

The Good Universities Guide 2018

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

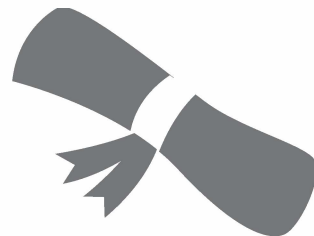
This is a detailed profile of the law and paralegal field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



GOOD
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HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR DEGREE

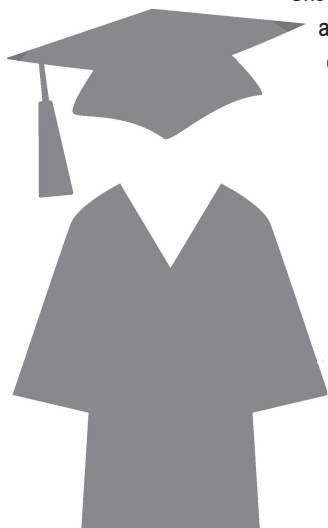
Every degree is a unique mix of many different ingredients — from the subjects covered to the career it leads to — and choosing the right course requires a lot of research. Once you have worked out the field in which you want to study, there are many factors to consider when you are weighing up courses and institutions.



- The first step to success is to ensure you will be studying subjects you are interested in and that lead to the career you want. Some courses require all students to complete the same 'core' subjects to meet industry requirements and don't allow a lot of room to choose electives or explore different subject areas. Others give you the freedom to choose a broad range of electives and graduate with a specialisation or major.
- Each course has a very different intellectual style, so make sure that it is suited to you. Some courses are mainly quantitative, while others are verbal or language-based. Some are conceptual and encourage you to express your own ideas through writing, while others require you to apply what you learn practically.
- A typical bachelor degree can be completed in around three years. Some degrees may require five or six years of full-time study plus an internship period to gain full accreditation. Double degrees and part-time programs will also take longer to complete.
- When choosing a course, you need to be sure that you will meet the entry requirements or investigate whether alternative entry is available. Some courses rely more heavily upon the submission of a portfolio, an interview or an audition.
- Some courses lock you into an occupation. Others are much broader in their scope. If you are sure about your future career, you might opt for a specialised vocational option that allows you to immerse yourself in your field. If you're not 100 per cent certain about what the future holds, you could enter a generalist degree that will give you room to explore.
- Different programs teach very different things — even courses in the same field may be taught differently at separate institutions. The university you choose should concentrate on topics you are interested in or that are professionally relevant.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TERTIARY PROVIDER

Choosing where to study is about more than how close the campus is to your home and whether it offers a course you like. These are important factors, but you should also consider the following points as you conduct your research:



- Public institutions, which includes most Australian universities, are funded by the government. Private institutions are independent and usually rely on full tuition fees to subsidise student places. While universities offer a range of fields, private education providers often focus on a particular discipline or provide a specialised campus environment.
- Would you prefer an intimate regional environment or a buzzing metropolitan one? Every institution has a different atmosphere, so be sure to take the time to visit before applying. Institutions differ in terms of the range of services and facilities on offer, such as sporting options and academic support, often depend on the university's size and location.
- Are most students studying on or off campus? Are there more school leavers or mature-age students? Does the student body contain a lot of international students to add to the cultural diversity? You may find that each institution offers different study modes for your course, such as part-time or distance options, which will shape your university experience.

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

Law offers the opportunity for intellectual absorption and career preparation. If you don't want to be a lawyer, there is no question that law offers diverse career opportunities, with employers ranging from accounting firms and government departments to banks and big businesses.

MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$60,000

UNDERGRADUATE

\$74,000

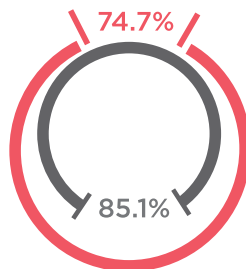
POSTGRADUATE



FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

undergraduate **postgraduate**

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating



WHAT CAN I DO?



Law



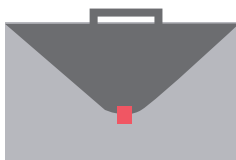
Administration



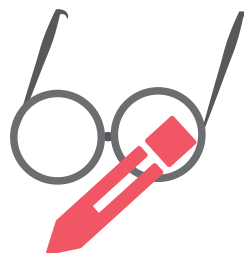
Conveyancing



Legal Publishing



Legal Services



Legal Advising

COMPARE



Decide the categories most important to your university search and compare field of study ratings over the page to choose the right institution.

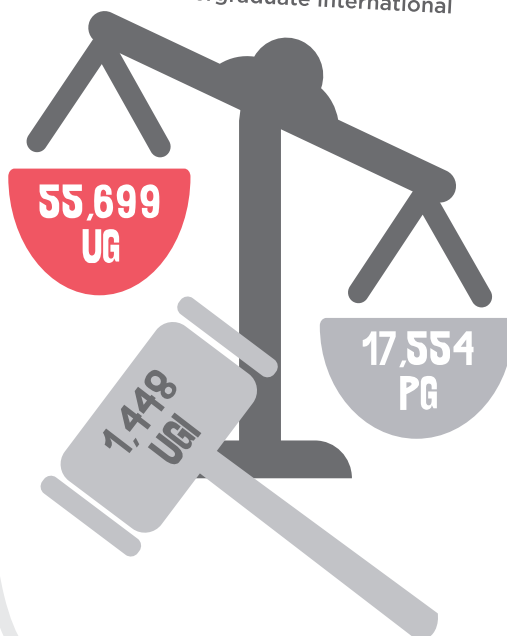


DISCOVER

Find out more about career paths and potential jobs by picking up a copy of *The Good Careers Guide 2017* or visiting the website www.goodcareersguide.com.au

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

UG = Undergraduate
PG = Postgraduate
UGI = Undergraduate international



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Good Education Group is Australia's leading independent provider of high-quality education and career information.

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

Law and paralegal studies consists of two related but distinct area of study:

Law

Can you see yourself cross-examining witnesses in a courtroom? Do you like a good debate? What about reading, research and analysis? Many students see law as offering a secure career in what can be a high-status profession, but it's important to keep in mind that law courses are usually competitive and can involve a great deal of hard work.

Law offers the opportunity for intellectual absorption, as well as career preparation. Over time, the LLB (Bachelor of Laws) has transformed from a purely professional degree to a popular generalist qualification — not everyone who studies law wants to practise. If you don't want to be a lawyer, there is no question that law offers a great base for you to build on for a wide range of jobs, with employers ranging from accounting firms and government departments to banks and big business.

A law degree requires many hours of studying and reading legal tomes dedicated to many compulsory subjects. Law usually takes around five years to complete and may be offered as a double degree, giving students a broad education that can be applied in several fields.

If your interest is mainly in being a lawyer for corporations, criminals or refugees, you need to know that the majority of the subjects you take will not be in these areas. Although you will get the chance to choose some subjects, about half of them will be the core units that are required for admission to legal practice.

For more information, visit:

- Law Council of Australia — www.lawcouncil.asn.au

Paralegal studies

If you are interested in law, you should also consider paralegal studies. The following are just some of the majors you can study in this field:

- Border management
- Civil practice
- Criminal justice
- Criminology
- Forensic science
- Justice administration
- Juvenile justice
- Legal studies
- Police studies
- Security

While law is often front of mind for those considering a career in the legal system, fewer students consider the roles available in justice administration — police officers, parole officers, prison officers, paraprofessionals who assist lawyers, and people who design and run security systems in big organisations, among others. Most of the paralegal studies courses are designed to prepare people to enter these occupations, while others focus on areas more closely tied to humanities disciplines.

Although paralegal courses were traditionally offered in the vocational education sector, many are now available at degree

level — either as standalone degrees or as majors within arts or social science programs. Some of the newer specialisations include defence and counter-terrorism studies.

Where to study

Legal education today is better than it was, but a lot of it remains detailed and difficult to fully understand. Some schools might be better than others at bringing it to life with problem-based methods. In addition, your school's reputation and your involvement in societies and extracurricular work will be important for your career to flourish.

Consider all of your course options. You could do law as a graduate entry course (such as a Juris Doctor) after you have gained some experience studying or working in a different field.

Don't forget that to practise as a lawyer you must undertake practical training upon completing your degree, either through a 'traineeship' at a law firm or through an approved course, which usually takes about six months.

Entry into paralegal studies courses is generally easier than law, although the overall level of difficulty has increased over time. Relevant courses are offered at most universities, although some will boast a more extensive course menu than others.

What the data tells us

Notre Dame leads the way for educational experience (89.9 per cent), learner engagement (81.7 per cent) and skills development (92.3 per cent). However, the institution achieves virtually the national average for both employment outcomes. This shows that it is important to consider a range of criteria when choosing your institution and find the middle ground that suits your ambitions.

CSU boasts an impressive full-time employment rate, with 97.1 per cent of graduates finding a job inside four months of finishing. The gap between CSU and University of Sunshine Coast (28.6 per cent), is very significant. Median salaries are reasonably consistent for law and paralegal graduates, with only two wages below \$50,000 and two others exceeding \$70,000 out of 31 institutions with listed salaries.

There can be a very fine line between making the top 20 per cent and just missing out. Monash was among the five-star universities in graduate employment with 79.7 per cent, however USQ is close behind with 79.2 per cent. Elsewhere, La Trobe rounded out the five star leaders with 67.9 per cent in learner engagement, while Swinburne fell just short on 67.3 per cent and UTS were just 0.2 per cent further back. This suggests that because a university misses out on five stars in a category doesn't mean it has achieved poor results and may speak to the competitiveness between universities in this field of study.

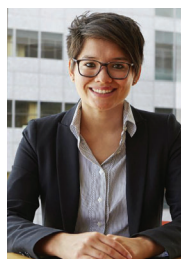
National average rate of retention

ATAR range	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100	Non-ATAR criteria
ACU	81%	91%	76%	72%	76%
ADELAIDE			90%	98%	
ANU			79%	92%	94%
BOND					95%
CANBERRA	69%	86%	80%	91%	100%
CDU	64%	64%	81%		
CQUni					69%
CSU	69%	83%			63%
CURTIN			17%	92%	85%
DEAKIN	87%	86%	85%	90%	80%
ECU	92%	75%	71%		89%
FEDERATION					42%
FLINDERS	73%	74%	79%	83%	80%
GRIFFITH	73%	78%	81%	77%	73%
JCU	73%	83%	61%	93%	68%
LA TROBE	80%	83%	100%		76%
MACQUARIE				83%	86%
MONASH		55%	92%	97%	81%
MURDOCH			96%	96%	
NOTRE DAME					87%
QUEENSLAND				93%	
QUT		81%	81%	89%	84%
RMIT	73%	83%	82%	96%	
SOUTHERN CROSS					63%
SUNSHINE COAST	88%	50%	79%	92%	
SWINBURNE					55%
SYDNEY				98%	96%
TASMANIA				85%	87%
UNE			68%	63%	60%
UniSA			83%	87%	85%
UNSW		20%	78%	93%	88%
USQ		74%	79%	92%	
UTS			91%	85%	91%
VU	71%	70%	73%		14%
WESTERN SYDNEY	65%	87%	82%	78%	80%
WOLLONGONG	88%	93%	88%	83%	86%
National average rate of retention by ATAR range	70%	75%	80%	85%	80%

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

Student profile

Laura — Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Honours)



What was the best thing about your course?

A law degree is very open-ended and unlocks many doors. The skills you develop — how to write, problem-solve and negotiate, as well as oral and written communication, research, logic and reasoning — are advantageous in a variety of careers. The opportunities

presented to law graduates today are very broad and the education you receive through completing a law degree is invaluable.

Have you found work in your field?

I have been working at a mid-tier commercial law firm for the past two years. The medium size of the firm suits my personality and the work I do mostly involves commercial business, which is an area of interest to me.

What advice would you give to students considering studying law?

Go for it! A law degree is very highly regarded and rewarding. It enables you to become an effective problem-solver and develop an awareness of the system that governs society. I would encourage students to spend time observing in court and talk to people who work in the legal field or are currently studying law to gain insight into whether it is the right pathway for them.



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOTRE DAME	89.9%
WOLLONGONG	89.3%
UNSW	87.4%
BOND	86.9%
FLINDERS	86.9%
GRIFFITH	85.7%
ADELAIDE	85.5%
SUNSHINE COAST	85.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 80.9%

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

CSU	97.1%
UNSW	88.1%
SYDNEY	83.8%
UTS	83.5%
CDU	82.3%
DEAKIN	82.0%
UNE	79.8%
MONASH	79.7%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 74.7%

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

NOTRE DAME	81.7%
BOND	78.0%
UNSW	77.7%
WOLLONGONG	72.8%
TASMANIA	69.3%
UNE	68.9%
FLINDERS	67.9%
LA TROBE	67.9%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 61.5%

LEARNING RESOURCES

UniSA	92.6%
QUT	92.2%
BOND	91.8%
DEAKIN	91.3%
SYDNEY	90.7%
WOLLONGONG	90.3%
GRIFFITH	89.7%
CQUni	89.4%
FEDERATION	89.4%
CDU	89.1%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.0%

MEDIAN GRAD STARTING SALARY

UNE	\$70,100
CDU	\$70,000
CSU	\$66,000
SOUTHERN CROSS	\$65,000
UWA	\$64,000
UTS	\$63,000
UNSW	\$62,600

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = \$60,000**

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

NOTRE DAME	92.3%
WOLLONGONG	91.5%
UNSW	89.7%
JCU	89.4%
UniSA	89.0 %
BOND	88.9%
CURTIN	88.8%
FLINDERS	87.5%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 83.4%**

STUDENT SUPPORT

BOND	82.2%
NOTRE DAME	81.9%
SOUTHERN CROSS	81.7%
SUNSHINE COAST	81.4%
FLINDERS	79.9%
UNE	79.5%
ACU	78.8%
ECU	78.2%
USQ	77.8%
GRIFFITH	77.5%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 70.2%**

TEACHING QUALITY

SWINBURNE	92.3%
ECU	91.7%
NOTRE DAME	91.4%
CURTIN	91.3%
BOND	90.0%
UNSW	89.7%
WOLLONGONG	89.0%
ADELAIDE	88.5%

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE = 82.7 %**

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?

The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the Guide.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The graphs compare institutions in the law and paralegal field of study. If you are interested in this field of study you can see all the institutions that offer courses and how they compare.

Universities compared

The “Five-Star Universities” graphs show the institutions whose results place them in the top 20 per cent of universities in law and paralegal studies.

Student experience measures

These ratings compare the performance of universities across six student experience categories. For each category, the percentage of students who were satisfied with the university’s performance in the area is noted. For example, if a university achieves 75 per cent for Teaching Quality, this indicates that 75 per cent of students at the university were satisfied with the quality of teaching they experienced.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Student Experience Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

Graduate outcomes

Starting salary

This rating compares the median salary of graduates from different universities. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

Full-time employment

This rating compares the employment rates of graduates from different universities. It looks at the proportion of graduates who were employed full time four months after completing their course. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Graduate Destination Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

National average rate of retention

These tables show the rate of student retention at each university. The ability of students to complete their first year of study and progress to a second year may be affected by the tertiary entrance score they achieved in their final year of school. Often, students with high scores have higher rates of retention than students with low scores. These tables identify the rate at which students who achieved a tertiary entrance score within a specific band are retained through to a second year of study.

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

Data published in these tables refers to the number of students who commenced studies in 2014 and were still enrolled at the same institution in 2015, as a proportion of all students who commenced in 2014 in law and paralegal studies. This data refers specifically to students who commenced a bachelor degree in 2014 on the basis of a tertiary entrance score and who came directly from secondary school.

Remember that rankings and ratings are indicators only. They help but do not present a full picture. Research your choices carefully!