WORLD-CLASS LAW SCHOOL

WELLINGTON—WHERE LAW IS MADE

WHERE COULD LAW TAKE YOU?
Nau mai, haere mai,
and welcome to the
Faculty of Law at Victoria
University of Wellington

2021

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ACADEMIC STAFF

100+ SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO LAW STUDENTS

90% OF LAW STUDENTS ARE STUDYING FOR CONJOINTE DEGREES

GLOBAL ALUMNI NETWORK

BE PART OF OUR ACTIVE STUDENT COMMUNITY

RANKED AMONG THE TOP LAW SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD

STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND’S VIBRANT LEGAL AND POLITICAL HEART

MEET LEADING LAWYERS, JUDGES, POLITICIANS, DIPLOMATS, AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

BASED IN THE HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, OPPOSITE THE BEEHIVE AND Beside the Supreme Court

Study in New Zealand’s vibrant legal and political heart
Important notice: 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. 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.
Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded five stars plus overall in the QS Stars university ratings system. In addition, the University received five stars in all eight categories on which it was evaluated.
We live and breathe our capital city status—not only in terms of our physical location across the road from the Courts, Parliament, and public-sector institutions, but also in our mandate to help shape and inform law and legal-policy issues in New Zealand.

Our law school is a unique hub of debate, analysis, discovery, and dialogue for students, teachers, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who each play a role in the intellectual life of the capital city. We are ranked first in New Zealand for the quality of our research (2018 Performance-Based Research Fund Quality Evaluation), and are frequently ranked among the top 50 law schools in the world.

As a student, you receive the benefit of a virtuous cycle—the world-class research undertaken here feeds in to what we teach, and what is discussed and explored in lectures and tutorials informs that research. Our academic staff are known for their abilities to draw on, and share with students, insights garnered through the mix of practice and theory.

In welcoming you to Wellington’s Law School, I welcome you not only to our warm and vibrant community of staff and students, but also to the neighbourhood—New Zealand’s political and legal heart. We are here to support you and to challenge you, to provide an environment where you will learn, think, question, grow, and thrive.

Make the most of what lies ahead.

Professor Mark Hickford
Pro-Vice- Chancellor and Dean of Law
STUDYING LAW

Studying Law demands in-depth discussion and critical analysis. As a result, Law graduates acquire skills in communication, problem-solving, research, and independent thinking—all of which are prized by employers in many different fields. You will learn to apply the techniques of legal analysis and receive a comprehensive grounding in the important subject areas of the law, including commercial law, common law and statute law, international law, and public law.

- Commercial law is about business and commerce, regulating, corporate contracts, employment, and the manufacture and sale of consumer goods.
- Common law and statute law are the two main components of New Zealand’s legal system, which is largely derived from England’s legal system. Common law is the body of law built up from individual court decisions; statute law is made by Parliament.
- International law governs interactions and relations between nations.
- Public law is about the relationship between individuals and the State. Constitutional law, administrative law, and criminal law are all aspects of public law.

PLANNING FOR LAW SCHOOL

SUBJECTS TO TAKE AT SCHOOL

There are no prerequisites or preferred subjects. Choose subjects at school that you find most interesting, as these are generally the ones in which you will do well. Subjects such as Classics, English, and History will provide a solid basis of essay writing; and Economics, Mathematics, Music, Physics, and languages encourage analytical thinking. However, many subjects, other than those mentioned above, can develop your skills in essay writing and analysis.

COMBINING DEGREES

Law can be combined with any discipline, and the most popular subjects are Accounting, Criminology, Economics, History, International Relations, Philosophy, Political Science, and Psychology. Combining degrees in Law and languages is also common.

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You may enrol in the first year of a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), provided you have a university entrance qualification and, if you are a school leaver, you meet Victoria University of Wellington’s Guaranteed Entry Score.

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply

If you are a university graduate, you may be permitted to enrol in 100-level Law courses and some 200-level Law courses concurrently. Refer online for the policy regarding graduate entry to the LLB.

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/llb
I’ve always wanted to make a palpable difference in the world. Law attracted me as it allows us to understand the system that underlines the way we live. Being interested in writing made it an even better option.

The LLB is such a versatile degree. I don’t necessarily want to be a practising lawyer, but I still enjoy studying for a Law degree. It gives you lots of useful skills. I am also involved with some of the student groups at the Law School—I particularly like groups that combine law with other current and pressing issues, such as the environment.

I liked Victoria University of Wellington when I came to visit for the open day, and I really liked Wellington as a city. It made sense to study Law in the city where the most legislative activity occurs.

I’ve found it very rewarding to build my understanding of how New Zealand’s legal system works, as I had no knowledge of this before. I’ve learnt about the injustices this system promotes, while also appreciating how it helps maintain an equitable society. Law has helped me think more deeply about the complexity of the world.

So far, my favourite subjects are Criminal Law (LAWS 214) and Bill of Rights (LAWS 331). I am very interested in human rights and criminal justice issues, so I found these courses particularly engaging and in line with what I want to be doing in the future. I also really liked how they were taught, and the lecturers who taught them—I always enjoy being taught by strong and intelligent women!
STUDENT-FRIENDLY WELLINGTON

Wellington is a beautiful region that makes the most of its natural setting. It’s home to a busy harbour, beaches, mountains, miles of coastline, and acres of native bush to explore.

The city is compact enough to get to most places on foot. It also has an excellent public transport system that includes trains, buses, and a rather special cable car.

Whether you’re in search of active adventures, cultural experiences, special events, great cafés, fun activities, good shopping, a memorable night out, or just something free—Wellington’s got you covered every day of the week.

Located in the central city, the Law School is housed in the historic Government Buildings, across the road from the centre of New Zealand’s government, the Beehive. Most first-year courses are held at the University’s Kelburn campus, but from your second year onwards you’ll spend the majority of your time at the Law School, part of the University’s central-city Pipitea campus. The Law School has its own Library and cafeteria, and is perfectly located to enjoy the best of Wellington’s coffee and café culture.

TOP 10 WELLINGTON MUST-DOS FOR STUDENTS

WANDER THE WATERFRONT
The waterfront is a great place to go walking, running, skating, and biking, or to just sit and relax. On Saturdays, there’s the Underground Market and, on Sundays, the Harbourside Market.

EXPERIENCE THE NIGHTLIFE
Wellington has thriving theatre and music scenes with live shows every night of the week. The city prides itself on being the culinary capital, and there are always new dining options to try.

TOUR PARLIAMENT
Definitely not just for students of politics, a tour of the Beehive is for anyone with an interest in art, architecture, and how decisions are made in New Zealand. It’s also free.
Victoria University of Wellington and its students are a vital part of Wellington’s colourful character. Get out there and make some memories!

INDULGE YOUR LOVE OF MOVIES
Wellywood is home to Weta Workshop and the New Zealand Film Archive. It also has many cinemas, some of which have student discounts or cheap nights. In summer, outdoor movie theatres often pop up around the region.

TAKE IN TE PAPA TONGAREWA
Spend a rainy day touring New Zealand’s national museum for free, where most exhibits are free of charge. While you’re at it, check out the award-winning Wellington Museum further along the waterfront.

WALK WITH THE ANIMALS
Wildlife and native bush eco-sanctuary Zealandia and Wellington Zoo both have discount pricing for students.

CHECK OUT CUBA STREET
Known as New Zealand’s coolest street, colourful Cuba Street is a haven for buskers, bohemians, coffee-lovers, vintage shoppers, and culinary enthusiasts.

GET ACTIVE
Hitting the mountain bike trails, taking a dip in Oriental Bay, surfing at Lyall Bay, walking the town belt, and sailing or kayaking on the harbour are just some of the ways Wellingtonians enjoy the great outdoors. Get the free WellyWalks app and explore Wellington on foot.

PACK A PICNIC
Stop and smell the flowers at Wellington Botanic Garden or take the ferry over to Matiu/Somes Island or Days Bay and Eastbourne one sunny day.

ENJOY THE VIEW FROM THE TOP
Head up to the Mount Victoria lookout for panoramic views of Wellington.
BACHELOR OF LAWS

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

FIRST-YEAR LAW

LAWS 121, 20 points (1/3)
Introduction to New Zealand Legal System
An introduction to the New Zealand legal system and its relationship to government, Parliament, and the Courts; the place of the Treaty of Waitangi in the legal system; an introduction to the constitutional framework; and an introduction to critical, theoretical, and cultural perspectives on the legal system, including race and gender issues.

LAWS 122, 15 points (2/3)
Introduction to Case Law
An introduction to case law technique and the doctrine of precedent; an introduction to case law reasoning skills; the social context of judicial reasoning; and the interaction between case law and legislation.

LAWS 123, 15 points (2/3)
Introduction to Statute Law
An introduction to the process of legislation; the techniques of statutory interpretation and legislative drafting; the interaction with case law interpretation; and the impact of various other issues on interpretation principles and methods.

LECTURE STREAMS
To accommodate all the students who enrol in the three first-year courses, the Faculty offers three lecture streams for each of these courses at different times. Two lecture streams are held at the Kelburn campus, and one stream is held at the Pipitea campus.
Most other 100-level course lectures are held at the Kelburn campus.

Refer to the course finder on our website for timetable information and the course reference number (CRN) for your preferred lecture stream. Check your timetable carefully before selecting a stream. If a stream is full, you will be assigned to another one.

Once you have been assigned to a stream, you must stay in it. If you do need to change lecture streams, you should discuss this with an undergraduate student adviser. Note that there is no distance-study option for undergraduate law study. Lectures are a vital aspect of the learning of law and non-attendance makes it extremely difficult to grasp the topic and gain the necessary skills.

100-LEVEL TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS
Assessment for 100-level Law courses includes a terms test and a final examination. Because of the size of the classes, and to ensure that all the lecture streams can sit at the same time, these tests may be scheduled on a Saturday or an evening. Test dates will be in the course outline, and the final examination dates are released online during the trimester.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/course-finder
www.wgtn.ac.nz/timetables
I started my professional career as a networks and systems engineer after studying Computer Science. The internet had started booming and the potential of new technologies seemed limitless. I created a start-up company and freelanced as a technology and computer security expert. Along the way, my interests shifted from building technologies to business based on technology and, finally, to market and technology regulation. I worked on several complex competition cases and large-scale mergers and acquisitions. Navigating this demanded some legal knowledge, so I started a Law degree.

I decided to progress to a PhD in Law, and I chose Victoria University of Wellington. I started to fully understand how technology, business, and law interact, and how many challenges there were in this fascinating area. My PhD shifted my career towards an academic path and, after graduating, I applied for a permanent position to continue my research.

I am interested in the intersection of information technology and law, and this is the area I teach in. It is an area of huge change and progress, but it also has huge problems. I wrote a book about the privacy regulation of personal data collected by big online platforms such as Facebook and Google. I believe users should have more power in online relationships, and my book suggests practical economic, technological, and legal regulations to achieve this.

Teaching is a great complementary activity to research. In preparing to teach, you have to put together your thinking in a way that is understandable for students—and you need to be prepared for hard questions. In return, you are sure to receive some interesting feedback and creative ideas.

Information technology law is a dynamic area and can be an ideal source of examples for many other Law courses. In my jurisprudence classes, I talk about problems caused by artificial intelligence (AI) and self-driving cars. These new technologies make us look again at basic concepts of law and justice. How do we create a fair AI system? How much moral choice should be given to a self-driving car? Are these completely new questions or just old questions in a new disguise?
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There is considerable variation in the assessment of Law courses. In some, assessment is based on in-term tests and a final examination. In others, assessment is based on essays or opinions (an opinion is the Faculty’s equivalent of an essay and means your legal opinion on a matter) completed during the trimester and there is no final examination. Every course has mandatory requirements (also called ‘terms’) that must be satisfied for completion of the course. These vary from course to course—in some, a mandatory attendance or a minimum mark in a test or essay may be required for terms. Assessment and terms requirements are set out in the course outline for each course.

GETTING HELP WITH STUDY

If you have a problem relating to a particular course, talk to the lecturer, course coordinator, or the student success coordinator. If the issues are more general and relate to course selection or your whole course of study, see a Law undergraduate student adviser. If they can’t help you sort out the issue, they’ll be able to tell you where to find the appropriate support.
**FEATURES OF THE DEGREE**

Our LLB has the following features:

- It is a full-time four-year degree comprising 480 points.
- It can be combined with a second degree and takes a minimum of five years’ study. This is known as a conjoint degree. Popular combinations are an LLB with a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom), or a Bachelor of Science (BSc).
- It consists of 21 Law courses and 90 non-Law points selected from subjects in other degree schedules.
- Each undergraduate Law course has three hours of lectures per week.
- There is also a tutorial (small group) programme for LAWS 121–123, LAWS 211–214, and LAWS 301.
- You should expect to allocate 9–10 hours’ study time per week per course, including lectures and tutorials.
- Most Law courses have a final examination.

Non-Law elective courses can be in any subject. You must complete 90 points of electives (five or six electives to make 90 points).

*See page 16 for further information about completing the 200-level courses over two years.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2*</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trimester 1</td>
<td>Trimester 2</td>
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<td>LAWS 121 20 points</td>
<td>LAWS 122 15 points</td>
<td>LAWS 297 10 points</td>
<td>LAWS 213 30 points</td>
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<td>Non-Law elective</td>
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<td>LAWS 212 30 points</td>
<td>LAWS 312 15 points</td>
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Many teachers in the Law School use a method of teaching known as discussion-based learning, sometimes called the Socratic method. Law lecturers teach by asking students questions about the material being studied and using their answers to explore key points. The Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), Professor Graeme Austin, explains this below.

People have different views on what discussion-based learning is all about. Some of our teachers use the term ‘interactive classroom’, which is also a good description. The classroom becomes a kind of ‘ideas laboratory’. We expect students to express their own ideas about the legal issues at stake in the materials being studied.

Through classroom discussion, lecturers and students test ideas together. This process enhances our understanding of the law.

The way we teach here also helps to develop students’ analytical skills and build their confidence in speaking about legal issues.

The law can have a big impact on people’s lives—and people often need legally trained professionals to speak for them. Lectures, seminars, and tutorials provide opportunities for our students to practise relevant skills.

For me, at least, discussion-based learning has the following key components:

- The students and the teacher are responsible for moving the classroom conversation forward. Lecturers here don’t want students to sit passively in the classroom, taking down what we say. We want students to be actively involved in the classroom discussion.

- It’s about testing assumptions. One of a lawyer’s key roles is to test assumptions, to make sure that ideas hold up to scrutiny. You’ll often hear teachers here say “Yes, but…”, constantly encouraging students to think again about tried-and-true ideas.

- It enhances understanding of what’s at stake. Our students are encouraged to look at legal issues from a range of different perspectives. Students might be asked to defend a position (What can you say in its favour?) or to criticise it (What can be said against it?). This process strengthens analytical skills and deepens understanding.

In the Law School’s classrooms, we examine fascinating and profoundly important questions through the lens of the law. Discussion-based learning makes the process hugely rewarding.
SECOND-YEAR LAW

The second year of the LLB is a block of four full-year courses commonly taken over two years: The Law of Contract, the Law of Torts, Public Law and Criminal Law, and the shorter Legal Research, Writing, and Mooting course. On admission to second-year Law, students take LAWS 297 Legal Research, Writing, and Mooting with either two or three of LAWS 211–214 and so complete the 200-level Law courses over two years. Taking all five 200-level Law courses in one year is a very heavy workload and not advisable. To be immersed in enough law for a successful learning experience, take two or three (not one) 200-level Law courses with LAWS 297 Legal Research, Writing, and Mooting. In LAWS 297, you will learn how to use the Law Library and computer databases, how to refer to and cite legal sources, and how to prepare legal opinions. You will also be required to argue a case before a judge in a mock courtroom.

Selection criteria
Selection criteria apply for admission into second-year Law. Students applying for 200-level Law courses are selected on their grade-point average (GPA), with preferred entrant status being given to those who have a B average over LAWS 121, LAWS 122, and LAWS 123. Different criteria apply (i) under the Māori Admissions Process, (ii) for transferring students, (iii) for graduate enrolment, and (iv) if there are exceptional circumstances.

THIRD- AND FOURTH-YEAR LAW

The third and fourth years of the LLB provide an opportunity to broaden and deepen your legal knowledge. You will be able to choose from a variety of courses at this stage in the degree—choose wisely for the benefit of your legal study and your future legal career.

All students must complete LAWS 301 Property Law and LAWS 312 Equity, Trusts and Succession in their third year (or fourth year if studying for a combined degree). To qualify for admission to the Bar, you will need the elective LAWS 334 Ethics and the Law. Altogether, you may choose 11 courses from a range of one-trimester electives. The electives offered will vary from year to year.

BACHELOR OF LAWS WITH HONOURS

If you perform very well in three 200-level Law courses, you may be invited to join the Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB(Hons)) programme in your third or fourth year. While sharing many components with the LLB, the LLB(Hons) is a separate undergraduate degree that extends students’ research, writing, and analytical skills in a range of specialist areas.

Māori Admissions Process
As part of its ongoing commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, the Faculty allocates up to 10 percent of places in second-year courses to students accepted under the Māori Admissions Process. More information is available from the kaiakiaki / Māori engagement adviser.

Kaiakiaki / Māori Engagement Adviser
Room GBG29, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus
📞 04 463 6305
✉️ maorilawsc@vuw.ac.nz
Victoria University of Wellington is committed to supporting and encouraging students who embody and display the key attributes of excellence, leadership, and commitment to community, and helping remove the barriers to university study that exist for students facing hardship or disadvantage.

We offer a range of scholarships for all levels of study, from awards for school leavers and undergraduates to postgraduate and doctoral scholarships to support you in your studies.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships
WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Wellington International Leadership Programme (WILP) is a unique and rewarding extracurricular programme aimed at advancing students’ knowledge of global issues, providing leadership challenges, and enhancing their cross-cultural awareness. It is free for all the University’s degree students. The programme is an agent for producing active, global citizens who address the challenges of our globalised world and are equipped for the international marketplace.

If you are interested in languages, world affairs, cultural diversity, sustainability, overseas exchange, and international opportunities, then WILP is the programme for you.

The WILP also generously supports students on the Wellington Global Exchange Programme with a WILP Global Leader Grant of $1,000.

Wellington Plus is free for all current students, is self-directed, and can be tailored to suit your schedule, studies, and interests.

There are two levels of achievement—Certificate and Award. You undertake the programme alongside your degree and successful completion is acknowledged on your academic transcript.

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www.wgtn.ac.nz/wilp

www.wgtn.ac.nz/wellington-plus

WELLINGTON PLUS PROGRAMME

The Wellington Plus Programme is an exciting extracurricular service and leadership development programme. It offers you the opportunity to participate in volunteering and student leadership at the University, service to the local community, and leadership, skills, and career development workshops.

Wellington Plus connects you with your community, raises your awareness of social responsibility, and enables you to build valuable networks—you will develop skills and attributes that make you attractive to employers.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/wellington-plus
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

You don’t need to wait until after graduation to travel. Wellington Global Exchange is the University’s student exchange programme offering you the opportunity to travel while studying towards your degree.

With Wellington Global Exchange, you can complete one or two trimesters of your degree overseas, while paying your normal tuition fees. We’ll even help you finance your trip with a grant of $1,000.

Go on an exchange to experience new cultures and perspectives, and make lasting friendships around the world, all while earning credit and enhancing both your degree and CV. See the world and New Zealand through new eyes.

For exchange application deadlines, go to our website.

WELLINGTON GLOBAL EXCHANGE OFFICE

Wellington University International, Level 2, Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus

📞 04 463 5667
✉️ student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz
🌐 www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-exchange
COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

LAW STUDENTS’ SOCIETY

The Victoria University of Wellington Law Students’ Society (VUWLSS) is the representative body for Law students, run by Law students.

We work with other representative groups at the Law School to improve the lives of students during the five (or so) years spent studying at university. We have two main roles as an organisation: advocacy for Law students and running events for them. The events are educational, career-based, competitive, or social.

The educational events are to help students with their studies. Revision sessions are run for all the compulsory 200- and 300-level courses before tests and exams to give students some last-minute help for their assessments. Each year, we put on the annual Wellness Week, which is dedicated to helping students focus on their physical and mental health, especially in the lead-up to exams.

We work with law firms to run two mentoring programmes, pairing younger students with law school veterans and final-year students with professionals in the legal profession. This is to create a culture where students can get the help they need from older students or alumni who have been in their position.

We are also responsible for running the annual Law School competitions. With support from several law firms and the New Zealand Law Students’ Society, we put on four competitions each year, with divisions for senior and junior students. These include mooting, negotiation, witness examination, and client interviewing. Winners of these competitions go on to compete in (and win!) the National and Australasian finals held at different universities across New Zealand and Australia. These competitions help Law students develop practical legal skills, meet lawyers in the profession, and compete against some of the best students in the country.
We also play a role in making sure students are aware of what career options are available to them and how to go about applying for them. We run a series of seminars, Careers in Focus, in which we invite panellists to speak to students about a range of careers, including those in the public sector, consulting, criminal law, and litigation, to name just a few. We also provide students with information and resources when they are deciding to sit their Professional Legal Studies course following the completion of their Law degree.

Finally, VUWLSS is well known for the social events it puts on for members. Each year, the social calendar begins with the annual Law Camp where we welcome the second-year cohort to the Law School over the first weekend of term. We run a range of events throughout the year, including pub quizzes, a cocktail night, rainbow movie evenings, and the Law ball. There is a social event for everyone, providing an invaluable opportunity for students to meet one another and relax away from their studies.

In all of the events, we work with various representative groups at the Law School that run their own initiatives too. These groups include Ngā Rangahautira (Māori Law Students’ Society), the Pasifika Law Students’ Society, the Asian Law Students’ Association, and the Feminist Law Students’ Society.

If you’re interested in any of these organisations, make sure you reach out and get involved—all of them run fantastic events and do great work in their communities.

Joining VUWLSS is easy. Our office is open between 9 am and 5 pm on weekdays and there is almost always someone there. Otherwise, you can email us. Membership costs $20 and gets you discounts for events, special deals at different shops around Wellington, and keeps you in the loop with everything happening at the Pipitea campus. So, if you want to buy a membership, ask any questions about what we do, or just borrow our iron for those last-minute interviews—swing by!

**LAW STUDENTS’ SOCIETY**
Room GBG16, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus

📞 04 463 6304
✉️ vuwlss@gmail.com
🌐 www.vuwlss.com
I had an interest in law and how it relates to Māori, so I decided to follow my curiosity and study Law. I chose Victoria University of Wellington because it is at the epicentre of Māori relations with the Government and the Crown.

One of my favourite lecturers is Associate Professor Dean Knight—he’s really funny and always gets really involved with the class, which makes me want to listen and engage. A highlight from my first year was Associate Professor Grant Morris, one of my lecturers, writing and performing a song in his end of trimester lecture.

A lot of what I have learnt so far has not only been from the staff, but also from other students. There are numerous student groups here that are able to help you if you need it. I’m involved with Ngā Rangahautira (Māori Law Students’ Association) and Ngāi Tauira (Māori Students’ Association). They are both a second home while I am at university and have been so welcoming. I always hear of job opportunities through Ngā Rangahautira and the Jedi herself, Izzy Wilson (the Law School’s Māori engagement adviser).

I love my reo Māori, and the Māori world that surrounds it. I’ve really enjoyed being able to have my Māori classes at our marae, Te Herenga Waka. In the future, I want to work for one of my iwi corporations or be an academic in te reo.

My advice to new students is to say yes to every opportunity you can, whether it’s small or big. It’s all worth it in the end, and you will really get places by saying yes. Being ‘capital thinking’ and ‘globally minded’ means taking what we learn here at the University and applying it to whatever we do. It means being able to open our minds up to the wider world and having the tools to succeed.
MĀORI STUDENTS

The kaiakiaki / Maori engagement adviser works as part of the on-campus whānau for Māori students, Āwhina. At Āwhina, our kaupapa (goal) is to provide academic and holistic support for Māori students enrolled in any degree or course on any of our campuses. Our experienced staff offer one-on-one advising and mentoring sessions, study tutorials and wānanga, and a range of workshops to help you achieve your study and work goals. Our culturally inclusive environment includes whānau rooms with computer facilities, study areas, free tea and coffee, kitchenettes to prepare food, and space to meet with peers or tuākana (senior students). We can help you transition successfully from secondary education or work into tertiary education.

Kaiakiaki / Māori Engagement Adviser
Room GBG29, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus
📞 04 463 6305
✉️ maorilawsc@vuw.ac.nz

Māmari Stephens
Academic Adviser to Māori Students
📞 04 463 6319
✉️ mamari.stephens@vuw.ac.nz
🌐 www.wgtn.ac.nz/tautoko

NGĀ RANGAHAUTIRA

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 āwhina, 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 at the University. 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. As a Māori student completing an LLB, you can be elected as a representative on the executive committee. The committee aims to provide a fun and safe whānau environment that increases awareness and understanding of Māori issues that are encountered at the Law School.

Māori students are encouraged to participate in events run by Ngā Rangahautira, which include a first-year event, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, a sports day, BYOs, an alumni breakfast, and an internal mooting competition.

Ngā Rangahautira has wide-reaching support from the Wellington legal and political community. This includes our alumni, who are involved in different facets of the professional world and keep in close contact with us on a social and professional level.

Every year, Ngā Rangahautira works towards actively participating in the conference organised by Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa, where Māori Law students from all over the country gather to interact with lawyers, judges, academics, politicians, and each other. Ngā Rangahautira actively encourages new Law students, who are Māori, to participate and be guided through an exploration and expression of their Māoritanga in the law. Once a member of Ngā Rangahautira, always a member of Ngā Rangahautira.

NGĀ RANGAHAUTIRA / MĀORI LAW STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION
Room GB140C, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus
📞 04 463 6329
✉️ vuw_nr@myvuw.ac.nz
Not so long ago, I was teaching Italian to exchange students in Milan, and to undergraduate students in Mexico and France. I moved to New Zealand to undertake postgraduate research at Victoria University of Wellington, and I also tutored students in Italian. I became involved in the Faculty of Law as an examination supervisor in 2018 and was recently appointed as the student success coordinator for Law students.

My main tasks are to provide proactive support services to our students, and information and advice to the Faculty of Law. Among other things, I’ve worked on implementing writing-skills workshops for undergraduate students in collaboration with the Student Learning team. There are many factors that contribute to student success, and building a comprehensive picture of these is a challenge, and a highlight, of the role.

A tip I like to offer students is to be prepared for lecturers to pick a student in class and ask a series of questions about a case. This ‘Socratic questioning’ [see page 15] is only one of many teaching approaches used at the Law School, but it’s a great learning method and an opportunity. It stimulates your critical thinking and teaches you how to argue on behalf of someone else. Teachers are not interested in the right answer as much as the way students articulate, develop, and defend their positions. Don’t be afraid to be wrong, but don’t be afraid to be right either!

Studying Law is a long journey, so take it one step at a time. Be open-minded and give yourself the opportunity to explore ideas. And if you need someone to talk to, my door is always open!
PASIFIKA STUDENTS

Pasifika engagement advisers and mentoring coordinators foster Pasifika learning and teaching communities in an environment that is welcoming, safe, and focused on academic excellence, personal growth, and wellbeing, with Pasifika culture at the core. Our students have access to a mentoring programme for 100-level to 300-level courses, course-specific study sessions, exam-oriented preparation, and workshops that support learning and development as well as meeting cultural needs. Our team is here to help you navigate the crossing into tertiary study and looks forward to welcoming you on board. We have Pasifika spaces at the Kelburn, Pipitea, and Te Aro campuses.

Purcell Sali
Pasifika Engagement Adviser
Room GBG27, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus
☎ 04 463 6303
✉ pasifikalawsc@vuw.ac.nz
🌐 www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

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. We work together on initiatives with the Pasifika engagement adviser to aid our goals and aims, and to ensure the student voice is being heard. Members of the society also organise and take part in social and academic events throughout the year—one of them being an annual law conference in which students have the opportunity to participate in mooting and present papers on topics of their choice.

Belonging to the society is a great opportunity to meet other students from a similar cultural background, not only within the University but also from other universities. Pasifika ideals in the Faculty are promoted by the society and, in its role as a representative body, it is affiliated to the Victoria University of Wellington Students’ Association.

✉ pilss.vuw@gmail.com
ASIAN LAW STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Since 2014, the Asian Law Students’ Association (ALSA) has provided a supportive community for Asian Law students. The association prides itself on creating a space for Asian Law students to celebrate their diverse cultures and connect with those from shared backgrounds.

Among events ALSA organises are social, academic, networking, and mentoring events for its members throughout the year. Social events include numerous BYOs and the international movie night. The academic events range from 100-level workshops to practical research and mooting workshops for 200-level students. The Mentoring programme has always been an integral part of ALSA and allows older Law students, recent graduates, and young legal professionals to mentor ALSA members.

The association also works to create opportunities where members can discuss and raise awareness of key issues that Asian-identifying Law students face in their everyday lives and in the legal profession. An example is our roundtable discussion, where members can openly discuss topics ranging from common stereotypes to the bamboo ceiling.

The only Law student podcast in the country is run by ALSA. Topics range from legal and political news to law school events and interviews with prominent individuals in the legal sphere. Find us on SoundCloud at www.soundcloud.com/vuw-alsa

EMAIL: alsaatvuw@gmail.com

FEMINIST LAW SOCIETY

The Feminist Law Society (VUWFLS) 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. We seek to be inclusive, intersectional, and aware of multiple layers of oppression.

The society plays an important role because, although more than half of Law students are women, the profession still faces significant barriers to gender equality, such as retention of women to the upper echelons of the profession, workplace culture, and sexual harassment.

The society supports Law students through creating alternative social spaces, advocating on behalf of students, and lobbying for a more just legal profession. It also runs other events such as panel discussions, baking sales, and submission-writing workshops.

Belonging to the society is a great opportunity to meet other students who are passionate about similar issues, not only within the Law School but also from other parts of the University and the profession. Feminist values in the Faculty are promoted by the society and in collaboration with other student representative groups.

EMAIL: vuwfeministlawsociety@gmail.com

LAW LIBRARY

Housed in the southern end of Government Buildings, the Law Library plays an integral part in the study of the law and you will use it increasingly as you progress through your degree. It contains a comprehensive collection of New Zealand legislation, law reports, journals, treaties, textbooks, and other legal material.

It provides access to many New Zealand and international legal databases, including LexisNexis and Westlaw, as well as to a range of databases through the University’s network and the internet.

EMAIL: www.wgtn.ac.nz/library

RAINFOREST LAW STUDENTS’ SOCIETY

At 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 represents and supports rainbow students within the Law School community. It aims to make it easier for LGBTQIA+ students to connect and find support throughout their Law School adventure. Everyone is welcome—whether you identify as part of the community, or as an ally. There are many ways to be involved, including social events such as pub quizzes, and informative and reflective events such as panel discussions.

Join their Facebook group to keep up to date with their news and events.

EMAIL: www.facebook.com/groups/rainbowlawstudentsVUW/
EMAIL: rainbowlawstudentsvuw@gmail.com
I was initially attracted to law because of its challenging nature, and the skills it can provide in the workforce. I would like to see more Pasifika people in law. It can be tough, but law provides unique skills and knowledge to make a real difference in our communities.

Choosing Victoria University of Wellington was an easy decision. We are at the centre of government and the heart of New Zealand. Through my studies, I’ve met people from across the country, including some of the most talented and driven Māori and Pasifika people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Helpful Māori lecturers such as Associate Professor Māmari Stephens and people such as Izzy Wilson (the Law School’s Māori engagement adviser) and Purcell Sali (the Law School’s Pasifika engagement adviser) provide important support. Studying and working alongside such bright, kind, and helpful people inspires me to continue to improve myself.

Studying Law will challenge you every step of the way, particularly if you haven’t been fully integrated into our Pākehā education system and structures. If you can manoeuvre through this system, the rewards are worth it. The skills and knowledge I have gained through studying Law provided me with the opportunity to be placed in a Pasifika government-policy internship programme called Tupu Tai. This internship improved my writing and research skills, allowing me to excel in assisting my team’s work and in producing a research paper on privacy law.

My studies have opened my mind to the systems that discriminate and disadvantage Māori and Pasifika, and the many issues with how the Government and its systems operate—and to some ideas about how these issues can be addressed and resolved.

When I finish my degrees, I’m interested in working in government policy, particularly education. I’d like to focus on improving education outcomes for Māori and Pasifika. I might go on to do a Master’s degree in that area one day.
AFTER YOUR BACHELOR’S DEGREE

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

The Faculty of Law prepares its graduates to:

■ have a specialised and contextualised understanding of core legal principles, important legal concepts, and law reform processes
■ exhibit well-developed skills in legal research and analysis
■ communicate effectively and accurately in written and oral settings
■ demonstrate, in the context of legal studies, intellectual autonomy, critical thinking, independence of thought, openness to new ideas, and a capacity to manage their own learning
■ exhibit an understanding of the role of law in Aotearoa New Zealand, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi
■ exhibit an understanding of law in its international context
■ manifest a commitment to justice
■ demonstrate an appreciation of the ethical obligations that accompany the application and development of the law
■ work collaboratively, cooperatively, independently, and ethically.
POSTGRADUATE STUDY

The Faculty offers a flexible postgraduate study programme based on world-class research-led teaching. It is designed to suit a variety of interests and requirements, from recent graduates wishing to enrich their undergraduate degrees to lawyers seeking professional development.

The Faculty’s Master of Laws programme has a strong reputation. Experienced academics individually supervise thesis and dissertation research (ideal for researching a topic relevant to work or interest), and most seminar-based courses have a significant research component.

The Faculty’s own research publication, the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review*, offers an opportunity for postgraduate students to have their work published.

A vigorous and ongoing programme of conferences, public lectures, and international visitors provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment.

[www.wgtn.ac.nz/postgraduate-law](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/postgraduate-law)

LAW PROFESSIONALS

When you have finished your Law degree, you will probably take professionals (known as ‘profs’). To be admitted to the legal profession in New Zealand, Law graduates must complete requirements prescribed by the Council of Legal Education. One of these requirements is the completion of a practical, professional legal studies course. Go to the websites below for information about the two providers that offer this training, either by distance or as a three-month onsite course.

[www.collaw.ac.nz](http://www.collaw.ac.nz)
[www.ipls.org.nz](http://www.ipls.org.nz)
CAREERS

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 creatively, 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.

A Law graduate is not limited to practising law in a law firm. Many graduates use the attributes they have obtained from studying Law to work in other fields such as broadcasting, business, the creative arts, government, industry, journalism, ministries, non-governmental organisations, or politics.

Law students are invited to a number of events throughout the year that are organised by the University’s Careers and Employment team. These include:

- career fairs, where relevant employers showcase career options and recent graduates share tips
- presentation days, where law firms give information about internship opportunities and graduate recruitment programmes
- Careers in Focus seminars, which are informal get-togethers where graduates discuss their experiences in the profession—they feature graduates from a variety of jobs, including roles in the public sector, criminal law, dispute resolution, litigation, and technology companies.

Find out what you need to know to get a job, what career options are open to you, and what your ideal future might look like.
Our graduates can be found in a range of roles, in New Zealand and overseas. Some examples are:

- academic
- advocate
- diplomat
- entrepreneur
- in-house legal counsel
- journalist
- lawyer
- mediator
- policy analyst
- politician.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT

The Careers and Employment team connects you with employers and the community, and prepares you for future employment. We can help you explore your study and work options, apply for jobs and internships, and establish a career path by providing advice for ongoing career development.

We have services at both the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses where you can attend one-to-one appointments, drop-in sessions for CV checks, and workshops on a range of career topics, including networking and interview preparation.

You also have access to our employability development programmes and comprehensive resources, job vacancy listings, and career events.

All current students can participate in the Wellington Plus service and leadership programme, the GrowMe employability programme, and our Alumni as Mentors programme that connects final-year students with the University’s alumni.

JOBS ON CAREERHUB

CareerHub has everything you need to keep your career on track:

- search for a range of jobs, from internships, voluntary, and part-time work to graduate positions
- be the first to hear about careers expos, employer information sessions, and seminars
- find resources to assist with your job search, CV, and interview preparation
- book for career advice appointments, workshops, and events.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/careerhub

Develop your skills and experience and launch your career with confidence.

Careers and Employment

Room HU120, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus

04 463 5393

careers-service@vuw.ac.nz

www.wgtn.ac.nz/careers
Victoria University of Wellington was an obvious choice for me, as I grew up in Wellington and the Law School had a stellar reputation. The location in the historic Government Buildings, and the quality of teaching—in public and constitutional law especially—gave the Law School a real sense of integration with government and public affairs.

Like many people, I wasn’t sure when I started what the study of law would involve. It was the first year of classes that got me hooked. I enjoyed the opportunity to combine academic thinking and complex analysis with practical application to many different issues and problems. The courses I took at the Law School sparked my interest in copyright law and how it applies to the internet, which has become my career specialism.

My first full-time job was at Chapman Tripp. Four years after graduating, I was fortunate to receive a Fulbright scholarship, which helped me to study for a Master of Law at Columbia University in New York. I studied copyright law and the internet at a fascinating time in the early 2000s, when the courts were first grappling with how to protect the rights and investment of creators in the new digital environment. Later, I moved to London and joined the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, the global association that represents record companies. I spent 12 years there as general counsel, overseeing copyright enforcement, litigation, and related legislation for record companies around the world. I returned to Wellington a year ago as general counsel for Recorded Music New Zealand. I’m looking forward to working for the music industry during the Government’s review of the Copyright Act, which is critically important for all creators and creative industries in New Zealand.

My advice to students is that a Law degree from Victoria University of Wellington gives you a really solid foundation to work from, but it is up to you to build on that foundation. There are many opportunities while studying, and you need to grab them when they come your way, and make the most of the time you have.
UNIVERSITY SERVICES

ACCOMMODATION
Contact us for advice on applying for halls of residence, renting, and other accommodation options.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/accommodation

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
Join a sporting, cultural, social, or political club, group, or association, with more than 170 clubs and societies on campus to choose from.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/clubs

CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Get support or guidance on any matter involving conflict, misconduct, and your safety. Discuss your options if you feel harassed or unsafe, or want to raise concerns about other students’ welfare or report concerning behaviour on campus.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-interest

COUNSELLING SUPPORT
Student Counselling provides professional, confidential counselling appointments across all campuses for any issue that is impacting on your personal or academic success.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/counselling

DISABILITIES
If you have a temporary or ongoing impairment, get advice and support from Disability Services, including coaching, academic liaison, exam support, note-taking assistance, mobility parking, and access to rest and study rooms.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/disability

FEES AND FINANCIAL ADVICE
Get information and advice about fees, payments, student levies, and dealing with StudyLink. Meet with a student finance adviser for all money matters and how to apply for the Hardship Fund.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/money

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT
Wellington University International supports all international students and can provide information and advice for anything relating to your studies and adjusting to life in New Zealand.

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

LEARNING SUPPORT
Student Learning specialises in helping you achieve academic success at all levels of study. Attend workshops and seminars, book one-to-one appointments, and access helpful resources online.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-learning

RAINBOW STUDENT SUPPORT
We offer a range of services and resources for students who identify with diverse sexual orientations and sex and gender identities.

› www.wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow
WHO TO CONTACT

LAW FACULTY/SCHOOL OFFICE

At the Law Faculty/School Office, you can get information and guidance, pick up your assignments, collect or read examination scripts, apply for a copy of your academic record, and collect publications and forms. Faculty-specific forms can also be printed from the Law School website.

Room GBG31, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus

📞 04 463 6366
✉️ law-enquiries@vuw.ac.nz
🌐 www.wgtn.ac.nz/law

FACULTY STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

The Student and Academic Services team supports students through their study, from enrolment to graduation. The undergraduate student advisers offer information on admission, qualifications, and assessment of prior study, course advice and selection criteria, prerequisites, and enrolment. Get help with choosing your degree, planning your courses, or changing your degree programme.

MĀORI AND PASIFIKA 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

STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR

Room GB111, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus

📞 04 463 6340
✉️ eleonora.bello@vuw.ac.nz

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISERS

Room GB109, Government Buildings, Pipitea Campus

📞 04 463 6433 or 04 463 6483
✉️ law-undergraduate@vuw.ac.nz