

Bachelor of Forensic Studies/Bachelor of Laws

(194JA.3)

Please note these are the 2018 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank 87

Note:

The selection rank is the minimum ATAR plus adjustment factors required for admission to the program in the previous year. This is an indicative guide only as ranks change each year depending on demand.

Delivery mode

Location Bruce, Canberra

Duration 5.0 years

Faculty Faculty of Business, Government & Law

Discipline Canberra Law School
Academic Program Area - Science

UAC code 368047

English language requirements There are non-standard English language requirements for this course. To be eligible you must have an academic IELTS or equivalent of 6.5, with no band score below 6.0. Students who have undertaken all of their education in an English speaking country (as defined on UC website) are deemed to have met our English language proficiency requirements.

[View IELTS equivalences](#)

International students

Academic entry requirements To study at UC, you'll need to meet our academic entry requirements and any admission requirements specific to your course. Please read your course admission requirements below. To find out whether you meet UC's academic entry requirements, visit our [academic entry requirements page](#).

[View UC's academic entry requirements](#)

Delivery mode

Location Bruce, Canberra

Duration 5.0 years

Faculty Faculty of Business, Government & Law

Discipline Canberra Law School
Academic Program Area - Science

CRICOS code 074936F

English language requirements There are non-standard English language requirements for this course. To be eligible you must have an academic IELTS or equivalent of 6.5, with no band score below 6.0. Students who have undertaken all of their education in an English speaking country (as defined on UC website) are deemed to have met our English language proficiency requirements.

[View IELTS equivalences](#)

About this course

Super-charge your law degree with a bit of forensic insight

Be a formidable force in the courtroom by focusing your talent for law on the compelling area of forensics, where you'll be able to apply your scientific knowledge in the areas of crime investigation and the analytical preparation of evidence.

This course will help you achieve a fully accredited Law Degree (preparing you for work as a solicitor or barrister) which is recognised by the Supreme Courts of the ACT and NSW, and will give you articulation pathways that may lead to your admission on a career-smashing overseas assignment.

You will be able to demonstrate broad theoretical and technical knowledge in the application of science in legal matters, cross-examine

witnesses, transmit knowledge to judges and juries and master forensic biology and chemistry.

Career paths? How about state and federal law enforcement agencies, DNA testing labs, quarantine services or in medical and research services? Insightful, indeed!

Combine a Bachelor of Forensic Studies / Bachelor of Laws at UC and you will:

- qualify as a practising lawyer
- be able to demonstrate a broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge in forensic science or in the application of science to legal matters
- be able to cross-examine expert witnesses across a range of forensic disciplines
- be able to transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to those involved in the legal system including judges and juries
- master forensic biology and chemistry for criminal investigations
- learn analytical techniques for collecting and examining trace evidence.

Work-integrated learning

In this course, you can undertake a workplace internship as part of the Faculty of Education, Science, Technology & Maths' commitment to supporting work-integrated learning, which will enhance your employability and ensure you're armed with the right mix of skills and knowledge to take a super-confident leap into your future career.

Career opportunities

Opportunities exist for Bachelor of Forensic Studies / Bachelor of Laws graduates in a range of sectors, including in:

- The Police Force
- State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Government and Private Forensic and Drug Detection Labs
- DNA Testing Labs
- Customs and Quarantine Services
- Environmental Protection Agencies
- Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Analytical Industries
- Medical Diagnostic Labs
- Hospitals and Corporate Business that provide Forensic, Medical or Research Services

Course specific information

Applicants must meet normal university requirements for admission to an undergraduate course.

Professional accreditation

This program is recognised by the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and the State of New South Wales. Through mutual recognition, UC's degree may serve as the basis for admission in all Australian jurisdictions.

Through a program offered in conjunction with the College of Law, students may (in their final year of the Bachelor of Laws at UC) begin

their Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice course that qualifies for them for admission. Arrangements exist for students to articulate into programs leading to admission in the UK and the United States.

Admission requirements

Normal requirements for admission to an undergraduate degree.

Additional admission requirements

None.

Assumed knowledge

For the Bachelor of Laws, please refer to the individual course. For the Bachelor of Forensic Studies, assumed knowledge is ACT: Biology and/or Chemistry major(s), plus Mathematical Methods major. NSW; Biology and/or Chemistry, plus Mathematics.

Periods course is open for new admissions

This course is not open for new admissions.

Credit arrangements

There are currently no formal credit transfer arrangements for entry to this course. Any previous study or work experience will only be considered as part of the application process in accordance with current [course rules](#) and [university policy](#).

Course requirements

Bachelor of Forensic Studies/Bachelor of Laws (194JA) | 120 credit points

Required - 93 credit points as follows

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Forensic Studies - 48 credit points as follows

Major in Forensic Chemistry (MJ0042) | 21 or 24 credit points

For the 21cp Major - Must pass 21 credit points as follows

[Chemistry 1a \(1516\) | 3 credit points – Level 1](#)

[Chemistry 1b \(1517\) | 3 credit points – Level 1](#)

[Data Analysis in Science \(1809\) | 3 credit points – Level 1](#)

[Analytical Chemistry \(8043\) | 3 credit points – Level 2](#)

[Introduction to Pharmacology and Toxicology \(8342\) | 3 credit points – Level 3](#)

[Forensic Chemistry \(8376\) | 3 credit points – Level 3](#)

Forensic Toxicology and Drug Analysis (8780) | 3 credit points – Level 3

For the 24cp Major - Must pass 24 credit points as follows

Chemistry 1a (1516) | 3 credit points – Level 1

Chemistry 1b (1517) | 3 credit points – Level 1

Data Analysis in Science (1809) | 3 credit points – Level 1

Analytical Chemistry (8043) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Environmental Forensic Science (8248) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Introduction to Pharmacology and Toxicology (8342) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Forensic Chemistry (8376) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Forensic Toxicology and Drug Analysis (8780) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Major in Forensic Biology (MJ0043) | 21 or 24 credit points

For the 21cp Major - Must pass 21 credit points from the following

Concepts in Biology (483) | 3 credit points – Level 1

Introduction to Microbiology (6510) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Human Biochemistry (6518) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Biochemistry (6530) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Forensic Biology (8379) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Biosecurity and Microbial Forensics (8665) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Population Genetics (8675) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Environmental and Forensic Genetics (10001) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Genetics and Genomics (10223) | 3 credit points – Level 2

For the 24cp Major - 24 credit points as follows

Required - Must pass 3 credit points as follows

Molecular and Cellular Biology (8375) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Restricted Choice - Must pass 21 credit points from the following

Concepts in Biology (483) | 3 credit points – Level 1

Introduction to Microbiology (6510) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Human Biochemistry (6518) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Biochemistry (6530) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Forensic Biology (8379) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Biosecurity and Microbial Forensics (8665) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Population Genetics (8675) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Environmental and Forensic Genetics (10001) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Genetics and Genomics (10223) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Note:

- 21 credit points major is restricted to students enrolled in double degrees.

Required Units - Must pass 6 credit points as follows

Forensic Science 1 (8778) | 3 credit points – Level 1
Forensic Science 2 (8779) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Law - 45 credit points as follows

Major in Legal Practice (Restricted) (MJ0083) | 24 credit points

Required - Must pass 21 credit points as follows

Administrative Law (7018) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Equity Law (7029) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Evidence Law (7030) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Lawyers and Professional Responsibility (7043) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Legal Theory (7046) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Litigation and Dispute Processing (7047) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Property Law (7050) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Restricted Choice - Must pass 3 credit points from the following

Advanced Legal Research and Writing (7019) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Advanced Legal Research and Writing (Honours) (8358) | 3 credit points – Level 4

Major in Law Foundation (MJ0082) | 21 credit points

Required - Must pass 21 credit points as follows

Contract Law (6594) | 3 credit points – Level 1
Legal Methods and Skills (6601) | 3 credit points – Level 1
Legal Systems (6602) | 3 credit points – Level 1
Constitutional Law (7022) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Corporations Law (7024) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Criminal Law and Procedure (7025) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Law of Obligations (7042) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Restricted Choice - 27 credit points from the following

Law Electives (LAWELECTS) | credit points

Restricted Choice - May select from

Competition and Consumer Law (6593) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Cybercrime (7026) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Employment Discrimination and the Law (7027) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Family Law (7031) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Human Rights Law (7033) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Intellectual Property Law (7035) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Introduction to Taxation Law (7037) | 3 credit points – Level 1
Legal Research Project (7045) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Public Companies Law (7051) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Student Law Internship (7053) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Client Advocacy and Communication Skills (7570) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Building and Construction Law (7827) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Current Legal Issues (7870) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Employment Law (7906) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Environmental and Planning Law (7907) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Therapeutic Jurisprudence (7917) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Mental Health and the Law (8055) | 3 credit points – Level 2
International Law (8062) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Indigenous Australians and the Law (8245) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Justice Policy and Community Engagement (8359) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Young People and Crime (8507) | 3 credit points – Level 2

Women and the Law (8523) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Canberra Law Review (8672) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Comparative Law (8673) | 3 credit points – Level 3
International Commercial Arbitration (8683) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Mooting (8685) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Law in Action Project (8749) | 3 credit points – Level 4
Legal Advice Clinic (8892) | 3 credit points – Level 4
International Sale of Goods Law (8894) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Criminology (9177) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Privacy, Confidentiality and Access Law (9275) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Alternative Dispute Resolution in Law (9422) | 3 credit points – Level 2
Sentencing and Corrections (9803) | 3 credit points – Level 3
Law Honours (6cp) (9804) | 6 credit points – Level 4
Health and Biotechnology Law (9997) | 3 credit points – Level 3

Note:

- Honours: Eligible students will enrol in 9804 Law Honours (6cp) in place of two Law Electives in their last year.
- Unit Availability: In any semester and year only a selection of these units are available.

In addition to course requirements, in order to successfully complete your course you must meet the inherent requirements. Please refer to the [inherent requirements statement](#) applicable to your course

Typical study pattern

UC - Canberra, Bruce

Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

Chemistry 1a (1516)

Concepts in Biology (483)

Legal Methods and Skills (6601)

Legal Systems (6602)

Semester 2

Chemistry 1b (1517)

Contract Law (6594)

Data Analysis in Science (1809)

Law of Obligations (7042)

Year 2**Semester 1**

Law Elective

Biochemistry (6530)

Corporations Law (7024)

Genetics and Genomics (10223)

Semester 2

Analytical Chemistry (8043)

Forensic Science 1 (8778)

Human Biochemistry (6518)

Molecular and Cellular Biology (8375)

Year 3**Semester 1**

Law Elective

Environmental and Forensic Genetics (10001)

Forensic Science 2 (8779)

Introduction to Pharmacology and Toxicology (8342)

Semester 2

Forensic Chemistry (8376)

Forensic Toxicology and Drug Analysis (8780)

Introduction to Microbiology (6510)

Property Law (7050)

Year 4**Semester 1**

Two Law Electives

[Constitutional Law \(7022\)](#)

[Criminal Law and Procedure \(7025\)](#)

Semester 2

[Administrative Law \(7018\)](#)

[Evidence Law \(7030\)](#)

[Legal Theory \(7046\)](#)

Law Elective

Year 5

Semester 1

Law Elective

MJ0083 Restricted Choice Unit

[Equity Law \(7029\)](#)

[Litigation and Dispute Processing \(7047\)](#)

7019 Advanced Legal Research and Writing OR 8358 Advanced Legal Research and Writing (Honours)

Semester 2

[Lawyers and Professional Responsibility \(7043\)](#)

Three Law Electives

Course information

Course duration

Standard ten semesters full-time or equivalent. Maximum twenty-four semesters.

Learning outcomes

| Learning outcomes | Related graduate attributes |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <p>Skills</p> <p>1. Communication</p> <p>The ability to present knowledge, ideas and opinions effectively and communicate within and across professional and cultural boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Communicate, both orally and in writing, in ways that are effective, appropriate and persuasive for legal and non-legal audiences- Ability to communicate in plain English | --- |

- Ability to engage with culturally diverse audiences
- Appreciation and adaptability to the communication context, including genre and audience

2. Analysis and inquiry

The ability to gather information, and to analyse and evaluate information and situations in a systematic, creative and insightful way

- Develop intellectual and practice skills to identify, research, evaluate and synthesise relevant factual, legal and policy issues, drawing on a range of sources

- Legal referencing skills and ethical academic practice
- Engage in critical analysis and make a reasoned choice among alternatives

3. Problem Solving

The ability to apply problem-solving processes in novel situations; to identify and analyse problems, then formulate and implement solutions

- Identify and articulate legal issues in a text or scenario
- Apply legal reasoning and research to generate appropriate responses to legal issues
- Think creatively in approaching legal issues and solutions, including both adversarial and non-adversarial options

4. Working independently and with others

The ability to plan their own work, be self-directed, and use interpersonal skills and attitudes to work collaboratively

- Use interpersonal skills to collaborate effectively in teams
- Learn and work independently, including directing aspects of learning and effective management of times and workload
- Reflect on capabilities and performance and develop self-awareness
- Make use of feedback to support personal and professional development

5. Professionalism

The capacity and intention to use professional knowledge and skills ethically and responsibly, for the benefit of others and the environment

- Appreciate the principles and values of justice and ethical practice in legal professional roles
- Understand and be able to apply ethical approaches to decision-making
- Recognise and reflect upon ethical issues likely to arise in professional contexts
- Recognise and reflect upon the professional responsibilities of lawyers in

promoting justice and in service to the community

Graduates will have well-developed cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to:

- analyse and evaluate information to complete a range of activities in the field of forensic science
- analyse, generate and transmit scientific solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex legal problems
- transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to those involved in the legal system including judges and juries

AQF: Knowledge, Skills and Application of knowledge and skills

As above

Graduates will be able to apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement of knowledge and responsibility:

- for problem solving and decision making in professional practice
- in contexts that are unfamiliar and require self-directed work and learning
- to provide specialist scientific advice with respect to legal matters

AQF: Application of knowledge and skills

As above

Graduates will be able to demonstrate a broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge with depth in forensic science or the application of science to legal matters. AQF: Knowledge

Graduates will have developed the following skills and attributes:

1. The ability to present knowledge, ideas and opinions effectively to the legal community and communicate within and across professional and cultural boundaries.
2. The ability to gather scientific information, and to analyse and evaluate that information in a systematic way.
3. The ability to apply problem-solving processes in novel situations; to identify and analyse problems then formulate and implement solutions.
4. The ability to plan their own work, be self-directed, and use interpersonal skills and attitudes to work collaboratively.

5. The capacity and intention to use professional knowledge and skills ethically and responsibly, for the benefit of the legal community and for the administration of justice.

Application of Knowledge and Skills:

Graduates will have applied their knowledge and skills to analyse and solve legal problems, both in writing and orally (through presentations and mooted programs). They will have undertaken complex legal research tasks, made suggestions for law reform, and reflected upon ethical issues.

Graduates who have completed with Honours will have developed a research proposal and written a thesis.

Knowledge:

1. Graduates will have a broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge of the discipline of law, suitable for entering the legal profession or undertaking other careers involving legal work. The course will provide students with a program of study and learning to satisfy the academic requirements for admission to legal practice.
2. Students will also undertake an in depth study of selected areas of law, including the Priestly 11 units, and in chosen law electives, with an emphasis on commercial law and/or justice studies.
3. In addition to the above, students graduating with Honours will have developed the ability to independently identify and provide solutions to complex legal problems.

Majors

- [Major in Forensic Chemistry \(MJ0042\)](#)
- [Major in Legal Practice \(Restricted\) \(MJ0083\)](#)
- [Major in Law Foundation \(MJ0082\)](#)
- [Major in Forensic Biology \(MJ0043\)](#)

Awards

Award

Official abbreviation

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Bachelor of Laws | LLB |
|------------------|-----|

Bachelor of Forensic Studies

B ForSt

Honours

The degree of Bachelor of Laws may be awarded with first or second class honours. Requirements are specified in the Determination of Course Particulars for the Bachelor of Laws.

(i) To be eligible to undertake studies at honours level, a student must achieve at least a credit average in all law units undertaken at the University of Canberra, this being determined by averaging their scores in all eligible subjects.

Eligible Units: Eligible Units are those which count towards the Entry GPA and Honours GPA. Eligible Units are:

- Any Law unit done which counts towards your LLB (i.e., not the subjects going only towards the non-law degree if you are enrolled in a double degree. If you are enrolled in a straight LLB, your open electives are not counted).
- This includes Units for which you receive Advanced Standing, whether done at UC or elsewhere.
- Where you have done extra subjects which may count, e.g. more than the required amount of law electives, your best results will be counted.

(ii) Law Honours has 12 credit points of research-related units. These are made up of:

- Legal Methods and Skills (3cp)
- Advanced Legal Research and Writing (Honours) (3cp)
- Law Honours (6cp)

(iii) The degree of Bachelor of Laws may be awarded with first or second class honours. Following submission of an Honours thesis as part of the unit Law Honours, students must show a Good performance by receiving a minimum of a Credit in the 6 credit point restricted choice unit Law Honours.

Calculating the final class of honours:

Law degrees with Honours are awarded in the following classes depending on the Honours GPA obtained and the standard of the Honours Thesis.

First Class: Showing an exceptional performance by both an Honours GPA of at least 6 and a mark of 80 and above in the honours component of your assessment

Second Class - Division I: Showing a Very Good performance by both an Honours GPA of at least 5.5 and a mark of 73 and above in the honours component of your assessment

Second Class - Division II: Showing a Good performance by both an Honours GPA of at least 5 and a mark of 65 and above in the Honours component of your assessment

Calculating the Honours GPA

GPA's are calculated by using the University's system. The Unit Law Honours will be weighted as 30% for the purposes of calculating the Honours GPA. Units used in the Honours GPA are as described in 'Eligible units' above for entry to the Honours component of the course.

Note that marks are not automatically rounded up for purposes of Honours. Thus 4.99 does not become 5.00. Where your final mark is within two marks of the next level of honours, or of achieving honours at all (e.g. a 4.8 is rounded up to 5.0), you can apply in writing to have your honours result upgraded. This will be determined by the Law Program Manager and the Law Honours Unit Convener, taking into account your academic record and any mitigating circumstances which may have affected your academic performance.

Alternative exits

Diploma of Justice Studies, Associate Degree of Justice Studies.

Enquiries

| Student category | Contact details |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Prospective International Students | Email international@canberra.edu.au or Phone +61 2 6201 5342 |
| Current and Commencing Students | In person, Student Centre Building 1 (take a BGL Faculty course advice ticket) or Email bglstudent@canberra.edu.au |
| Prospective Domestic Students | Email study@canberra.edu.au or Phone 1800 UNI CAN (1800 864 226) |

Download your course guide



Scholarships

Find the scholarship that's the right fit for you

[Explore Scholarships](#)

Printed on 17, May, 2025

University of Canberra, Bruce ACT 2617 Australia

+61 2 6201 5111

ABN 81 633 873 422

CRICOS 00212K

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12003 (Australian University)

UC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.