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Each edition of Codicil is intended to be a helpful source of current information for you, whether you are starting studies with us, or continuing.

Associate Professor Sheryl Jackson

Director, Graduate Programs

New Majors

Following a review of our postgraduate programs in 2009 and 2010, changes have been made to the majors in the Master of Laws (LW51) and Graduate Certificate in Law (LW60). These changes commenced this year.

A new major in criminology was developed in response to feedback from students in the postgraduate student surveys in 2008 and 2009 (we ask your opinion around a range of aspects about our programs at the end of every year), and specific feedback received in the course of the postgraduate programs review. It also enables the Law School to draw from its linkages with the School of Justice. In addition to the suite of units offered in the Law School, students enrolling in this major may also undertake any of the following units from the School of Justice:

JSN101 Justice and Human Rights
JSN102 Applied Data Analysis Techniques for Criminology and Criminal Justice
JSN113 Theories of Crime

We also have a new major in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. This major combines the previously separate majors in intellectual property law and technology law. Part of the rationale for this change relates to the introduction in 2011 of the Master of Intellectual Property Law (LW53), an exciting new course offered in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Message from the Director, Graduate Programs

Welcome to the first Codicil for 2011. May I extend a particular welcome to the all new members of our postgraduate community, including our many students from abroad.

I hope you are all able to attend the orientation session next Monday 21 February, and I look forward to meeting you all then. The postgraduate team always look forward to meeting our new students, as we find it very helpful in our administration of the programs to be able to put a face to the person on the telephone or behind the email. Remember that if you have any concerns about any administrative issue that arises during your studies, that the Postgraduate Programs team is always willing to assist you, where possible. Their contact details are –

Mungo Crawford: A/Senior Administration Officer
(Postgraduate Programs) ph: 3138 2305; email:
m.crawford@qut.edu.au and
Catherine Mackenzie: A/Administration Officer
(Postgraduate Programs) ph: 3138 2981; email:
c.mackenzie@qut.edu.au.

Postgraduate Unit Offerings

The QUT law school postgraduate program takes care in giving its students opportunities to study units across all the majors that are topical, up to date and taught by experts in the particular field of law. Several are conducted by international experts who join us to conduct their units in block mode. Consequently, while the Law School offers a large number of postgraduate units across six majors, not all units are taught in any one year. Postgraduate units are normally offered on a 2-year rotational basis; however the offering of a unit is always subject to staff availability and sufficient student numbers.

Postgraduate unit offerings are available from the Law School website at:
<http://www.law.qut.edu.au/study/courses/pggrad/>

<http://www.law.gut.edu.au/study/courses/pgrad/sem1.jsp>
<http://www.law.gut.edu.au/study/courses/pgrad/sem2.jsp>

These websites are kept up-to-date with any changes to unit offering information (eg. cancellation of units, change in dates for intensive etc.)

New Units for 2011

The Law School is offering an exciting range of new units in 2011. Many of these units have been developed in response to student feedback in our annual postgraduate student surveys.

For semester 1, our new units include:

LWN196 Environmental Law and Practice This unit has been developed as a foundation unit in the environmental law major, and has been particularly designed for students who have not studied environmental law as part of their undergraduate degrees.

This unit provides an introduction to the key concepts of environmental law through analysis of a series of real world environmental law scenarios. This unit provides a strong foundation for more in-depth postgraduate study of particular aspects of environmental law.

Major: Environmental Resource Law (LW51);
Environmental Law (LW60)

LWN194 Conceptual Issues in Medical Law One of the themes from our postgraduate student survey in recent years has been a request for a wider range of units in the health law major. This new unit is part of the Law School's response to that feedback. The new unit is coordinated by Dr Andrew McGee. The unit examines the major conceptual issues underpinning contemporary debates and proposals for law reform in relation to: withholding and withdrawing medical treatment and euthanasia; embryonic stem cell research; and genetic engineering.

Major: Health (LW51 and LW60)

For semester 2, the following new units are also included in our suite of offerings:

LWN201 Climate Change. A unit in the field of climate change law was first offered in 2009 as a Special Topic in Environmental Law. The unit was very well received by students, and has been approved as a new unit as part of our major in environmental law.

Major: Environmental Resource Law (LW51);
Environmental Law (LW60)

LWN099 Australian and Comparative Human Rights Law This unit examines the application of human rights law, in areas of both legal and policy analysis, and includes an international and comparative dimension. The unit was developed in response to strong student feedback in the

postgraduate student survey for more units in the field of Australian and comparative human rights law.

Majors: Public Law (LW51); International Law, Public Law (LW60)

LWN197 International Aid and Development Law: Policy and Practice (on-line offering!) Students in this unit will learn theories, lessons learned and best practices in development initiatives and aid programs. This knowledge will be applied to real life rule of law and aid initiatives. The unit will provide students with the latest and most relevant information which will serve as a good foundation for a variety of international careers in government, international organisations or civil society in Australia or abroad. The unit will be run in an online format which allows practitioners working in the field to teach students and provides students with flexible learning options. The unit covers topical and controversial areas of development law and deals with emerging issues and current trends in aid law.

The unit aims to ensure that students are exposed to current debates about the role and purpose of development initiatives and to give them perspective on the future role of aid programs. It will appeal to students from a wide range of backgrounds particularly those students with an interest in international law and affairs, governance, social justice and global aid initiatives.

Majors: Public Law (LW51); International Law, Public Law (LW60)

LWN198 Advocacy and Financial Disputes in Family Law This unit will analyse and evaluate legal rules and frameworks, both within Australia and in comparable jurisdictions, for all financial matters arising from relationship breakdown, including adjustment of property interests, spousal maintenance, child maintenance and child support. It will also present an optimal framework for litigating family law cases, with the emphasis on property. Students will learn the practical skills of advocacy including drafting affidavits and associated materials, the rules and practices of the relevant courts, and preparation for and attendance at final hearings.

It is anticipated that the teaching team for this unit will include members of the profession and the Judiciary.

This is another of our new units developed in response to feedback from our students in the postgraduate student surveys.

Major: no major (generic)

LWN202 Contemporary Issues in Legal Education This unit is of relevance to the daily professional practice of legal educators across the sector. It will exploit the national and international work undertaken by the unit coordinator (Professor Sally Kift) at the forefront of legal education in both its scholarly and scholarship aspects.

LWN200 Education Law This unit provides an introduction to the case law and legislation relevant to the Australian compulsory education sector. There is an emphasis on research into, and analysis of, how Australian education law compares with education law in similarly situated jurisdictions.

Major: Public Law (LW51 and LW60)

LWN195 Elder Law This unit will address both criminal and civil remedies (particularly arising from the use of equitable doctrines) and proposals for reforms in the area of elder abuse, and examine the burning issues related to living longer such as: housing and care options and the financing of such, retirement incomes, superannuation, pension entitlements and 'reverse mortgages'. The impact of some generic areas of law as they relate to the rights and responsibilities of elders such as succession law, health law, and anti-discrimination law will also be considered.

Majors: Commercial Law, Health Law (LW51); Commercial Transactions, Health Law (LW60)

New Foundational Law Units: International students will also be interested in new foundational law units designed to provide a foundation for their studies of units in the commercial and criminology majors. For more information, see below under: International Students.

Co-badged units

As a trial in the Law School in 2011, we will be teaching two of our units this year concurrently with a corresponding unit offered in the undergraduate program.

The two units to be offered in this way are LWN196 Environmental Law and Practice, and LWN199 Australian and Comparative Human Rights Law. The assessment for the undergraduate and postgraduate units will be quite different (as appropriate to the course level), but the classes will include students from both cohorts. It is hoped students from both cohorts will benefit from the interchange with other students with varied levels of knowledge and background who come with a particular interest in these areas of law.

Important Dates to Remember

Visit the QUT Calendar and Key Admin Dates at <http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/info/dates/index.jsp>

As a student at QUT, it is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's key administrative dates. Refer to the 2011 Academic Calendar above. The important dates include final date to withdraw from units or courses without financial penalty (either a full or partial refund); final date to add units under FEE-Help; dates to withdraw without receiving academic penalty etc. **It is important that you make yourself aware of these dates.**

Leave of Absence from studies

The Law School understands that postgraduate law students have other commitments that may prevent them from continuously studying, or that the units on offer may not be suited to their chosen major of study.

It is important that you do not allow your enrolment in your course to lapse. Therefore, if you are unable to study units in either semester 1 or 2 of any year, you should apply for a Leave of Absence. You do so by completing an L Form (available from: <http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/enrol/interrupt/form/>) Once approved, your course status will change to "leave of absence" in QUT Virtual, however you will still have access to QUT facilities, and will be able to re-enrol online at the appropriate time (refer to QUT's Academic Calendar).

Please ensure you adhere to the relevant dates, when submitting an L Form, so as not to receive financial and/or academic penalty (refer to: [Important Dates to Remember](#))

Study Materials

For each unit you are enrolled in, you will receive a Study Guide. These are mailed out to you before the starting date of each unit*. Alternatively, you will be advised if study guides are to be distributed at the first class.

Some materials may also be made available in electronic form, through each unit's Blackboard site: (<https://blackboard.qut.edu.au/>)

**Please ensure your postal address is always kept up-to-date (you can change this in your profile in QUT Virtual)*

If textbooks are required, you will need to purchase these. They are available from the QUT Bookshop.

Lecture Recordings for External students

For units that are offered in EXTERNAL and internal modes, the internal lecture is recorded. An audio-stream of this weekly lecture will then be placed onto the unit's Blackboard site. This audio stream will normally be available 24hrs after the lecture has been held. **Note:** units offered in internal mode only, or block (intensive) mode, are not recorded.

External students should listen to each lecture as it becomes available and are expected to keep up to date as much as possible.

If you are an external student and are unable to listen to the lecture using the audio stream on the Blackboard site, you should contact the Administration Officer (Postgraduate Programs) on (07) 3138 2981 as early as possible in the semester to discuss the matter and if necessary, alternative arrangements can be made.

For units offered on-line only, refer to the teaching and learning approaches as explained in the unit outline for the particular unit.

International students - course and curriculum support

In recent years the Law School has undertaken a range of initiatives to assist our international student cohort.

All international students are required to undertake **LWN162 Australian Common Law** System in their first semester of study. This unit is offered every semester and assists international students to gain essential knowledge of the common law necessary for success in other units. This unit also provides international students with a friendly small-group environment for one of the units in their first semester, and an opportunity to meet and network with other commencing international students.

We recommend that all students undertake **LWN048 Advanced Legal Research** in their first semester of study. The writing of research papers is a major assessment component of most units in the Master of Laws and Graduate Certificate in Law and this unit will assist you to develop the necessary skills to produce quality research papers.

Commencing in 2011, the Law School is offering three new units specifically for its international student cohort: **LWN301 Principles of Contract Law** (Semester 1) and **LWN303 Principles of Property Commercial and Corporate Law** (Semester 2) have been developed to provide international students with an essential foundation for further studies of units within the commercial law major. **LWN302 Australian Criminal Law** has been developed to equip international students to undertake further studies in units in the field of criminology.

At the beginning of each semester, we hold a special half-day workshop for our commencing international student cohort. This workshop will include information about support available for postgraduate international students, details about the special foundation units for international students, library information, and a session about the skills of critical writing and legal analysis that are so important for our postgraduate courses. Please keep an eye out for invitations to this event, and attend if you possibly can.

International students – ESOS Act

The *Education Standards for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act* National Code 2007) came into force for students holding international student visas from 1 July 2007. An international student is expected to maintain an enrolment that allows for completion of the particular course within the time specified on the Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) form issued for the student visa application. It is your responsibility to ensure your enrolment meets your visa conditions.

If you would like to discuss how the National Code applies

to you as an international postgraduate law student, contact Sian or Mungo. It is important for you to progress through your course in accordance with your student visa, therefore, if you have any worries about your course progression, please get in touch with us as soon as possible to discuss them.



Research Projects

Postgraduate students enrolled in the LW51 Master of Laws or LW60 Graduate Certificate in Law, may undertake an independent research project, under the supervision of a Law School academic staff member. A research project is counted as a 12 or 24 credit point unit towards the course and is worth considering if you have a particular research question that you wish to explore in depth, but it is not addressed in one of the units on offer.

For full information about the procedure and the application form for students wishing to undertake a research project, please refer to the Law School's website for more information:

<http://www.law.qut.edu.au/study/forms.jsp>

Blackboard Sites (online teaching & learning sites)

Each postgraduate unit has a Blackboard site <https://blackboard.qut.edu.au/> that contains information specific to that unit offering in any given semester.

Submission of Assignments

Postgraduate students are required to upload their research papers electronically and in word format to each unit's Blackboard site. (This procedure is different to the procedure applying to undergraduate assignments.)

Details of assignment submission procedures are contained in Part C of each unit's study guide. (See also 8.7 in the Postgraduate Student Information Booklet.)

Extensions of time on submission of assignments

Students who are having extreme difficulty meeting the due dates for assignments, and who have legitimate reasons for that difficulty, may apply for an extension of time within which to submit their assignments.

An assignment extension **must** be requested **before** the due date. An assignment extension form is to be completed

and submitted to the Administration Officer (Postgraduate Programs). These forms are available from: <http://www.law.qut.edu.au/study/forms.jsp>

It is important that you contact the Law School postgraduate administration staff before your assessment is due, if you are having difficulty in submitting it on time.

Postgraduate administration staff are able to grant an extension of up to one week – a longer extension requires the approval of the Director Graduate Programs. **Remember that unit coordinators cannot grant extensions.** Any request for an extension must be on the appropriate form and sent to the appropriate place.

If a paper is handed in late, without extension approval, a deduction is applied from the marks awarded for the paper **for each day or part of a day it is late.** Following a recently-approved change to the extension policy, the daily penalty is 5% (previously 10%). The amended policy will apply to all assessment in units offered from semester 1, 2011.

Plagiarism

QUT takes plagiarism very seriously. To this end an Academic Integrity Kit has been developed to assist undergraduate and postgraduate students in complying with the university policy on plagiarism. The Kit can be accessed at <http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/assess/performance/dishonesty/>

The library has an extensive array of materials to assist students worried about how to avoid plagiarism as well. These materials are available at http://www.library.qut.edu.au/services/teaching/preventing_plagiarism.jsp

Your lecturer is also able to advise you in these sorts of matters as well.

Learning Experience Survey (LEX)

The Faculty and sessional academics who teach into the postgraduate program are always seeking out ways to improve their teaching, as are the Law School academic staff generally. A way you can assist in this endeavour is to fill out the on-line LEX. LEX is the university-approved mandatory student evaluation survey for units and teaching, replacing SETs and SEUs. It began in Semester 1, 2007. It is scheduled automatically in each teaching period for all units and the associated staff who are identified as teachers in those units. The participation by postgraduate students in LEX remains poor. When you consider that academic staff are required as university policy to advise students of the changes made to units and teaching based on LEX feedback, you can see that LEX is a powerful instrument for improving both teaching and the quality of what is taught. When the LEX period is publicised, please take the time to fill out the questionnaire. A notice about LEX will appear on your unit's Blackboard site.

QUT Clayton Utz Law Library News

The Law Library can support your research in the QUT Faculty of Law in a number of ways. Liaison Librarians can assist you with information about library resources and services. If you would like to meet with us please contact Michael Unwin (m.unwin@qut.edu.au 3138 5046) or Alex McClintock (a.mcclintock@qut.edu.au 3138 5171).

Information Resources.

Here is a brief summary on how you can access information resources while you are researching at QUT.

- **QUT Library Catalogue.** This should always be your starting point in the search for known items or materials in your area of research. <http://libcat.library.qut.edu.au/> If there is a book that QUT library does not hold that you refer to frequently please ask Michael Unwin to acquire it for our collection Unwin (m.unwin@qut.edu.au).
- **BONUS+.** In addition to the resources available in the QUT library collections you can find more research materials held in a selection of other university libraries in Australia and New Zealand. Read more about [requesting books from other libraries using BONUS+](#).
- **Borrowing from Griffith University.** QUT students and staff can request articles and books from Griffith University. Read more about the [Griffith University request service](#).
- **QUT Document Delivery Service.** Use this service to locate items not available using the above services. Read more about the [QUT Library Document Delivery](#) service.
- **Databases.** Explore the range of databases available at QUT for yourself at <http://www.library.qut.edu.au/find/databases/> or meet with our Liaison Librarians to discuss the databases most relevant to your Research needs.
- **Research Datasets.** The Library's new External Research Dataset Service facilitates access to confidential and secure datasets for QUT staff and eligible research students including PhD, Masters by Research, and Honours students. These datasets can be accessed free of charge to QUT staff and research students.

The following research datasets are currently available:

- [Australian Social Science Data Archive \(ASSDA\)](#)
- [Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research \(ICPSR\)](#)
- [Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey \(HILDA\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Study of Australian Children \(LSAC\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children \(LSIC\)](#).
- A range of [freely available research datasets](#) are also available.

Workshops for Researchers.

- [research skills seminars and workshops](#) on data analysis, EndNote, data management, Key Survey and more for researchers and HDR students.
- The [Research Students Centre website](#) for a list of more workshops including RAPID (Research Advancement Program for International Doctoral Students), and **Media Awareness**.

Branch Library Upgrades

Extensive refurbishments have been taking place at GP (V Block) and Kelvin Grove libraries. Although access to physical collections has been affected during the process all lending and document delivery services continue to be available. The upgrade works will be completed prior to the commencement of Semester 1, 2011. If you have any questions please ask a library staff member, check for notices around the Library or contact libraryrefurbishment@qut.edu.au