

Professional Doctorate in Legal Science (Research)

(384JA.1)

Please note these are the 2021 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank	PG
Delivery mode	
Location	Bruce, Canberra
Duration	4.0 years
Faculty	Faculty of Business, Government & Law
Discipline	Canberra Law School
UAC code	
English language requirements	An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent). 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 .
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[View UC's academic entry requirements](#)

Delivery mode

Location Bruce, Canberra

Duration 4.0 years

Faculty Faculty of Business, Government & Law

Discipline Canberra Law School

CRICOS code 099086D

English language requirements An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent).

[View IELTS equivalences](#)

About this course

Research a professional practice issue in the field of law

The Professional Doctorate in Legal Science (Research) combines coursework with a research dissertation to enable advanced study and reflection on practice in the professional field of law. As a doctoral student, you will choose a real-world legal problem to explore as a research project and will be encouraged to use it to draw upon, and extend, your professional experience and expertise in relation to your own workplace, organisation or community.

The UC Faculty of Business, Government and Law has particular teaching and research strengths in the areas of corporate, business and taxation law, although you can choose to explore a subject from across the legal spectrum. You will graduate from the program having made a unique contribution to professional practice in your chosen field and ready to progress your career to the next level. As a Higher Degree by Research (HDR), this course is covered under the Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) funding model, which provides a fee offset for domestic students for the standard duration of the course.

Study a Professional Doctorate in Legal Science (Research) at UC and you will:

- undertake coursework in specific units
- develop the legal research, writing and analysis skills which enable you to produce a dissertation which is an original and significant contribution to legal literature

- prepare a substantial dissertation which adds to existing legal knowledge and forms an in-depth investigation and analysis of a particular legal issue
- initiate closer links between the University and senior professionals in fields associated with law and related disciplines.

Work Integrated Learning

A professional doctorate is, by its very nature, the embodiment of Work Integrated Learning (WIL), and is much more focused on professional practice than a traditional PhD. Throughout your coursework and specifically in your dissertation, you will be encouraged to apply your existing professional knowledge and undertake new research to identify and explore a real-world problem in the field of law.

Career opportunities

- Academic
- Lecturer
- Sessional academic
- Senior research officer
- Senior research fellow
- Lawyer*
- Solicitor*
- Barrister*
- Judge*
- Magistrate*
- Registrar
- Company director
- Public servant
- Senior policy adviser
- Parliamentary counsel
- Legislative drafter
- Law reform officer
- Senior analyst
- Strategic adviser
- Business consultant

*Subject to satisfactory undergraduate law degree and successful completion of a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, which qualifies you for admission to practice as a lawyer.

Course-specific information

Before a candidate is admitted to the Professional Doctorate in Legal Science program, the University must be satisfied that it is able to supervise the candidate's proposed dissertation, and that the candidate satisfies the following admission requirements:

- a. holds a bachelor's degree in law or an equivalent qualification
- b. has five years of professional practice in a legal area
- c. provides evidence of superior legal professional performance both intellectually and technically

- d. provides evidence of capacity for specialised coursework at the postgraduate level
- e. has capacity to undertake significant research in the proposed doctoral field.

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 their education in an English-speaking country (as defined on the UC website) are deemed to have met our English language proficiency requirements.

Domestic students who are accepted on this course are provided for under the Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) funding model, which provides a fee offset for the standard duration of the course. Once your RTP entitlement is consumed, you will be charged the annual fee rate that applied at the start of your degree. Further information on fees for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students can be found [here](#).

Admission requirements

Before a candidate is admitted to the Doctor of Legal Science Program, the University must be satisfied that it is able to supervise the candidate's proposed dissertation and that the candidate satisfies the following admission requirements:

- a bachelor's degree in law or an equivalent qualification;
- five years of professional practice in a legal area;
- provides evidence of superior legal professional performance both intellectually and technically;
- provides evidence of capacity for specialised coursework at the postgraduate level; and
- demonstrates capacity to undertake significant research in the proposed doctoral field.

Assumed knowledge

None.

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

Professional Doctorate in Legal Science (Research) (384JA) | 72 credit points

Required - 51 credit points as follows

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

Dissertation - 48 credit points as follows

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#) | 48 credit points — Level D

[Legal Science Dissertation D:PT \(4518\)](#) | 48 credit points — Level R

Coursework - 3 credit points as follows

[Advanced Legal Research and Writing PG \(6621\)](#) | 3 credit points — Level P

Candidates are also required to complete a Research Education Program to acquire the generic skills & attributes identified as appropriate for graduates of postgraduate research programs at UC.

Restricted Choice - Must pass 21 credit points from the following

- - Postgraduate Level units approved by the Course Convener.

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, Research Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

[Advanced Legal Research and Writing PG \(6621\)](#)

Three Coursework Units

Semester 2

Four Coursework Units

Year 2

Semester 1

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Semester 2

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Year 3

Semester 1

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Semester 2

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Year 4

Semester 1

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Semester 2

[Legal Science Dissertation D:FT \(4517\)](#)

Course information

Course duration

Standard: 4 years full-time or equivalent. Maximum: 8 years.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Related graduate attributes
2. Coursework undertaken in specific units;	.
The objectives of the course are to enable legal practitioners to extend and build upon their professional experience through:	
1. The development of legal research, writing and analysis skills which enable students to produce a dissertation which constitutes an original and significant contribution to legal literature;	
3. The preparation of a substantial dissertation which adds to our existing legal knowledge and constitutes an in-depth investigation and analysis of a particular legal issue or set of issues; and	.
4. Bridging the gap between theory and practice by developing closer links between the University and senior professionals in fields associated with law and related disciplines.	.

Awards

Award	Official abbreviation
Doctor of Legal Science	SJD

Enquiries

Student category	Contact details
Current & Prospective Students	Faculty of Business, Government and Law BGLHDR@canberra.edu.au

Download your course guide



Scholarships

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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.