Bachelor of Laws (Undergraduate Entry – 4 years)
UNDA Course Code 3178 – CRICOS Code 023751D

About the Bachelor of Laws:
The Bachelor of Laws degree is an accredited degree for admission to legal practice. It combines excellent coverage of underlying legal and ethical principles with an explanation of how those principles are applied in legal practice.

Why Study Law at Notre Dame?
Being part of the Notre Dame School of Law is a very rewarding and enjoyable experience:

- The Law classes are small (an average class size of 31 for the last few years and there is excellent access to academics outside of class. Inspired by the caring Catholic ethos which runs through the School of Law, academics are committed to quality teaching and providing excellent pastoral care to each student. The university aims to give each student every opportunity to fulfill their potential as a student and be inspired to go out into the community and really make a difference.

- The Notre Dame Law degree has a particular focus on the basic building blocks of the law (the legally required “Priestley” subjects) and on developing practical skills such as public speaking, advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and commercial practice skills.

- All academics have a substantial amount of experience in legal practice (as either solicitors, barristers or judges or canon lawyers) in Australia or overseas. This allows students to learn not just the legal principles but how they apply in legal practice.

The Notre Dame Schools of Law recently ranked first out of all law schools in New South Wales and Western Australia for Overall Quality of Educational Experience (95.3%), Teaching Quality (95.2%), Skills Development (91.4%) and for Student Support (90.6%) (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching).

Exchange between Sydney and Fremantle Campuses:
Notre Dame has a School of Law at each of its Sydney and Fremantle campuses. The Sydney School of Law is located on Broadway (just a short walk from Central Railway Station). Some students from each campus choose to spend one or more semesters studying at the other campus. Students enjoy the variety of being able to experience study at another location.

Course Structure:
The Bachelor of Laws degree contains:

- Compulsory and elective Law units (see explanation below)
- 3 compulsory units in the “Logos Programme” (see explanation below)

Course Duration:
The degree can be completed in 4 years if studied full-time. It is also available on a part-time basis (Domestic students only). Students Study:

- Legal Research and Writing
- Legal Process and Statutory Interpretation
- Legal History
- Criminal Law
- Contemporary Legal Issues OR Aboriginal People
- Principles of Contract Law
- Principles of Torts
- Property Law

Elective Units:
The elective Law units offered vary from year to year, according to the areas of interest and expertise of academic staff and student demand. Typical elective units include:

- Advanced Research Project (i.e. Honours research - 2 units)
- Bioethics and the Law
- Advanced Taxation Law
- Commercial Drafting
- Commercial Law
- Construction and Building Contract Law
- Directed Research Project
- Employee Relations Law
- Entertainment Law
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Health Law
- Human Rights Law
- Insolvency
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Introduction to Canon Law (i.e. Church Law)
- Law and Religion
- Law in Context (Exterships) – involves work experience
- Mining and Petroleum Law
- Occupational Safety and Health Law
- Introduction to Australian Taxation Law
- Succession
- Competition and Consumer Law
- Trial Advocacy

Double Degrees:
Some students are best served by just studying Law. However, we encourage students to also enrol in one of the other degrees that we offer in our double degree programs. This only involves an extra year of study (if a student enrolls in the double degree at the start). The completion of a double degree enhances employment prospects and allows graduates to choose a career from a wider field of opportunities. It also gives each student more time to make the transition from school or other study to university study in Law.
The following double degree programs are offered in Sydney:
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Journalism)
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Communications and Media
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Human Resource Management (proposed)
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Marketing and Public Relations
- Bachelor Of Laws/ Bachelor of Philosophy
- Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Theology

Mode of Study and Assessment:

This course is only offered in internal mode.
Students will be provided with a copy of a Unit Outline for each unit in a given semester. This outline will provide the assessment method for the unit, which may include: assignments, essays, presentations, letter writing, performances, mootin, practicum, internships, placements, research papers, theses, tests, examinations and other forms of assessment.

The Logos Programme:

At Notre Dame, the university emphasises the value of the human person and the importance of maintaining an ethical way of life. All students undertake the Logos Programme, which includes the study of modules on topics in philosophy, moral philosophy, theology and philosophical-theological arguments relevant to training for a profession and for life.

Accreditation:

Our Law degrees are fully accredited. The Sydney degrees are accredited by the New South Wales Legal Profession Admission Board (which is the relevant accrediting body in New South Wales for admission to legal practice). Subject to completing the relevant practical legal training requirements after leaving university, students with a Notre Dame Law degree are eligible for admission as a legal practitioner (i.e. a solicitor).

Career Opportunities:

A Law degree is a pathway to a number of exciting careers, working as a barrister, solicitor, academic or business professional. Graduates gain employment in a range of different environments, including:
- Academia
- Banking and finance
- Courts (federal and state/territory)
- “In-house” for a corporation
- Government departments and sectors
- Journalism and the Media
- Political landscapes
- Private practice (in metropolitan, suburban or country law firms)
- working as a solicitor in private practice (be it a big/medium/small city, suburban or country firm);
- working as an “in-house” solicitor for a corporation, business or Not-for-profit organisation
- working as a solicitor in the Government sector;
- being a politician or working for a politician;
- being a judge’s associate or research assistant for a judge in one of the courts;
- (in the long term) being a judge;

Study Abroad Opportunities:

Some Law students from The University of Notre Dame Australia choose to spend a limited time studying overseas and count those subjects studied overseas towards their Australian degree. Potential places of study include the London Summer School (run by The University of Notre Dame in the United States of America) as well as various other overseas universities. Acceptance into these programs requires students to achieve a minimum academic standard in their studies here. There are also various restrictions on the subjects that students can study overseas and for which credit can be obtained.

Admission Requirements:

School Leavers:
- ATAR of 90 - Indicative only. Must have been obtained within the last five years. Or
- IB of 31+ - Indicative only. Must have been obtained within the last five years.

Post School Leavers / Mature Age Applicants:
- Other University Studies - Notre Dame will also consider applicants who have successfully completed a minimum of 4 units with a high credit average within a Bachelor’s Degree from a University. An original or certified copy of an academic transcript is required. Or
- Successful completion of a relevant Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma level qualification or higher from a recognised provider such as TAFE or an RTO.

The admission selection process assesses each applicant in relation to:
- their academic results at school and in any subsequent studies;
- the likelihood of being comfortable in a university with small classes and a caring Catholic ethos between staff and students (please note – applicants do not need to be Catholic);
- their desire to study Law and the likelihood that the students will apply themselves diligently to their studies and ;
- demonstration of life experience and academic ability.

The interview stage is an important part of the admissions process. It gives university staff a chance to discuss the above points with each applicant; and provides the opportunity for the applicant to meet an academic from the School of Law and ask any questions they may have.

No HSC subject is an essential pre-requisite for Law. However, a minimum level of competency in written and spoken English is required to succeed in Law. It is important to show the necessary academic ability in a preferred area of interest (for example, English, History, Mathematics or Business). Although a large percentage of our students are school leavers, Notre Dame also welcomes mature-age students.

Further Information:

The information contained in this publication is designed as a basic course description. If you would like further information relating to admissions, fees or the University itself, please contact the Prospective Students Office on (02) 8204 4404 or at sydney@nd.edu.au. If you would like further information specifically relating to the Law degree then please contact the School of Law on (02) 8204 4300.

All international enquiries may be directed to the International Students Office at sydney.international@nd.edu.au

Please also visit our website at www.nd.edu.au

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