find opportunities that match your interests.