

2024



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TOHU PAETAHI TURE BACHELOR OF **LAWS**







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Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 17 universities worldwide to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction; further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate at the time of being made available. However, matters covered by this document are subject to change due to a continuous process of review and to unanticipated circumstances, including those caused by COVID-19. The University therefore reserves the right to make any changes without notice. So far as the law permits, the University accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any person due to reliance (either whole or in part) on the information contained in this document, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.



TOHU PAETAHI TURE **BACHELOR OF LAWS**

A CAPITAL CITY LAW DEGREE

Located in the legal and political heart of Aotearoa New Zealand, Wellington's Faculty of Law is in a privileged position to inform thinking and lead debate on legal, policy, and governance issues that affect all New Zealanders. Our location among many law-related agencies, including Parliament, the Supreme Court, the High Court, and prestigious law firms, means we are privy to the latest legal happenings.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH HUB

The Faculty of Law is hailed as a hub of legal research that garners local and international recognition. Experts in their fields, our academics initiate legal debate on the issues of the day. The research undertaken here feeds in to what we teach, and what is discussed and explored in lectures and tutorials informs that research.

BUILDING CAREER PATHWAYS

A Law graduate is not limited to practising law in a law firm. The skills you obtain during your degree make available a diverse set of pathways for you to choose from. Some of our law graduates include cabinet ministers, Supreme Court judges, business leaders and chief executives, Members of Parliament, and policy analysts for government ministries.



“At Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University’s Faculty of Law, you will be part of a high-achieving, diverse, and socially responsible cohort of students within a caring university whānau.

“Our academics are passionate about teaching and learning, and about passing on their legal knowledge and insights, informed by research excellence. The Faculty can help you realise your full academic potential, with dedicated staff, including a Tītoko student adviser team, to support your learning. With opportunities for involvement in many student representative groups, you can create friendships and contribute to a sense of student community.

“By studying with us, you will gain strong competence in core Law courses and be able to choose from elective courses taught by specialists. This will give you an excellent foundation for a career in law, or the public or private sector. Our aim is to help you become a confident, capable communicator and thought leader in whatever career pathway you choose. Our capital city location at the seat of government gives access to work experience in the courts, government, and public law agencies.

“The Faculty of Law is here to help you question, challenge, and thrive. We are excited to welcome you here.”

Professor Lee Godden
Dean of Law





DEGREE STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) is a full-time four-year degree comprising 480 points. It can be combined with a second degree to form a conjoint degree, which takes a minimum of five years' study. The LLB consists of 21 Law courses and a selection of non-Law courses that total at least 90 points.



100 LEVEL
**GET AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF
LEGAL STUDY**



200 LEVEL
**BUILD YOUR LEGAL
SKILLS THROUGH THE
CORE SUBJECTS**



300 LEVEL
**DELVE INTO
SPECIALISED AREAS
OF CHOICE**

The following diagram will guide you through the degree structure. There are three core courses at 100 level, five core courses at 200 level, and two core courses and 11 further elective courses at 300 level.



100-LEVEL CORE COURSES

- ▶ LAWS 121 Introduction to the New Zealand Legal System
- ▶ LAWS 122 Introduction to Case Law
- ▶ LAWS 123 Introduction to Statute Law



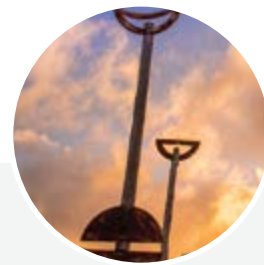
200-LEVEL CORE COURSES

- ▶ LAWS 211 The Law of Contract
- ▶ LAWS 212 The Law of Torts
- ▶ LAWS 213 Public Law
- ▶ LAWS 214 Criminal Law
- ▶ LAWS 297 Legal Research, Writing and Mooting



300-LEVEL CORE COURSES

- ▶ LAWS 301 Property Law
- ▶ LAWS 312 Equity, Trusts and Succession



300-LEVEL ELECTIVES

These could include:

- ▶ Bill of Rights
- ▶ Climate Change and the Law
- ▶ The Criminal Justice Process
- ▶ Data Privacy
- ▶ Ethics and the Law (required if you wish to apply for admission to the Bar)
- ▶ Family Law
- ▶ Intellectual Property
- ▶ International Law
- ▶ Law and Sexuality
- ▶ Law of Armed Conflict
- ▶ Māori Customary Law
- ▶ Migration and Refugee Law
- ▶ Welfare Law
- ▶ Youth Justice.



THE LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The method of teaching law is different from other disciplines. Law students are empowered to demonstrate intellectual autonomy, critical thinking, independence of thought, and openness to new ideas through interactive and discussion-based learning.

ADVOCATING FOR LAW STUDENTS

When deciding what to study, Meghan Grant chose to study for a Bachelor of Laws to get a professional qualification alongside a Bachelor of Arts.

“I loved history and English in high school but wanted a degree that had a clear career path after completing study. I thought that a Bachelor of Laws alongside history and political science would set me up with a strong foundation to pursue that.”

Meghan has since used this foundation in her career and credits her lecturers with equipping her with the skills to think critically and creatively when acting for clients in her role as a junior lawyer in the litigation team at a leading New Zealand law firm.

The central location of the law school in proximity to New Zealand’s legal hub also provided Meghan with countless opportunities.

“Wellington is by far the best place to study Law. The law school is nestled between Parliament and our senior courts. There are so many opportunities inside and outside the lecture theatre that you wouldn’t get elsewhere. I had met MPs, mooted in front of a Supreme Court justice, and attended fascinating seminars hosted by the country’s top law firms before I finished my degree. Not to mention that Wellington is a really fun place to be a student.”

A highlight of Meghan's study was being involved with the Victoria University Law Students' Society (VUWLSS). As one of the most active student clubs in the country, VUWLSS provides a broad range of events from careers panels, legal competitions, and speaker events to wellbeing and social events.

"Through VUWLSS, I participated in legal competitions that took me to Australia to compete and gave me the opportunity to practise my skills in front of sitting High Court and Supreme Court justices, as well as leading practitioners. It also allowed me to develop my leadership skills by getting involved with the student executive."

As a result, Meghan has since become involved with student representation on a national level with the New Zealand Law Students' Association. After completing a term as education vice-president, Meghan stepped into the role of Council of Legal Education representative. She will sit alongside judges and leading practitioners and represent the views of law students and young lawyers on the body that oversees the regulation of legal education in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"My time at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington taught me invaluable communication skills and set me up to (hopefully) be an effective advocate for my peers."

Meghan's advice to future students considering Law is to just give it a go!



"I'm so glad that I took a risk and tried out Law. It is such a versatile degree. When I look around my cohort at the University I see lawyers, journalists, consultants, authors, poets, Rhodes Scholars ... and those are just alumni one year out of university. There's no limit to where a Law degree from Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington can take you."

Meghan Grant

Graduate, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts

WHERE CAN YOUR DEGREE TAKE YOU?

The world of work is changing at an exceptional pace and increasingly requires curious and agile lifelong learners. Employers look for well-rounded, adaptable graduates who demonstrate the ability to communicate, work collaboratively, think critically, and solve problems. Graduates who can demonstrate employability skills from both academic learning and extracurricular experiences will have a competitive edge when applying for jobs.

POSTGRADUATE PATHWAYS

Many Law graduates go on to legal careers but there are also those who use the skills they obtain during their degree to work in fields outside the legal sphere. For those who wish to further their knowledge, there are also postgraduate study options available.

Job prospects could include:

- ▶ academic
- ▶ in-house legal counsel
- ▶ journalist
- ▶ lawyer
- ▶ policy analyst
- ▶ politician.

Potential employers could include

- ▶ corporate sector (as in-house counsel)
- ▶ large private law firms
- ▶ LexisNexis
- ▶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Ministry of Justice
- ▶ universities (academia).

Postgraduate study options

- ▶ Graduate Certificate in Law
- ▶ Master of Laws (LLM)
 - ▶ by coursework
 - ▶ by dissertation
 - ▶ by research portfolio
- ▶ Master of International Trade (MInTr)
- ▶ Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

THE HEART OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

At a young age, Jimmy Fiso learnt that the law is a living being that evolves and constantly changes, whether we like it or not, governing our lives and affecting our future. He wanted to immerse his mind in legal thinking and decided to study for a Bachelor of Laws to equip himself with the legal skills needed to navigate the world and serve people.

“Studying in Wellington places you in the heart of Aotearoa’s legal system, meaning you have direct access to some of the greatest legal and political minds in the country, whether they be learned friends, distinguished lecturers, scholars, judges, practitioners, or politicians.”

A highlight of Jimmy’s time at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington was being able to attend a guest lecture presented by Supreme Court Justice the Hon. Justice Sir Joe Williams.

“He spoke about his personal journey through the law and the direction he sees the law heading. This was memorable because his message reinforced the sense that the law isn’t some boring book; rather, it is a fascinating creature that warrants our attention. It was also great because Justice Williams is an alumnus.”

When Jimmy thinks about how studying Law has prepared him for his future, three things come to mind.

“The first is the value of having a community of learning to discuss ideas with. Second is the importance of asking the right questions. Third is to look at the bigger picture of why what I am doing, or trying to solve, actually matters. This way of thinking has equipped me with skills that are useful and transferable, as well as ensuring the work that I do is purposeful and meaningful.”



“Step out of your comfort zone and try talking to new people in lectures, tutorials, and study groups, or make new friends in other social settings.”

Jimmy Fiso

Graduate, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts



PLANNING FOR LAW SCHOOL

SUBJECTS TO TAKE AT SCHOOL

There are no prerequisites or preferred subjects. Choose subjects that interest you, as these are generally the ones in which you will do well. Subjects such as Classics, English, and History can help with basic essay-writing skills, whereas Economics, Mathematics, Music, Physics, and the languages can encourage analytical thinking.

STUDYING LAW

Studying Law demands in-depth discussion and critical analysis. As a result, Law graduates acquire skills in communication, problem-solving, research, and critical thinking—all of which are prized by employers in many different fields.

COMBINING DEGREES

A Bachelor of Laws can be combined with any other degree, with the most popular combinations being a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Commerce. Some complementary subjects include Accounting, Criminology, History, International Relations, Political Science, and Psychology.

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You may enrol in the first year of a Bachelor of Laws provided you have a university entrance qualification and, if you are a school leaver, you meet Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's Guaranteed Entry Score.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply

STEPPING STONES ALONG THE WAY

The following opportunities provide the stepping stones to help our students fulfil their career goals.

CLERKSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many law firms have summer clerk programmes that enable students to gain experience and progress to law clerk roles after completing their degree. Some law firms that have provided clerkships are Bell Gully, Buddle Findlay, Chapman Tripp, Simpson Grierson, and many others.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Postgraduate Law students are given the opportunity to participate in an internship as part of their study. Students are placed with a law office, court, voluntary organisation, government department, or similar agency.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The University is committed to supporting students who embody the key attributes of excellence, leadership, and commitment to community through scholarship opportunities. These opportunities also help remove the barriers to university study that exist for students facing hardship and disadvantage.

We offer a range of scholarships for all levels of study. Some examples are the Colin Aikman Award, valued at up to \$10,000, to provide opportunities to study in areas affecting the South Pacific; the Fleur Knowsley Law Scholarship, valued at \$8,000, for those facing financial hardship; the Quentin-Baxter Memorial

Scholarship, valued at up to \$3,500 over three years, for Māori and Pasifika students who demonstrate personal qualities, academic ability, contribution to their community, and face financial hardship; and the LexisNexis Law Student Scholarship, valued at up to \$6,250, for those who consider themselves disadvantaged in regards to either economic, educational, or social circumstances.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships



PERSEVERANCE LEADS TO SUCCESS

Sylvia Browning has always been drawn to human rights and international political issues, which led her to decide to study Law alongside a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations.

"I loved first-year Law, so decided to stick with it. Best decision ever," she says.

"The relationships I have formed with my fellow Law students are ones that I will keep for life. I couldn't have made my way through a degree this long—which, at times, is as challenging as it is fascinating—without their support.

"Law teaches you how to problem-solve more than anything else. How to break a problem down, see things from multiple perspectives, and where to go to find answers. These are completely invaluable skills, whether I decide to work in government, business, law, or another area entirely."

Sylvia also finds inspiration in her study at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, especially at the law school.

"Being based at Government Buildings, we get to breathe that history in, and being able to see Parliament and all four courts from the library windows is very inspiring."

Her advice for anyone considering Law is to make sure it is something you are willing to put the time into to achieve.

"Do not let others frighten you out of it by tall tales of competition and hundreds of pages of readings. Make up your own mind. While there is flexibility built into university study, it is important to make sure you actually like what you study and are not just taking it because you think you should."



▼
"Passion for law will go a long way, so if you love it, go hard and enjoy!"

Sylvia Browning

Student, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts



COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

CHAT TO OUR STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES TEAM

Our friendly Student Academic Services team includes designated Māori and Pasifika engagement advisers who provide holistic support and advance the academic interests of Māori and Pasifika students. The Faculty also has a dedicated student success coordinator who provides proactive support services to all Law students as well as information and advice.

JOIN A STUDENT-LED GROUP

As part of an active student community, like-minded individuals can take advantage of the numerous social events, educational development opportunities, and career advice evenings facilitated by our many student-run groups.

Law Students' Society

The Victoria University of Wellington Law Students' Society is the representative body for Law students, run by Law students.

The society works with other representative groups at the Law School to improve the lives of students during their time at university. It has two main roles as an organisation—advocacy for Law students and running events for them. The events are educational, career-based, competitive, or social.



Asian Law Students' Society

Since 2014, the Asian Law Students' Society has provided a supportive community for Asian Law students. It prides itself on creating a space for Asian Law students to celebrate their diverse cultures and connect with those from shared backgrounds.

Feminist Law Society

The Feminist Law Society is a group of Law students of all genders who are passionate about gender equality and social justice at the Law School and in wider society. It seeks to be inclusive, intersectional, and aware of multiple layers of oppression.

Ngā Rangahautira

Māori Law Students' Association

Ko Ngā Rangahautira tētahi rōpū e tautoko ana i ngā mahi a ngā akonga Māori e whai ana i te tohu ture. Ko ngā mahi a Ngā Rangahautira, he tautoko, he akiaki i ngā akonga ki te whai i tēnei rākau ture a te Pākehā. He rōpū awhina,

tautoko i ngā akonga Māori ki te whakanui i tō tātou Māoritanga i roto i te ture.

Ngā Rangahautira is the Māori Law Students' Association. Its primary focus is to assist and support Māori Law students with their studies at the Law School by fostering a commitment to tikanga Māori and ngā ture Pākehā.

Pasifika Law Students' Society

The Pasifika Law Students' Society was established by students with the aim of encouraging and maintaining Pasifika success and growth within the Faculty of Law while providing a social and supportive environment.

Rainbow Law Students' Society

At Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual/agender (LGBTQIA+), and takatāpui communities are known as the rainbow community. The Rainbow Law Students' Society aims to make it easier for students to connect and find support throughout their Law School adventure.

GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Etienne Wain decided to study for a Bachelor of Laws at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington because he wanted to learn about the rules governing society and why they are the way they are.

“I wanted to know about how to change the law, thinking especially of tangata whenua, Asian communities, queer people, and disabled people, and the ways that the legal system does not serve them currently.”

His undergraduate studies have since led him to pursue a PhD with Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—the Faculty of Law. His research focuses on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tangata Tiriti, and constitutional transformation.

“As new developments in the legal system occur, being familiar with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga is becoming increasingly crucial for legal professionals. My legal study has prepared me for my career by giving me the opportunity to learn about these areas from leading Māori scholars.”

Etienne says being able to join the Asian Law Students’ Association at law school has been a real highlight.

“Being part of a community with other Asian students, supporting each other and participating in events such as talent nights and study sessions, has made me feel much more at home at law school.

“Studying Law in Wellington also has the definite advantage of being able to visit the Supreme Court during a hearing or Parliament during question time. It’s very cool to be able to see the workings of these legal institutions first hand, in a way that isn’t possible anywhere else.”



“Keep in mind that it is not an individual pursuit. Having a community around you—whether that consists of your whānau, friends, cultural or faith-based groups, or anyone else—is absolutely vital.”

Etienne Wain

Graduate, Bachelor of Laws with Honours



FURTHER SUPPORT

Tītoko is the new centre for student success that provides comprehensive support for students across all faculties and schools at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. Tītoko is your first point of contact for questions about study, student administration, support services, and student life.

Every student has access to a student success adviser, who can provide more in-depth support. Our student success advisers are organised into subject area teams, many of which are located in faculty offices.

The Tītoko team at the Faculty of Law is experienced in working with Bachelor of Laws students, including those

doing conjoint degrees. They can help with queries such as planning your degree, second-year selection, mapping out your core 200- and 300-level courses, and choosing your electives. Student success advisers can also help connect you to other support areas in the University such as Manawa Ora—Student Wellbeing, Te Ratonga Penapena Pūtea—Student Finance, and Te Taiako—Student Learning.

Many factors contribute to students' level of engagement, including previous education, health, family commitments, and their social, cultural, and financial background. The Faculty of Law acknowledges this diversity by ensuring the support provided is equitable, fair, and inclusive.

CONTACT US

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/llb
- www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply

STUDENT SUCCESS

The Student Success team supports you through your study, from enrolment to graduation. Get help with choosing your degree, planning your courses, or changing your degree programme.

Student success advisers

Room GB031, Government Buildings, 55 Lambton Quay, Pipitea Campus

☎ 04 463 6366

✉ law-enquiries@vuw.ac.nz

Māori and Pasifika engagement advisers

If you are a Māori or Pasifika student studying Law, get help with tutorials, mentoring, and study skills sessions.

✉ maorilawsc@vuw.ac.nz

✉ pasifikalawsc@vuw.ac.nz

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You can apply for admission up to two years in advance of the year you plan to start studying. Apply through our student portal, Pūaha. Once you have met the requirements, you will receive either a conditional or an unconditional Offer of Place. Accept your offer to confirm your admission.

After accepting your Offer of Place, you will be invited to select your courses once course enrolment is open. You select courses for one academic year at a time.

The closing date for applications for limited-entry courses every year is 1 December. All applications must be received by this date to be considered for second-year selection, returning 200-level LAWS courses, and 300-level LAWS elective ballots and oversubscribed courses.

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/puaha

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry in the Bachelor of Laws requires standard New Zealand University Entrance or equivalent.

There are no prerequisite secondary school subjects for the Bachelor of Laws, but useful subjects to prepare for this degree include English, Classics, and History.

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/study

OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

Disability support

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/disability

Māori student support

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

Pasifika student success

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

Rainbow student support

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow

Refugee-background student support

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students

Scholarships

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

Student services and support

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-support



📞 0800 04 04 04

✉️ info@vuw.ac.nz

🌐 www.wgtn.ac.nz/study