



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8423 Research Thesis: 6 Units of Credit - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8423

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Law, Society and Criminology

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Enrolment in a Research Thesis shall be approved by the Faculty of Law if:

1. A clearly defined project is proposed: the thesis topic must be approved at the outset but may be modified at a later stage;
2. The student has a sufficient academic background in legal study to enable the thesis to be completed in a satisfactory manner
3. Adequate supervision is available - supervision may be conjoint but at least one supervisor should be a full-time member of the School of Law's academic staff.

MCJC students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or CRIM500 CJ Research Thesis, but not both. MCJC students must complete 24uoc before being eligible to apply for a Research Thesis, unless they have permission from the program convenor, in order to ensure they have the adequate foundation for the research. Ideally students should have a WAM of 75% based on 24uoc in order to be eligible for admission to this course, or have achieved Honours 1 or 2:1 in a prior relevant degree, other than with the permission of the program convenor. MILIR students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or POLS5113 Research Project, but not both.

MILS students may enrol in either LAWS8423 Research Thesis or ZHSS8400 Research Project, but not both.

LLM, MHRL&P and MCJC students may request to convert the LAWS8423 (6 uoc) course into a 12 uoc Research Thesis option extending over two terms; subject to the approval of the Supervisor/s, the program Director/s and the Coordinator of Postgraduate Education. This option is not available to students enrolled in other postgraduate programs.

Examination

Each thesis shall have two examiners. One examiner will ordinarily be a supervisor. The second examiner will normally be a full-time member of the School of Law's academic staff and not involved in the supervision of the thesis. Unless the supervisor or supervisors otherwise agree, the final date for submission shall be the last day of the session in which the student is enrolled in the Research Thesis. Examiners may require a candidate or group of candidates to attend an oral examination on the subject matter of the thesis; examiners may require a thesis to be resubmitted under such conditions as the examiners may determine.

Requirements

The thesis must be typed on A4 bond paper and two copies must be prepared in a cover (spring back folder or bound). References may appear at the foot of each page or at the end of each chapter. As a general rule the thesis shall be a maximum of 12,000 words for an 6 UOC

enrolment or 24,000 words for a 12 UOC enrolment.

Strict word limits will apply to all assessed work. All words in the coursework, including citations, bibliography, table of content, and tables of cases and statutes, whether in the main text or in footnotes or elsewhere, will count towards the word limits. The Word Count function of Microsoft Word will be the official count for these purposes.

Application Process

Please refer to the UNSW Law website to download the Research Thesis Application Form and to access the Research Thesis Information Sheet.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : The course aims to familiarise the student with and to develop skills in formulating research topics, conducting independent research, using individual supervision, and writing coherent, informative, and persuasive papers. On conclusion of this course students should be able to formulate research topics, conduct independent research, engage usefully with individual supervisors, and write coherent, informative, and persuasive papers (PLOs 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 & 12)

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : The course aims to familiarise the student with and to develop skills in formulating research topics, conducting independent research, using individual supervision, and writing coherent, informative, and persuasive papers. On conclusion of this course students should be able to formulate research topics, conduct independent research, engage usefully with individual supervisors, and write coherent, informative, and persuasive papers (PLOs 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 & 12)	• Research Thesis (12000 words)

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

A member of staff will supervise the student as they conduct an independent research project

Additional Course Information

For further details, including regarding enrolment, due date, and word count, please see https://my.law.unsw.edu.au/system/files/student-services/enrolment_information_for_pg_research_thesis_7_jan_2021_current.pdf

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research Thesis (12000 words) Assessment Format: Individual	100%	

Assessment Details

Research Thesis (12000 words)

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : The course aims to familiarise the student with and to develop skills in formulating research topics, conducting independent research, using individual supervision, and writing coherent, informative, and persuasive papers. On conclusion of this course students should be able to formulate research topics, conduct independent research, engage usefully with individual supervisors, and write coherent, informative, and persuasive papers (PLOs 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 & 12)

Assessment Length

12,000

General Assessment Information

For further details, including regarding due date, formatting, and late submission, please see

https://my.law.unsw.edu.au/system/files/student-services/enrolment_information_for_pg_research_thesis_7_jan_2021_current.pdf

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

Course Resources

Recommended Resources

Success in the research thesis depends on a range of academic skills, including the ability to develop a research question, the selection and use of appropriate methods, and the ability to clearly articulate an argument and its stakes. You will have begun to build these in other courses, and the research thesis is a great opportunity to develop them further. UNSW provides a range of support for the development of research skills, including workshops and one on one sessions. Please visit <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/skills>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Daniel McLoughlin					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this

course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.