



## Bachelor of Laws

Law is about relationships and our connections to each other. Our society, culture, and economy, our family ties, and our international allegiances all exist within a legal framework.

The Tohu Paetahi Ture—Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is a four-year undergraduate degree. Most students combine the LLB with another degree, and this will usually take five and a half years to complete. As a graduate, you will contribute to every aspect of life in New Zealand, whether practising as a lawyer or working in business, the community, or government. You will be equipped to both uphold and challenge the principles that govern our daily lives.

The University's Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law is housed in the historic Government Buildings. Its downtown location is in the hub of New Zealand lawmaking, opposite Parliament and close to the courts, research libraries, and the central business district. This environment attracts top academics and students from around the world.

Our Law students are active debaters and do well in international mooting and debating competitions. We teach Law by the Socratic method, in which you will be questioned on your set readings during lectures. This is ideal preparation for a career in law. We're ranked first for our proportion of A-ranked researchers and in the world's top 100 universities for Law (QS World University Rankings by subject, 2025). The University's Law School offers an education that will secure your future.

All New Zealand law students are required to take a course in tikanga Māori. We are working hard to develop our programmes to incorporate tikanga into the teaching of our compulsory courses. You will be better equipped to be a lawyer in Aotearoa but also assured of thriving wherever your law degree takes you.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A Law degree can lead to a range of careers. As a graduate, you'll be able to work in legal practice (in New Zealand and around the world), specialising in many areas, including commercial law, criminal law, family law, international law, litigation, and mediation.

There are opportunities in business, the community, the creative arts, government (including the Crown Law Office, the Department of Conservation, the Defence Force, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), non-governmental organisations, and in universities as lecturers.

To be eligible for admission to the legal profession in New Zealand (to practise law), Law graduates must complete a practical professional legal studies course, often called 'profs'. Two organisations offer this training in New Zealand. The Faculty of Law can advise you about this requirement.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/careers](http://wgtn.ac.nz/careers)

## POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Graduates with an LLB often combine work with part-time study in a Master of Laws to specialise in a subject area of law. Also offered are the Graduate Certificate in Law and the Postgraduate Certificate in Law, which provide a flexible programme that can be undertaken for professional development purposes, and the Graduate Diploma in Law, designed for tertiary graduates from related disciplines, legal professionals, and lawyers from overseas who are seeking a New Zealand qualification for legal accreditation.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/law/postgraduate](http://wgtn.ac.nz/law/postgraduate)

## SCHOOL SUBJECTS

You should study subjects that you enjoy. These may be essay-based subjects or those that encourage analytical thinking or practical skills, such as languages, Art History, Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, and Physics.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Four years of full-time study if done as a single degree. About 80 percent of students enrol in a second degree with the LLB, which usually takes five and a half years to complete.

A total of 480 points is required:

- ▶ at least 70 points must be from non-Law courses chosen from any other first degree at the University
- ▶ four core courses at 100 level (usually in the first year): LAWS 121, LAWS 122, LAWS 123, MAOR 126
- ▶ five core courses at 200 level: LAWS 211, LAWS 212, LAWS 213, LAWS 214, LAWS 297
- ▶ two core courses at 300 level: LAWS 301, LAWS 312
- ▶ 11 further LAWS courses at 300 level, including LAWS 334 Legal Ethics if you wish to apply for admission to the Bar.

### First year

The first year consists of three LAWS courses, and MAOR 126, together with non-Law courses of your choice. Offered in the first trimester, LAWS 121 is open entry, subject to university admission criteria. A pass in LAWS 121 is a prerequisite for both LAWS 122 and LAWS 123.

Most first-year Law students begin another degree in their first year alongside their LLB. This means their non-Law points (see below and the next page) should be made up

of courses required for the other degree. Use the relevant degree pages in this guide to find out what you need to include in your first-year programme. Details of particular courses and when they are taught are on the subjects and courses pages (from page 167).

### Selection into second year

Selection into second-year Law is based on academic performance in the three 100-level LAWS courses and completion of MAOR 126.

Check the website for detailed selection criteria into second-year Law for first-year students, transferring students, or graduates, or if you require details on the Māori and Pasifika admissions process.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/law-selection-criteria](http://wgtn.ac.nz/law-selection-criteria)

### Selection into Honours

Each year, the top students who have completed at least four of the five 200-level courses may be invited to join the Honours programme. Although it shares many components with the LLB, the Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB(Hons)) is a separate undergraduate degree that will extend your research, writing, and analytical skills in a range of specialist areas.



### FIND OUT MORE

✉ [info@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:info@vuw.ac.nz)

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/llb](http://wgtn.ac.nz/llb)

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/law](http://wgtn.ac.nz/law)

## DEGREE EXAMPLES

### Conjoint LLB/BA, majoring in History and Criminology

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4			YEAR 5	
1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	3/3	1/3	2/3
LAWS 121 20 points	LAWS 122 15 points	LAWS 211 30 points		LAWS 213 30 points		LAWS 301 30 points		LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
MAOR 126 20 points	LAWS 123 15 points	LAWS 212 30 points		LAWS 214 30 points		LAWS 312 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
HIST 100 20 points	HIST 100 20 points	LAWS 297 10 points		HIST 200 LEVEL 20 points	HIST 300 LEVEL 20 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points		HIST 300 LEVEL 20 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
	CRIM 111 20 points	HIST 200 LEVEL 20 points	CRIM 200 LEVEL 20 points	CRIM 200 LEVEL 20 points	CRIM 300 LEVEL 20 points	HIST 300 LEVEL 20 points	CRIM 300 LEVEL 20 points		CRIM 300 LEVEL 20 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
60 POINTS	70 POINTS	55 POINTS	55 POINTS	70 POINTS	70 POINTS	65 POINTS	65 POINTS	30 POINTS	70 POINTS	60 POINTS
130 POINTS		110 POINTS		140 POINTS		160 POINTS			130 POINTS	

Total points required: 660  
Total points completed: 670

KEY: CORE FIRST MAJOR SECOND MAJOR

## Conjoint LLB/BCom, majoring in Economics and with a minor in Finance

YEAR 1			YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4		YEAR 5	
1/3	2/3	3/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3
LAWS 121 20 points	LAWS 122 15 points	ECON 130 15 points	LAWS 211 30 points		LAWS 213 30 points		LAWS 301 30 points		LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
QUAN 111 15 points	LAWS 123 15 points	QUAN 102 15 points	LAWS 212 30 points		LAWS 214 30 points		LAWS 312 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
BCOM 101 15 points	MAOR 126 20 points		LAWS 297 10 points		ECON 300 LEVEL 15 points	ECON 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
BCOM 102 15 points	ECON 141 15 points		ECON 201 15 points	ECON 202 15 points	FINA 201 15 points	FINA 202 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	ECON 300 LEVEL 15 points	FINA 300 LEVEL 15 points
				BCOM 201 15 points	BCOM 301 15 points		QUAN 203 15 points	BCOM CORE 15 points		
65 POINTS	65 POINTS	30 POINTS	50 POINTS	65 POINTS	75 POINTS	60 POINTS	75 POINTS	75 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
160 POINTS			115 POINTS		135 POINTS		150 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points required: 660

Total points completed: 680

## LLB only

Minimum points required: 480, of which 390 must be LAWS courses

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3	2/3
LAWS 121 20 points	LAWS 122 15 points	LAWS 297 10 points		LAWS 214 30 points		LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
ELECTIVE	LAWS 123 15 points	LAWS 211 30 points		LAWS 301 30 points		LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
ELECTIVE	MAOR 126 20 points	LAWS 212 30 points		LAWS 312 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
	ELECTIVE	LAWS 213 30 points		LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points	LAWS 300 LEVEL 15 points
			ELECTIVE				
130 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Elective courses can be any subject. Students must complete 70 points of electives (at least four electives to make 70 points).

KEY: LAW CORE MAJOR MINOR COMMERCE CORE ELECTIVE



"One of the most valuable aspects of the Bachelor of Laws is the knowledge you gain—you learn how to advocate for yourself and others, learn your rights, how our law is constantly developing, and so much more."

**Catherine**  
Student, Bachelor of Laws

