



# Tales of First Year

WELCOME BACK

issue 6



Congratulations on finishing your first semester of Law School! You all should be incredibly proud of yourselves, as I have no doubt that it was no easy feat! For those of you who did not have the semester you expected, I just want to stress that that is completely okay. Law is not easy and tends to throw a lot of curveballs your way, so no matter how your first semester went, you're all incredible and 100% deserve to be here.

I would also like to say a warm welcome to the new Law students joining us this semester! I hope you all enjoy Law, from your courses to all the fun events that the AULSS throws. We would like to emphasise that the Education Portfolio is more than happy to answer any questions and queries you may have and can't wait to see you all around the Law School!

Olivia and Jess have loved being your First Year Reps so far and cannot wait to meet even more of you this semester. Luckily for you, they have been lovely enough to answer the following questions that I subjected them to (sorry, not sorry), the answers of which will hopefully be relatable or helpful to you, whether you are going into your second semester or starting your first semester at the Law School.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### *Comps Info Night and Mooting Q&A*

- Wednesday, 28 July (Week 1), 6pm
- Room TBC

### *Mid Year Students Drinks Night*

- Friday, 6 August (Week 2), 6pm
- The Havelock Hotel, Atrium Bar

### *Quiz Night: Freaky Friday*

- Friday, 13 August (Week 3), 7:30pm

### *Mature Aged Students Drinks Night*

- Thursday, 19 August (Week 4), 6pm
- UniBar

### **Generally, how did you find your first semester?**

*Olivia:* Overall, super exciting! I very quickly realised that university (especially within the Law School) was a completely different world to high school, and to be completely honest there is nothing that could've prepared me for it! Each week came with new experiences and new challenges; I honestly felt like a baby giraffe learning to walk in my first semester!

*Jess:* I loved it! Although the first few weeks were a bit daunting, I found that all of the academic staff and students were really supportive. I also definitely enjoyed all of the events run by the AULSS – highly recommend them to anyone starting law!

### **What did you enjoy most about your first semester?**

*Olivia:* I would absolutely have to say meeting new people. Even in my first few weeks, I found some really wonderful friends that were unlike anyone I'd ever met before - in the very best way possible. I love the way that the Law School brings people together, and the events put on by the AULSS really helped to nurture these friendships.



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*Jess:* Like Olivia, my favourite aspect of university so far has definitely been getting to know new people! Some of my favourite moments from semester 1 were simply just talking to other students around Liggy or before class (shoutout to Peta's seminar!). Dancing to ABBA at the Law Dinner would have to be a close second though!

## What did you least enjoy about your first semester?

*Olivia:* I quickly realised that the amount of time, effort and work I needed to put into my courses was unlike anything I'd done before. Coming straight out of high school, and considering myself to be quite a high achiever, I really struggled getting my first few grades back (and seeing numbers that didn't start with a 9!). However, I kept reminding myself that if it was easy, everyone would do it, and that really kept me going.

*Jess:* Honestly, I found the week before the start of semester the most stressful. I was scared that I'd be overwhelmed with the workload, and that the fact that I didn't do Legal Studies would disadvantage me compared to students who did. However, in reality neither of those things were true.

## What do you wish you knew about before you started your first semester?

*Olivia:* Honestly, I wish I just knew more about the law in general! I didn't do Legal Studies at all within my SACE, so I was really going blind into a degree I had no idea about. Apparently 'The Law' isn't just this big book of rules you have to remember? So embarrassing, I know. But this was very quickly cleared up within my first few weeks of Foundations of Law.

*Jess:* I definitely wish I knew how important it is to stay on top of your notes throughout the semester. Turns out trying to write 8 weeks worth of Torts notes a week before the exam is quite a stressful experience! On the flipside though, I didn't realise our exams were open book until a few weeks into the Semester, so that was a nice surprise!

## Do you have any advice for students, especially those who will be starting as mid-year entry students?

*Olivia:* Say yes to everything! Getting involved with everything that the Law School and the AULSS offers is the best way to get involved, and to make some really excellent connections within your first few weeks. In saying this, make sure to schedule time for your study and for yourself! From experience, burnout can creep up really quickly, so make sure to keep on top of things!

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*Jess:* My biggest piece of advice is to go to as many of the events and activities run by the AULSS as possible. Not only are they a great way to meet people, but events like the Exam Prep 101 Seminar are so valuable in helping you succeed in your first semester of university. The social events are also a LOT of fun!

As Olivia and Jess outlined, Law School is a learning experience and one that people don't perfect until much later in their degrees, if at all! The best thing though is that it is completely okay not to be perfect; as long as you are trying your best and getting the most out of your Law School experience, that is all that matters. So, try to make use of the resources around you from your lecturers and their feedback to the AULSS events on exams, careers, social justice and more! And, have a few bebies on us from time to time, starting with the First Year Drinks Night on Friday Week 2 for our new mid-year students (which will hopefully go ahead)!

I wish you all the best for your upcoming semester, whether it is your first or second semester in Law School. As always, please feel free to contact any of the Education Portfolio if there is anything that you need. We look forward to meeting more of you lovely humans this semester!

All the best,  
Nadeesha, Olivia and Jess

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