

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

WHITE & CASE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that the University of Sydney is built upon, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge that this was and always will be Aboriginal Land and are proud to be on the lands of one of the oldest surviving cultures in existence. We respect the knowledge that traditional elders and Aboriginal people hold and pass on from generation to generation, and acknowledge the continuous fight for constitutional reform and treaty recognition to this day. We regret that white supremacy has been used to justify Indigenous dispossession, colonial rule and violence in the past, and in particular, a legal and political system that still to this date doesn't provide Aboriginal people with justice.

Sponsored by White & Case

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Online consultations are now open via Zoom, please book an appointment here: <https://www.suls.org.au/contact-us> to speak with one of SULS' 2022 Executives.

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the SULLS International Student Guide!

We are very excited to have international students coming from different places, all joining us here at the University of Sydney Law School. For those who weren't able to return to Sydney campus due to border restrictions, welcome back! And of course, for the rest who remain overseas, thank you for staying connected with us!

It was, undoubtedly, a challenging time for all of us in the past two years. Having to navigate ourselves through remote learning, separations with friends and families and adapting to a culturally different country is daunting. Yet, we have demonstrated resilience and unity in the SULLS international student community throughout and beyond.

Despite all the challenges, it is important for us to enjoy the process while we are here. Your experience studying at Sydney Law is probably going to be one of the most unique and memorable times in your life. It is a time to explore, embrace and enjoy your journey at Sydney Law! Throughout your degree, you are going to meet people from diverse backgrounds, build unique life experiences and unlock new skills that would surprise you. So stay keen and open-minded! Make good use of your time to explore different opportunities and embrace differences! SULLS is here to support you by offering numerous events and programs, tailored to international students' needs. Most importantly, we strived to ensure all international students are well-informed through offering educational seminars and our annual publication – the International Student Guide.

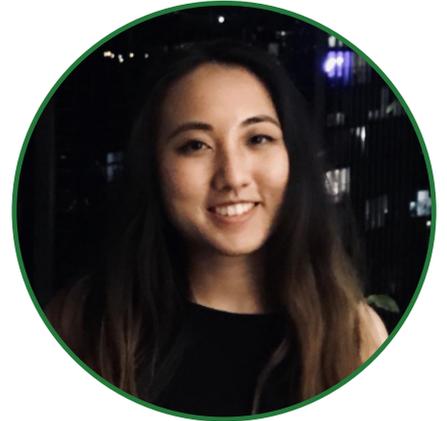
The International Student Guide is a publication that provides comprehensive information on your studies, career planning and mental health management. It is an important publication to acknowledge the diverse international students' community at law school. This year, we have a dedicated and experienced team of 6 editors striving to provide all the information you need as an international law student. We have invited high-achieving law students, law academics and the Usyd Students Counselling Service to honour the Guide by writing on their personal experiences and addressing issues that international students are concerned about. Apart from that, we have also included the most up-to-date information related to the local legal job market and overseas admission pathways. We hope that all this information helps you to make well-informed decisions regarding your study and careers in the future.

Outside of the guide, you can reach out to us at the SULLS office in person. We are also active on various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and WeChat. Our dedicated and compassionate International Committee team is always here to help and facilitate the communication between students and SULLS.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our amazing editorial team for their handwork and support to the international student community at Sydney Law.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at: international@suls.org.au.

Michelle Chim
International Officer,
Sydney University Law Society



Welcome to the Sydney University Law Society and, for those of you joining us in-person, to the city of Sydney!

The experience at Sydney Law for international students is no doubt unique. It's an opportunity to experience one of the most challenging, yet also prestigious and rewarding, degrees that Australia has to offer. It's the chance to meet new people, experience a new country, and to embrace so many different cultures. It's a major achievement of which each and every one of you should be immensely proud.

It also brings with it a unique set of challenges. As an international student, not only do you face the same workload in the classroom, but a host of challenges that domestic students such as myself can only imagine. The search for housing in a new country, increased fees, navigating the requirements for employment, and for some studying in your second language are only the tip of the iceberg, and I am constantly inspired by the lengths to which so many of you go to join us here at Sydney Law.

On top of this, as we continue to navigate what we can only hope is the tail-end of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the international student experience is as diverse as ever. We are lucky that a large number of you are able to return to campus, yet there remains a contingent of members that remain overseas. In 2022, SULS is committed to engaging, aiding, and welcoming all of you.

In appreciation and acknowledgement of your experiences and as your main representative body, SULS is here to help in any way that we can, and this begins with our International Students Portfolio and International Students' Guide! This publication contains so much useful information to help you in your time here, and I hope that it benefits as many international students as possible. I would like to thank Michelle Chim (International Student Officer), Ariana Haghghi (Publications Director), Justine Hu (Design Officer), the ISG editors, and all of our contributing members for making this publication possible, and I know they too extend their welcomes and encouragement for your time here.

This year, under Michelle's fantastic guidance as our ISO, SULS will also be providing a wide variety of offerings, including career information sessions, social catchups, mentoring programs, an English as a Second Language Moot, the SULS WeChat Account, and ensuring the accessibility of as many of our events as possible to those who are unable to attend in person. We also hope to collaborate with the specific international law student societies to provide the best experience we can.

SULS is always here to help, and we hope that you will feel comfortable reaching out to Michelle or any other member of our executive whenever you need. This year, our team will be available to chat in the SULS office (Room 103 of the New Law Building, just down the first set of stairs and to the left) during our regular Office Hours (10am-2pm AEST Monday-Thursday, with extended hours to allow for part-time JD and LLM students who otherwise may not be able to attend until 6pm AEST on Tuesday). We know that many of you may not be able to attend in person, and to ensure you are still able to reach out we will provide zoom and WeChat alternatives available at the same times all year round. Outside of these hours (or during them, if you feel more comfortable) we are also always available on any of our social media channels, so feel free to send us a message or an email if you'd prefer!

I'd like to extend my sincere congratulations once again for joining us at our Law School, and hope to see you around this year (in person or virtually)!

Benjamin Hines
President,
Sydney University Law Society



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



LAW SCHOOL

Starting Law at Sydney

Thrishank Chintamaneni - JD III (Onshore)



William Chou - LLB V (Offshore)



Introduction

Hello everyone! My name is Thrishank and I am a JD III international law student from Canada. As an undergraduate student, I did not have a clear idea as to a specific direction I wanted to pursue, either academically or from a career standpoint. It was when I found myself in several undergraduate law subject electives that I found myself fascinated by how broad the discipline was and how it could be applied in day-to-day situations. That curiosity and fascination led me to study here- at Sydney Law School.

Law School experience

Over the past few years as a Sydney law student, while I have benefitted immensely from the various resources offered at law school, the organisation that has helped me out the most has been the Sydney University Law Society. The law society has always offered me a community and through my involvement with SULLS I have found my time to be highly engaging and incredibly exciting. My favourite SULLS-organised activities have always been the social and networking events, whether through zoom or in-person.

Advice for onshore student

Some advice that I have for any incoming international law student is to be as diligent as possible. Law school is difficult and tiring but there are ways to mitigate this throughout the semester and reduce your burden. I recommend trying to finish as many readings as you can for every week before the tutorial and paying attention to the advice that your tutors give you- whether it be on navigating law school or tackling the various assessments.

Introduction

Hey guys, I'm William! I am from Singapore and currently in my final year at the University of Sydney. For me, choosing law was a no brainer. It was a course, in my opinion, which laid out what was ultimately palatable to society. It is the skeleton if you will, of what is permissible within society. Please do not mistake it as something that never changes. It certainly will and has been doing so since a codified form of it appeared. Changes will always be made and put in place. Yet, until those changes are put in place, one would find themselves in a challenging situation should there be a conflict of rights.

Law School Experience

The topics covered, whether you are an onshore or offshore student will contain little nuggets that jump out at you. For me, it was in contracts when I discovered that tapping my Opal card on the card readers on buses and trains was an accepted form of accepting a contract. You will find moments like these, things that suddenly jump out at you, moments you might initially think nothing much of. But as you spend more time in this field, they will all compound and carry more significance.

Advice for offshore student

To survive law school remotely required keeping track of the deadlines with laser precision. The thing with remote learning, similarly with campus learning, is that you cannot take your eyes off the ball for even a week. Knowing which week you are in is quintessential to your learning journey in law school.

University and Law School Administration

Note: The information below concerns general academic and administrative advice only and may not account for all obstacles related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please regularly check your email account and the university websites for the latest updates:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/covid-19/>

Enrolment (onshore and offshore)

You must enrol to commence your studies at the University of Sydney via Sydney Student. There will be a **mixture of in-person and remote learning** for most of the units of study in 2022. You may need to seek departmental permission to enrol in some of the remote units. Note that remote learning will not affect your visa entitlements.

Please access and make adjustments to the new Timetable system here:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/timetables.html>

Course Structure

Depending on whether you are an LLB, JD, or Diploma of Law student, you will be required to obtain necessary credits in LAWS units in order to progress. Please access your most up-to-date relevant cohort Handbook (2022) to consult your degree requirements here: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/>

To assist with your degree planning, please view sample study plan for Bachelor of Laws: https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/undergraduate/compulsory_table.shtml

Study Abroad

Please bear in mind that some Sydney Abroad opportunities might not be available due to COVID-19. Should you choose to undertake a semester exchange, this may delay your degree progression as some compulsory units are prerequisites for later units, and compulsory units or 'Priestley 11' subjects cannot be taught by overseas partners. If, as a result of your exchange, your new completion date is beyond your original degree, you will need to apply for a visa extension.

More information about studying abroad and exchange can be accessed here:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/study/why-choose-sydney/study-abroad-and-exchange.html>



Dalyell Scholars Program

This information pertains to **undergraduate combined degree students only**. The Dalyell Scholars stream is an enrichment academic and social program for students with an ATAR of 98+ or equivalent. Please note that this program is **not** a scholarship and membership is optional.

Enrolment in Dalyell may affect your course planning as combined law students need to complete:

- 12 Dalyell credits from Table D
- 6 OLE (Online Learning Environment) credits from Table O

Please note that as per the Sydney Law School's degree resolutions, if you have completed 6 Dalyell credits and then withdraw from Dalyell, you will only be required to complete 6 OLE credits. Please refer to Sydney Law School's course handbook for more information under 'Combined Laws':

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/undergraduate/laws.shtml>

In order to maintain your membership within the Dalyell Program, you will need to at least maintain an annual WAM (weighted average mark) of 75. Should you fall below this threshold, your faculty's Dalyell Coordinator will contact you, and you may be removed from the program as a result.

Course Planning

Degree Load and Progression

Student visa holders generally need to undertake a full-time study load of 24 credit points per semester. 18 credits must be taken during the main semester, outside of Intensive units. However, you may apply to reduce your study load where:

- you have a seriousness illness or injury (including adverse mental health circumstances)
- a close family member has died
- childcare/maternity reasons
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in your home country that has impacted your studies
- a traumatic experience, which could include:
 - involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident, or
 - witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime, that has impacted you (these cases should be supported by a police or psychologist report)
- faculty cannot offer any other units of study due to the structure of your program
- your Faculty Academic Advisor (AA) recommends you to reduce your study load so that you can complete your remaining units of study
- COVID-19-related special circumstances*

*For COVID-19 circumstances, as an alternative to a medical certificate or other medical documents, you can complete a [student declaration](#) form outlining how your full-time studies are affected by COVID-19, with any available supporting evidence, that describes the misadventure, illness or injury that you suffered and for how long.

Find more information on reduced study load (student visa holders):

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/reduced-study-load.html>

Changing your Course

Allowable course transfers, upgrades, downgrades

Downgrading means changing to a lower Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level course. For example, if you are undertaking the Master of Law, you may choose to receive a lower award, such as the Graduate Diploma in Law. Upgrading your course means if you have met the requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Law, you may be able to upgrade your studies to the Master of Law.

Your faculty may allow you to upgrade or downgrade your course, or transfer from a combined law degree into a single degree. This is called an allowable course transfer. If your application is successful, the University will issue a new electronic Confirmation of Enrollment (eCOE). Please note that if your new eCOE stipulates a completion date beyond your original degree, you will need to apply for a visa extension.

Application deadlines:

- Semester 1 deadline: 4 February 2022
- Semester 2 deadline: 22 July 2022

Internal course transfer

If you are not eligible for an allowable transfer, you can apply for an internal course transfer. Unlike an allowable course transfer, an internal course transfer treats your application as if you are enrolling for the first time using your high school or degree results, whichever is higher. The application deadline for Semester 1 usually opens in October and closes in January.

If you wish to change from a single to a combined degree, the university will issue a new eCoE. However, should you wish to change to a new curriculum version of your present course, the university is unable to issue a new eCoE which entails that you must complete the transferred course without overstaying your original visa expiry date

You may also change streams but may not receive credits for your previous study. You must consider how a transfer will affect your student visa. Whichever option that you are going with, we recommend you planning out thoroughly and in advance. There are small details you might miss such as transferring credits or overlapping units that can lead to a significant delay or worse, cancellation of your request. If unsure, please reach out to someone you personally know that has completed the process it before or the people at Student Service. For more information please visit <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/change-course.html>.

Discontinue a Unit of Study

If you wish to drop a unit of study, it is crucial to withdraw before the unit's census date to avoid any academic or financial consequences. It is important to note that a DC or DF grade will reduce your study load which means that you will need to apply to reduce your study load in order to comply with your visa requirements.

Key terms:

- Census date - last date to drop a unit without incurring financial or academic penalty
- DC (Discontinued not to count as failure) - 'DC' does not count as a fail on your transcript and fees associated with your unit of study will be remitted
- DF (Discontinue fail) - 'DF' will be recorded on your academic transcript; counts as a fail but does not affect your Weighted Average Mark (WAM); you will be liable for unit fees

Timing	Outcome
Discontinue before the unit's census date	No academic or financial penalties, but you will need to enrol in the required 24 credit points to adhere to your student visa requirements. You will need to apply for a reduced study load to drop below 24 credit points.
After the unit's census date and before the last day of teaching (the last date to discontinue fail - 'DF')	'DF' counts as a fail on your transcript but does not affect your WAM. You remain liable for the unit fees and cannot re-enrol in the unit for that study period.
After the unit's last date to discontinue fail ('DF')	You cannot discontinue from the unit. A grade/mark will be recorded on your transcript based on the assessment you have completed and you will remain liable for unit fees.

If the census date has passed, but you have been impacted by circumstances beyond your control, you can apply to discontinue from a unit of study under special circumstances. If your application is approved, you will receive a DC grade which does not count as a fail on your transcript and fees associated with your unit of study will be remitted.

Special circumstances are circumstances that are:

- beyond your control,
- did not make the full impact on you until on or after the census date of the unit, and
- make it impracticable for you to complete the unit.

The census date for semester-long units are

- Semester 1 (S1C): 31 March 2022
- Semester 2 (S2C): 31 August 2022

Note. Intensive and placement units will have differing DC deadlines.

You should always check the specific DC deadline for your unit at:

www.sydney.edu.au/students/discontinue-unit-of-study/unit-of-study-deadlines.html

For more information on discontinuing a unit of study, please visit:

www.sydney.edu.au/students/discontinue-unit-of-study.html

Enrolment exception requests & Departmental permission

You can apply for special permission to undertake a unit of study if

- you do not meet the required prerequisite, or
- you wish to overload your credit points (i.e. more than 24 credit points per semester), or
- you wish to undertake a unit of study out of sequence etc.

This is not particularly difficult to get although you must ensure that you fulfil all visa requirements prior to submitting a request. In your application, you need to state why you are applying for special permission and provide relevant evidence. For more information, please visit: www.sydney.edu.au/students/selecting-units-in-sydney-student/enrolment-exception-requests.html



Suspend your Studies

You can only suspend your study if there are compassionate or compelling circumstances beyond your control, which include but are not limited to:

- serious illness or injury
- death of a close family member
- childcare/maternity
- military service in your home country
- if your faculty or school is unable to offer any units of study because of the course structure
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in your home country which has impacted your studies
- a traumatic experience, which could include:
 - involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; or
 - witnessing or being a victim of a serious crime, which has impacted you (these cases should be supported by a police or psychologist report)

Note: Career reasons and/or work arrangements or an internship which is not part of your course structure (outside your studies) are not valid reasons for suspending your studies.

If your suspension is approved, the University will notify the Department of Home Affairs and your eCOE will be cancelled. A new eCoE with the new recommencement date will be issued. Your student visa may be affected due to this suspension, therefore you will need to liaise with the Department of Home Affairs for advice.

For more information regarding specific compassionate or compelling circumstances and the documents required, visit: www.sydney.edu.au/students/suspend-studies.html

Discontinue your Course

If you want to discontinue your course, you should contact University Compliance Officers for advice at: student.compliance@sydney.edu.au, and make sure you check the key dates and deadlines (www.sydney.edu.au/students/study-dates.html) to avoid academic penalty or financial liability.

You need to notify the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) within 31 days of discontinuing your course. Your eCoE will be cancelled and you need to contact within 28 days to arrange an alternative visa if you wish to stay in Australia. For more information, please visit:

www.sydney.edu.au/students/discontinue-course.html

If you discontinue your primary course within its first 6 months to accept an offer at another institution, you need to request a release and produce an unconditional offer provided by your new institution. For more information, please visit:

www.sydney.edu.au/students/release-for-student-visa-holders.html

Planning your electives

To qualify for the award of the Bachelor of Laws, students must complete 144 credit points taken from the University of Sydney Law School Undergraduate Table which includes:

- 1) 102 credit points of compulsory units of study as specified in the University of Sydney Law School Undergraduate Table and
- 2) 42 credit points from the Elective Unit of Study Table (undergraduate) for the University of Sydney Law School, of which a maximum of 36 credit points are taken from Part 1, Elective Units of Study or Master's Unit of Study (subject to availability and pre-requisites or assumed knowledge).

There are also options to study law in different countries, for example, LAWS3516-International law and China, LAWS3441-Introduction to Islamic Law, LAWS3496-United States Constitutional Law.

For more information on international opportunities, please visit: https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/law/undergraduate/electives_p1_table.shtml

Points of Contact

Academic Advice

law.professional@sydney.edu.au for Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Laws Program.

law.postgraduate@sydney.edu.au for Law Masters and Graduate Diploma Programs.

Current Student Online Enquiry Platform

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/forms/make-an-enquiry.html>

Assessments

Simple Extensions

If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, you may be able to arrange for an extension of up to 2 working days with your unit of study coordinator for non-examination tasks. It is an informal arrangement between you and the coordinator where you will be given an extension without penalty. For more information, please visit: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/simple-extensions.html>

Special consideration

If you require an extension for more than 2 working days, you may apply for special consideration if you have exceptional circumstances that are beyond your control and unavoidable. You will have to provide supporting evidence such as a medical certificate, professional practitioner certificate or statutory declaration.

New special considerations portal in 2022

You can apply for special consideration via the [new special considerations portal](https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/special-consideration.html) from Semester 1 2022. For more information on special consideration, please visit: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/special-consideration.html>

Exceptional circumstances for special consideration include:

- short term illness or injury
- personal misadventure of a family member or close friend
- technical issue
- death of a family member or close friend
- unexpected primary carer responsibilities
- attendance at a funeral of a family member or close friend
- natural disaster
- circumstances preventing you from receiving supporting documents

Note: If you're affected as a result of COVID-19, see the [COVID-19 advice page](#) for more information on applying for special considerations in these situations.

Circumstances which are not eligible for special consideration:

- public transport or traffic delays
- predictable emotions (e.g. nervousness or stress) associated with assessments
- personal events (e.g. birthdays, weddings or travel plans)
- minor ailments/illness where you are still capable of completing assessments
- balancing workloads from other study
- misunderstanding your timetable
- technology problems – except where they could not have been prevented, avoided or minimised with reasonable diligence on your part

During the final exam period at the end of semester, if students have two or more online exams scheduled at the same time, the university will allocate one of them to the replacement exam period. Students will receive an email explaining the arrangements. In this circumstance, students do not have to apply for special consideration.

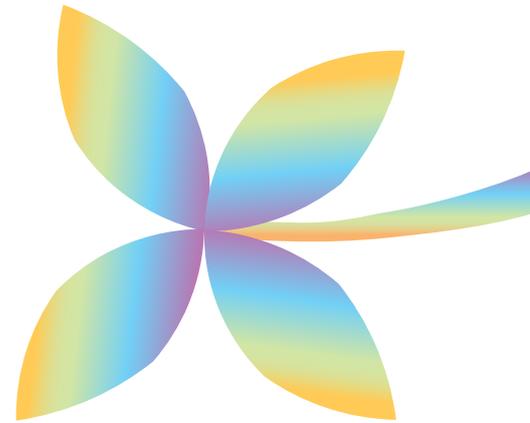
Academic Appeals

You may invoke academic appeal when you wish to dispute your final grades. There are 3 stages in the academic appeal process, they comprise of:

1. Informal resolution with the decision-maker

Otherwise known as an **informal appeal**. Ask the relevant course coordinator or send a courteous email requesting feedback and a specific breakdown of your final mark. Where necessary, arrange a meeting to seek clarification. They should provide reasons for their assessment of your work.

Sydney Law School advises that you engage in self-reflection prior to this stage. This involves reviewing assignment comments and/or seeking individual feedback. You have **15 working days** from receiving your grades to file an appeal. Should you feel the matter remains unresolved, you may take the appeal further to the relative Associate Dean. Find out more at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/academic-appeals/resolution.html>



2. Appeal to Faculty/Academic Panel

If you are not satisfied with the response from your informal appeal, you have the right to submit a formal appeal in writing to the Law School to law.appeals@sydney.edu.au. A formal appeal needs to be lodged within **20 working days** from the first stage. Please submit all relevant support documentation/evidence. Find out more at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/academic-appeals/faculty-academic-panel-appeal.html>

3. Appeal to the Student Appeals Body (SAB)

In case a formal response from your Faculty is unsatisfactory, an appeal to the Student Appeals Body (SAB) is the final stage for internal appeals. You have **15 working days** from your Faculty's formal response. In your SAB appeal, you should try to identify procedural unfairness or breach of internal policy in the Faculty's academic decision. Find out more at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/academic-appeals/sab-appeal.html>

Competitions and Moots

Participating in skills competitions and moots is a great way to work on your advocacy skills and a platform for you to tackle what you have learnt in your studies or a particular area of law that you have a keen interest in. You will find yourself thinking on your feet and improving on your oral communication skills - this is particularly helpful for assessments such as class participation and presentations.

Give these a go:

- ESL (English as Second Language) Mooting Program
- Introductory Mooting Program
- Womens Mooting Program
- First Year Moot
- Torts Law Moot
- Negotiations Competitions
- Witness Examination Competition

Please refer to the **Competitions Handbook** for more detailed information.

Scholarships

University-wide Scholarships

International students are eligible for a variety of scholarships. Some are as listed below:

Sydney International Student Award

This scholarship is awarded on a dual merits-and-extracurricular-commitment basis and is open to international students from select countries and regions. Recipients will receive 20% off of the tuition fees for the duration of their course. As of 2022, the following countries and nationalities are eligible for this award:

- Africa (For the list of eligible countries in Africa, please visit: www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/e/sydney-international-student-award-africa.html#countries)
- Bangladesh
- Central Asia
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- South and Central America
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Vietnam

You will also need to submit a 200-word personal statement including:

- A description of yourself
- Your motivation for applying to the University of Sydney
- Your academic and professional aspirations

Check your eligibility for the scholarship and learn how to apply at:

www.sydney.edu.au/study/study-options/fees-and-loans/sydney-international-student-award.html



Vice Chancellor International Scholarships Scheme

This scholarship is awarded purely on academic merit and is open to all commencing international students enrolling in an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. It is open to all international students who have an unconditional offer of admission for a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate coursework program at the University of Sydney. All eligible students will be considered automatically.

Four scholarship amounts are offered based on your ranking against the selection criteria:

1. \$40,000 payable for one year in two equal instalments per semester
2. \$20,000 payable for one semester
3. \$10,000 payable for one semester
4. \$5,000 payable for one semester

Find out more about the scholarship at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/e/vice-chancellor-international-scholarships-scheme.html>

Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Program

This scholarship is offered to outstanding students in India commencing an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework course in 2022. This program is intended to foster relations and collaborative efforts between the University of Sydney and India - applicants must hold Indian citizenship and be current residents of India (permanent residents of Australia are not eligible).

Please note that Application dates for 2022 are not yet confirmed (last year's applications opened on 1 April 2021 and closed on 4 July 2021). Subscribe here to be informed when application for the Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Program will be opened:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/e/sydney-scholars-india-scholarship-program/submit-an-enquiry.html>

Value: Up to \$40,000

A total of 28 scholarships will be awarded annually, consisting of:

- 3 x \$40,000 per annum for any undergraduate degree of up to four years
- 10 x \$20,000 first-year scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students
- 15 x \$10,000 first-year scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students

Law Scholarships

Available to both Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

Pitt Cobbett Scholarship

Open to applicants enrolled in the JD or undergraduate combined law program at University of Sydney who can demonstrate financial hardship.

Value: up to \$5,000

Duration: One-off payment

Opening & Closing date: TBC

For more information and to apply, visit:

www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/b/pitt-cobbett-scholarship.html

Sydney Law School Exchange Scholarship

Applicants must be enrolled in either the JD or LLB program at the University of Sydney and entering their final year of studies. Applicants must be approved by the Law School to participate in a Law School-specific exchange the following year, be a high achieving student and demonstrate financial hardship.

Value: Up to \$2,000

Duration: One-off payment

Opening & Closing date: TBC

Find out more information on the following:

- Sydney Law School Exchange scholarships, visit: www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/b/sydney-law-school-exchange-scholarship.html
- Faculty scholarships available to undergraduate students, visit: www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/international/bachelors-honours/faculty/law.html
- Faculty scholarships available to postgraduate students, visit: www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/international/postgraduate-coursework/faculty/law.html
- Postgraduate research scholarships, visit www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/international/postgraduate-research.html



Study Tips for International Students

Advice from Law School Lecturers

Mr Harrison Simons, Associate Lecturer

Common issues/ mistakes made by international students

1. Lack of engagement with significant or controversial issues

Many international students tend not to adequately engage with significant factual or legal controversies that arise in a problem question task. It is not enough to identify the controversy; you must use your legal skills to produce a solution. For example, if the facts engage an issue of law for which there may be two inconsistent authorities, it is your job to explain to the marker which of the two authorities you prefer and why. While domestic students struggle with this skill too, it is more prevalent in the responses of international students.

2. Rigid application of IRAC

While IRAC [Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion] is a useful tool, it should not be used rigidly in a problem question response. Rigidly applying IRAC is very inefficient – students spend too much time outlining each of the requirements of the method. Doing so wastes the precious word count you are given for the problem question and, in a short-release timed exam, wastes time where you could be spending that time addressing more issues arising from the facts. Students should aim to be flexible when responding to problem questions. In the main, ensure that you identify the relevant law and address all aspects of that law, but focus your discussion on the truly controversial issues.

3. Proofreading and plagiarism concerns

Many international students do not thoroughly proofread their assessments before submission. While proofreading an assessment task can be more difficult for international students, it is essential that the submitted work be polished to maximise the potential to receive a higher mark. Law, after all, is a professional discipline that requires a strong command of language. A piece of assessment that is not thoroughly proofread before submission is also at risk of being flagged for plagiarism or other kinds of academic misconduct.



General advice for international students:

International students may find the study of law to be challenging, but it doesn't have to be. Provided that you have a reasonably strong grasp of the English language, you have just as much potential to succeed in a law degree as any domestic student. Success in law depends on how well you understand the case law and legislation provided in a particular area of law. It is highly recommended that you spend time reading case law, not simply headnotes from cases. By reading case law, you will develop an appreciation for how legal controversies are resolved by a court and why particular disputes between parties matters. This will enhance your legal reasoning skills and help you write better answers to a hypothetical problem question task.

1

Restating the facts of the question or cases in detail

- You can assume that the marker has read the facts and so you can just refer back to the facts of the question ('as stated in the question, the company has not convened a meeting...'). Refer only briefly to the facts of relevant cases, and it's best to highlight how the case facts are similar or different to the exam question facts ('unlike in X v Y (1990), in this scenario the offeror has imposed a condition on the offer and so that must be satisfied by the terms of the acceptance' or 'this scenario bears some similarity to the case of X v Y, except that in this situation the offeree had not yet seen the advertisement when they began to use the product and so it cannot be said that they relied on the offer when they purchased the product').

2

Not going through each element of the relevant legal rule

Once you've established what the legal issue is you should state clearly why you think each element of the legal rule is, or isn't, complied with ('the facts establish that s588G(1)(a) is satisfied because they state that Alex is a director of Acme Pty Ltd at the time that the invoice was issued. The company was insolvent at that time because it failed to keep financial records and so s588E(4) can be relied upon to satisfy s588G(1)(b). There are arguably reasonable grounds for suspecting insolvency to satisfy s588G(1)(c) because the company had several unpaid debts and several creditors were taking or threatening legal action to recover payment. Section 588G(1)(d) is clearly satisfied as the timing of the facts in the question is after the commencement of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)). Students often just focus on the element of the legal rule that has been discussed in a case covered in class or in the lecture, but all elements of the legal rule need to be addressed, even if they are easily satisfied.

3

Conclusory reasoning

- Students often make conclusory arguments ('this is clearly unconscionable' or 'this is obviously oppressive'), but these are conclusions of law, not legal arguments applied to the facts of the question. Legal reasoning is about asking 'why?', why do I think this is the issue (what is it about the facts that suggest this is the relevant issue?), why do I think this rule applies?

Why do I think this case is relevant here (what is it about the case facts and reasoning that are similar/different to the question facts?). If you state a conclusion of law (a breach, or non-breach) you have to give a full argument explaining why you've reached that conclusion. Keep asking yourself why, until you've fully explained every step, and then you've got a complete answer.



Professor Jason Harris, Professor of Corporate Law

General advice for international students:

Try to get involved in on-campus activities, get involved in SULS competitions and events. It's a great way to meet new friends from different backgrounds and to help build your CV when going for internships and grad roles. Remember, the legal profession is all about people, most importantly it's about understanding and helping your clients. Networking and getting a better understanding of psychology and human behaviour will make you a much better lawyer and professional than just a good understanding of the law. You've come a long way to study here so take advantage of everything that's on offer both on campus and in the city. Go to events, join clubs, meet people and you'll have more fun and get much more out of your studies.

Three main problems in academic writing and how to solve them

Advice from Dr Adam Gall at The Learning Hub

Written legal assignments and exams require communication and critical thinking skills and can present significant challenges for learners working in a new context or a second language. Here are three main problems that you may encounter in your academic writing, and some useful tips on how to solve them.

1. Being prepared

Successful preparation for assessments begins in week 1 of the semester. It includes mapping out 'deliverables' using a semester planner and then working back to give yourself reading, research and writing time for each task. You can use a calendar app such as Outlook (available as part of your student Microsoft Office 365 subscription) or Google to plan your weeks.

Law students often find the amount of reading challenging: use your teachers as a guide to the purpose of what you're reading. It is better to spend two hours reading with a clear goal than eight hours without knowing the point of what you're doing. Learning Hub workshops that will help you to prepare for exams and written assignments: Time Management, Reading Strategies, Preparing for Exams

2. Incorporating evidence in your writing

Academic writing in law means you'll have to use primary sources such as legislation and judgments, but also high quality secondary sources.

Referencing management software, such as EndNote or Zotero, will help you to keep track of evidence. There are guides online for using the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC4) in Zotero and in EndNote allowing you to export citations and references in the format used most often in Australian legal writing.

Keep all notes for an assignment in one place: platforms such as OneNote, Evernote or Notion allow you to format, sort, search and access notes with ease. Revisit notes and make new summaries as a study strategy. You can also use these same apps to create outlines for your assignments before you write to save thinking time and make sure you address all aspects of each task.

Learning Hub workshops that will help you to use evidence in your assignments: Writing Assignments Effectively, Using Evidence and Avoiding Plagiarism

3. Making your writing clear and correct

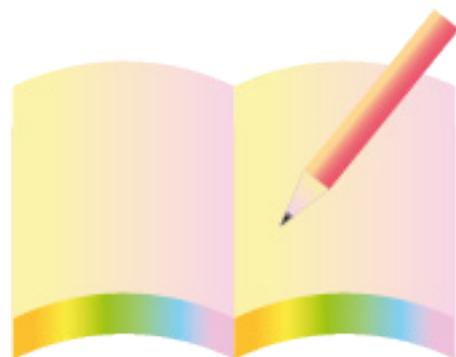
If you have an outline, notes and plenty of evidence, you should be able to write a draft. But extra steps for revision, editing and proofreading will ensure the quality of the final product.

When revising, focus on the overall structure, and on the shape and content of your paragraphs. A typical academic paragraph will begin with one main idea or point, then give evidence and analysis, and end with a sentence that links it to the main argument (some students find 'MEAL' helpful).

When editing, think about sentence structure and word choice. If you're not sure you've chosen the right word, try a tool like SKELL. It shows examples of the word in use, words that often accompany it, and other, similar words.

Proofreading is where you identify and correct errors. Applications such as Writefull can help finding and fixing errors. However, even the best tools won't find every problem and may give inappropriate suggestions. Improving your knowledge of grammar will allow you to make informed decisions.

Learning Hub workshops that will help you to write clear, correct paragraphs and sentences: Clearer Writing, Editing and Proofreading, Grammar Clinic, Foundations of Grammar, Functional Grammar.





Navigating Covid-19

Navigating law school remotely in a different country can be very daunting - we have both good and bad news for you.

Bad news first: time and mental health management might feel like a fight. You're essentially fighting yourself to become a more organised and motivated person, and you are doing this when everyone from faculty to classmates seems a little out of reach.

This feeling is valid. You're not hallucinating or overreacting if you're feeling a bit let down. It is totally valid to feel like your entire law school life is squeezed into a computer screen, and you're like this lone warrior slogging through endless readings at your desk.

In a nutshell, we are now confronted with a myriad of uncertainties affecting our everyday experience - this ambient stress then builds upon existing worries about our WAM and future employment prospects. It also doesn't help when having a social life feels like a luxury, and having less interactions with people in real life.

Now the good news: you have precious opportunities unique to where you are. China, Singapore, Canada... no matter where you are based now, you are able to turn your location to your advantage. We know at least 2 JD students in mainland China who have studied for and passed the Chinese National Judicial Examination last year! These are location-specific opportunities that your Sydney peers could never dream of!

It is also an excellent time to aim for work-from-home internships and part-time jobs, and have these experiences reflected in your CV to demonstrate your resilience and resourcefulness in taking on challenges against all odds. It doesn't matter if your experience is outside of NSW. Yes, we know you keep hearing this from company HRs and recruiters, but it's true - you just need the transferable skills, and effectively communicate them on your CV and cover letter. You can find the CV and cover letter examples in the Career section to help you with your writing.

Career

Clerkship

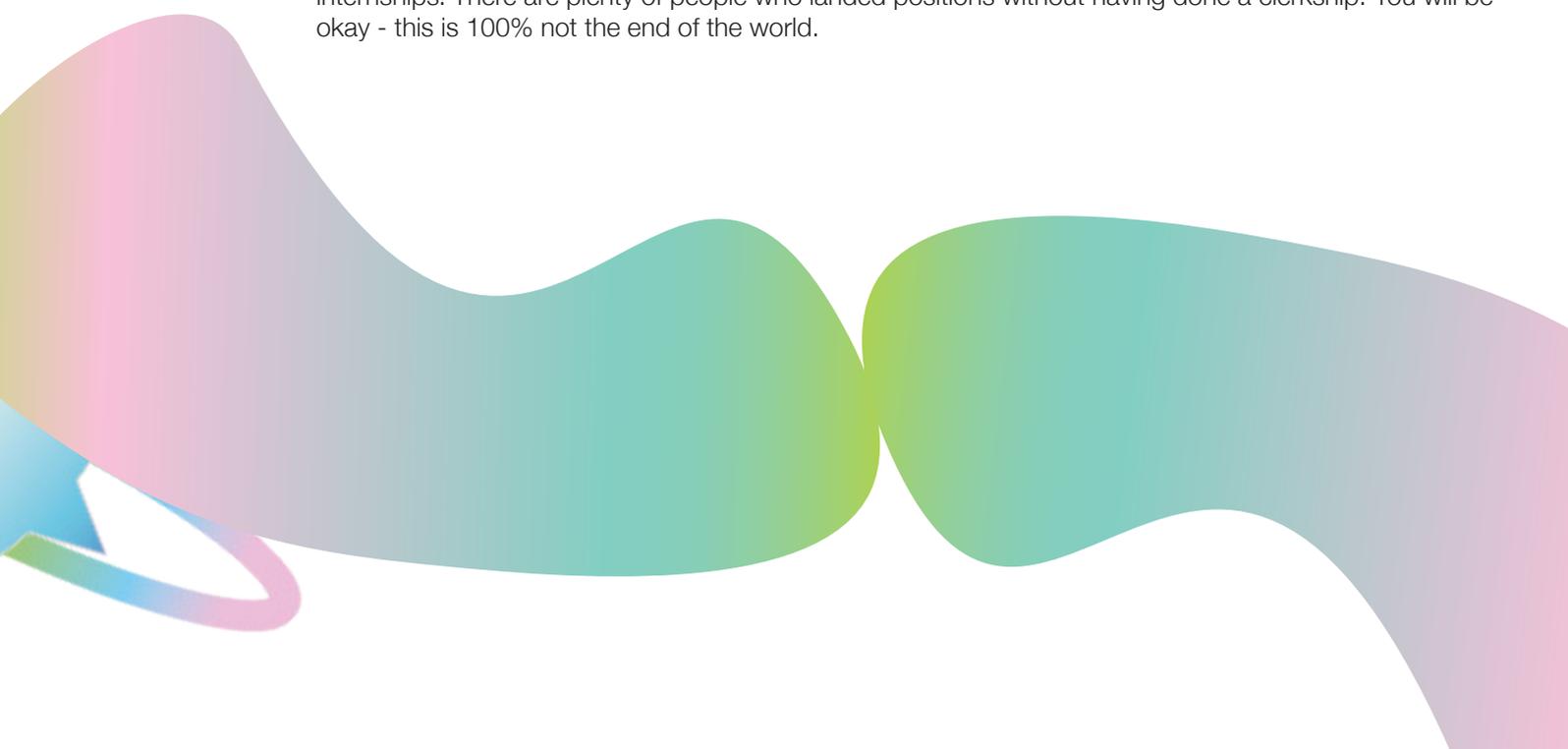
In New South Wales, most mid and top tier law firms offer clerkship programs that typically run during the summer between late November and February of next year (some firms offer other seasonal placements). There may be interstate and overseas opportunities, so you would benefit from being open to branch out of Sydney, NSW. Make sure to go to the firm's dedicated clerkship information page on their website to find out more information.

As international students, we come across certain employment barriers when looking for a summer clerkship position. Do not be discouraged. Streamline your application process and apply to the firms that do hire international students, and do your homework to make sure they are firms you actually want to clerk at. Be sure to use your unique experience and diversity as an international student to your advantage in your cover letter.

Application Process:

- Most firms require your CV and a cover letter
- Some firms have additional questions to be answered on their application
- Some firms require psychometric testing
- Most firms have two rounds of interviews [students whose applications are chosen to proceed to the interview stage]
- If you are invited to a second interview, typically you will receive an invitation to a Cocktail Evening with the firm. This is still part of the application process. You are expected to mingle and make a lasting impression.
- Shortly after the cocktail evening, offers will be made.

Tips for applying:

- Start preparing your resume and cover letters before applications are opened.
 - Ask your peers/ mentors who landed clerkships and/or graduate roles to review your resume and cover letter
 - Make sure you tailor your cover letters to the firm. Be very specific and make sure they know why you want to clerk for the firm. Be genuine!
 - If you do not receive an offer for a clerkship, do not worry. Keep an eye out for other options and internships! There are plenty of people who landed positions without having done a clerkship. You will be okay - this is 100% not the end of the world.
- 

Firms that do consider international student applicants

Firms	Summer / Winter Clerkship	Graduate Program	Paralegal	Past statistics	Notes
Allens-Linklaters	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Students must have the right to work full-time in Australia during the clerkship and graduate programs.
Allen & Overy	Yes	All graduate positions offered to summer clerks	Yes	The firm has hired 2 in recent years – 1 clerk in 2019/20 and 1 clerk in 2020/21	Students must be approved to work in Australia and demonstrate commitment to starting a legal career in Australia.
Baker McKenzie	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 Summer Clerkship position has been offered to an international student visa holder among 16 summer clerks.	Students need to obtain the relevant visa to allow them full working rights during the graduation program.
Herbert Smith Freehills	Yes	Yes		Students must have unrestricted legal working rights in Australia when commencing clerkship.	
King Wood Mallesons	Yes	Yes		Must be approved to work in Australia with the correct visa. KWM does not provide any sponsorship at the clerk or graduate level.	
MinterEllison	Yes	Yes	Yes	1-2 Summer Clerkship and Graduate position has been offered to an international student visa holder	We accept international students who are approved to work in Australia and have the necessary visa.

White & Case	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A
Bird & Bird	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 Summer Clerkship position has been offered to an international student visa holder who is now a paralegal with the firm.	Applicants must notify the firm of their work rights and their visa does not impact the role - for example, if the visa is coming to an end with no possibility of either extension or to transfer to a different visa.
Ashurst	No	No	No	N/A	Students will need to have at least Australian Permanent Residency at the time of application.
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	The firm do consider all applications equally. If visa sponsorship is required then this would need to be taken into consideration.
Johnson Winter & Slattery	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Gilbert + Tobin	No	No	Yes	N/A	Students can register their interest for a paralegal role anytime via www.gtlaw.com.au/careers/students .
Piper Alderman	Instead of having a traditional clerkship program, Piper Alderman does a yearly intake of law clerks (2 days per week and then stay with the firm until graduation).				

Firms that do NOT consider international student applicants

Firms	Summer Clerkship	Graduate Program	Notes
Ashurst	No	No	Students will need to have at least Australian Permanent Residency at the time of application.
Gilbert + Tobin	No	No	Preferences are given to students who are either Australian citizens or Permanent Residents.
Jones Day	No	No	Do not actively recruit international students.
HWL Ebsworth	No	No	Won't be considering international student applications for 2021 clerkship and/ or graduate program.
Sparke Helmore	N/A	No	Do not consider international students due to security clearances and the issues that arise out of it.

Firms below are some you may approach individually for their latest hiring policies:

Colin Biggeres & Paisley, Dentons, PwC Legal, K&L Gates, DLA Piper, Squire Patton Boggs, Wotton + Kearney and Mills Oakley. Clayton Utz requested to be left out of this guide as they are still considering their clerkship approach for this year.

Together we make a mark

Was the prospect of overseas opportunities an important factor for you when applying to White & Case?

The prospect of overseas opportunities offered at White & Case, including during its graduate program, was an exciting proposition that played an important factor in my decision to apply for the Firm. The opportunity to go overseas is rarely offered to graduates and junior lawyers, and the Firm's commitment to invest in their development through opportunities like these had, in my view, distinctly set the Firm apart from its competitors. To highlight this, most of my 2018 graduate cohort at White & Case chose to undertake an overseas rotation as a part of our graduate program. I was fortunate enough to have spent my second rotation in our Tokyo office as a part of the Project Finance team.

What was most exciting about your work when overseas? How was it different from what you had previously worked on?

The profile, scale and complexity of the international financing transactions that I worked on in Tokyo were particularly

exciting, and often involved working with parties, legal counsel and Firm colleagues spanning several jurisdictions. I found that most of the work I was involved with in Tokyo were outbound transactions where we would advise Japanese clients on their investments or financings into companies or projects based outside of Japan. This provided a unique opportunity to learn more about the different market practices across regions and industries.

What was unexpected about the office, work culture or projects in your overseas office?

I found that as English was widely spoken within the Tokyo office, it was instead adapting to the Japanese business culture and etiquette that was most challenging. I quickly found myself learning to follow a certain protocol for the exchange of business cards (*meishi*), learning how to bow in a business context, and learning to appropriately introduce or address Japanese names in communications.

Apart from work, what did you most enjoy about living abroad?

Outside of work, I quite enjoyed exploring Tokyo as well as travelling around the country, including driving to the Fuji Five Lakes and catching the famous bullet



Kevin Chen
Associate, Sydney

trains to cities such as Kyoto and Osaka. Living abroad in Tokyo also gave me the opportunity to learn more about the Japanese culture and history, as well as to learn and practice a new language.

How do you think that the overseas seat will benefit your career?

Working overseas provided me with the opportunity to expand my network, as I met clients and colleagues within our Tokyo office with whom I hope to work in the future. It also provided me with a valuable perspective into Japanese culture, attitudes and way of conducting business which will be useful to keep in mind when liaising with Japanese clients in the future.

45

offices across
31 countries

87

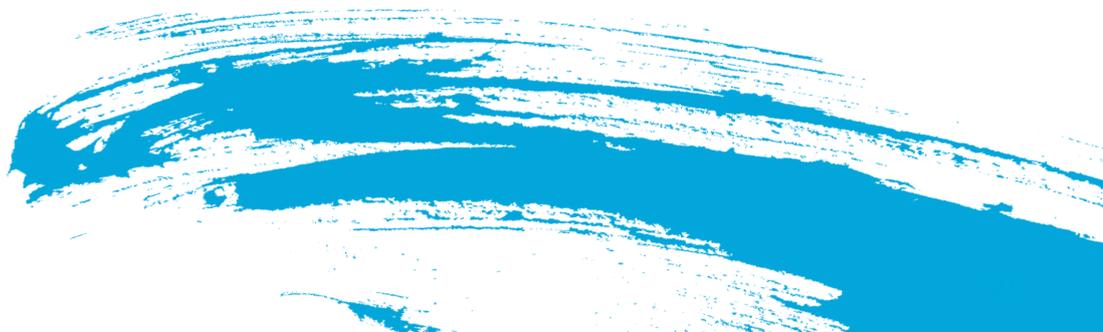
languages spoken
across the firm

110

nationalities
represented across
the firm

Tier 1

by *The Legal 500* for
Project Development
and Project Finance



Tips from your peers

**Victoria
Schucht
JD III**

Given the general difficulty of securing a clerkship and having experienced the burden of visa restrictions, I was naturally apprehensive about the clerkship application process. In the end, it served me well because I researched and prepared myself early on and was able to secure a clerkship at Bird & Bird's Sydney office.

While it is no secret that fewer opportunities are available to international students, here are a few tips for securing a clerkship position:

- Research which firms accept international students by checking their website and contacting their HR.
- Be organised and prepare ahead of the application deadline.



For example, I wrote my cover letter a few months before applying so that I would have time to get some feedback from friends. I also contacted referees ahead of time and had reference letters ready to be sent alongside my applications.

Be proactive by attending events, discussing with firms' representatives, and getting to know which area of commercial law you are interested in. By doing this you will be able to add specific elements to your application that will differentiate you from students who stick to generic information displayed on firms' websites.

Finally, I was very lucky to have found great mentors in my second year of law school who were incredibly helpful by motivating me, proof-reading my letters, or preparing for interviews. Don't be afraid to reach out to people because very often, they will have been in the same situation as you and will be happy to help.

**Mri
Shankarla
LLB V**

I'm Mri, a final year international student from Singapore and I recently completed my clerkship at a firm I really enjoyed being a part of, DLA Piper. Applying for clerkships can be especially challenging for international students because of the limited opportunities available for candidates who don't satisfy the PR or Citizen requirement. So, my preliminary tip is to go beyond a firm's website and to email or talk to HR representatives at career events regarding their current hiring policy with respect to international student



Application Tips

For clerkship applications, my main tips are to:

1. research extensively to determine the distinguishable characteristics of a firm and the firms that are the best fit for you. This will help to tailor your cover letter to firms and streamline the firms to which you want to apply.
2. have someone else review your resume and cover letter. I found the mentoring programmes run by SULLS really helpful where some senior students had generously offered to review resumes and cover letters.
3. highlight your unique strengths as an international student such as the knowledge of multiple languages and overseas work or volunteering experience.
4. try not to be demoralised when facing unfavourable outcomes as there will be many other amazing opportunities out there for you.

Interview Tips

When preparing for interviews, my key tips are to review the application you submitted to the firm, comprehensively research the firm, use examples from your life to answer situational questions, practice answering a few questions to increase your confidence and maintain a conversational yet professional tone without sounding over-rehearsed. Lastly, don't forget to test your technology ahead if you are attending a virtual interview, to avoid any technical malfunction

Pre-Penultimate Programs

Dive-in Program

This dive-in program intends to give second to third-year undergraduate law students and first-year JD law students an insight of what it is like to work at a top-tier commercial law firm like Allens.

The application usually opens around March and closes in late April. It is a great opportunity for students where you will meet Allens' partners and lawyers, learn about the work that they do and their career model, get practical experience of what Allens' clients want, and hear tips on Allens' clerkships and life as a graduate at Allens.

Upon the completion of the program, you will also be invited back to Allens in your penultimate year to hear about Allens' clerkship application process where you will hear tips and tricks to aid you through the process.

Insight Program

This insight program is designed to offer pre-penultimate students an insight into KWM's day-to-day operations and a chance to network with their partners and lawyers. The program is usually spread across a few months, the following is an overview of the program based on 2021's insight program:

- **September** - The Business of Law - where it gives you an insight about life at a commercial law firm
- **October** - KWM in Practice - 'speed dating' style networking event where students have an opportunity to chat with KWM's leading market experts
- **November** - LegalTech - a glimpse of the role that innovation and legal tech plays in the current legal field and what it holds for the future
- **March/ April of the following year** - Alumni Session - providing Insight Program participants exclusive insights into the clerkship applications



Evangelina Cheung LLB/BCom IV



Hi, my name is Evangelina Cheung. I participated in the Allens Dive-In Program in 2021, and I am currently completing the King & Wood Mallesons Insight Program.

Application Process

The application process for both programs are similar. It involves submitting a resume, academic transcript and short answers to questions. In my year, approximately 40 students were selected from New South Wales to participate in each of the programs.

Tips for Application Process

I found it important to have a clear understanding of why you want to pursue commercial law and what differentiates Allens and King & Wood Mallesons from other law firms when answering the questions.

Experience

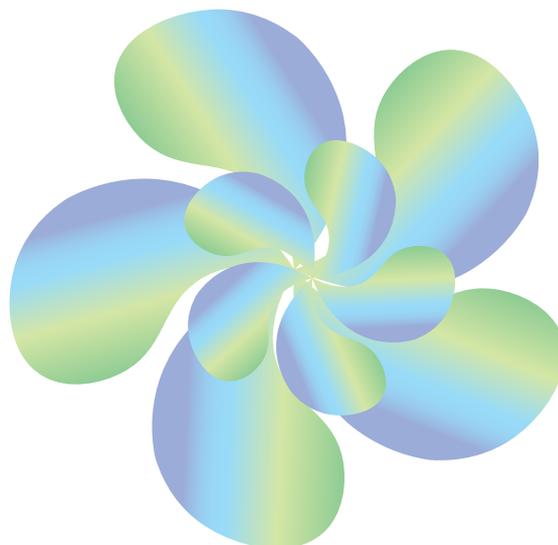
Allens

My favourite part of this program was the client interviewing activity that took place on the third day. Students were separated into groups where we got to prepare a simulated client interviewing process based on a real-life scenario. It gave us a glimpse of what the preparation looks like prior to a client interview, particularly the importance of background researching and spotting minor details. The instant feedback and advice that we received from the senior associate were particularly insightful.

King & Wood Mallesons

I am still in the process of completing the program; however, as of now, my favourite part of the program was KWM in Practice where I had the opportunity to speak to leading experts in M&A, Dispute Resolution, Banking & Finance, Projects & Real Estate and Tax. It gave me a unique insight into the breadth of work and career opportunities, such as international secondments, that are available to each practice group. It helped me to navigate which area of commercial law that I am interested in pursuing in the future.

Overall, I would highly recommend any pre-penultimate students to apply to both programs if you want to get a taste of life in a top-tier Australian commercial law firm.



Virtual Internship

Virtual Internship is an alternative way to get practical skills and experience from law firms. The Internship is free of charge and usually takes 5-6 hours to complete 3-4 tasks. Some programs might be slightly longer. The programme is entirely self-paced.

You are able to find them on Forage: <https://www.theforage.com/>

If you have participated in one of the virtual internships, make sure you comply with the Referencing Policy when including the experience on your CV and LinkedIn. You can include the experience under “Extracurricular Activities” or “Certification” or “Achievement”, but not under “Work Experience”/“Employment” on your CV. Furthermore, Forage suggests the following wording when referring to the experience.

Extracurricular Activities
[Insert Company Name]
Virtual Experience Program Participant
[Year of Completion] - [Insert Approximate hours]
Participated in the open access [Insert Company Name]
Virtual Experience Program with Forage.

If you want to include the experience on LinkedIn, you can put it in “Licenses & Certifications” and refer to yourself as a “Virtual Experience Program Participant”.

For more information, feel free to visit

<https://insidesherpa.s3.amazonaws.com/vinternships/companyassets/RGekxZXJpbZtJrQnH/LioLuvXGdTjRPDZIP/>

With that said, a Virtual Internship is still beneficial to students, as

1. You can develop deep insights into the work of particular law firms
2. Most virtual internships enable you to sample the work of solicitors of the law firms
3. You will be able to include the experience on CV and LinkedIn profile
4. The experience shows that you are ambitious, hardworking and have developed valuable practical skills.
5. Most virtual internships do not have a deadline. You can complete the tasks at your own pace in your busy schedule
6. You can build confidence and practical skills by completing the tasks

List of international law firms who are providing virtual internship on Forage:

- Ashurst
- Arnold Bloch Leibler
- Baker Mckenzie
- Clifford Chance
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Hogan Lovells
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Latham & Watins
- Linklaters
- Matheson
- Minter Ellison
- Pinsent Masons
- Slaughter and May
- RPC

International Employment

Hong Kong

Each year, many international law students from Australian universities decide to start their careers in Hong Kong. Why does Hong Kong appeal to these young and ambitious future lawyers? How are they going to pursue it? What are the most popular international law firms in Hong Kong?

With its geo-political advantages, rich client pool, and its long standing history in practising common law, Hong Kong is often chosen as the Asian headquarter by many well-known international law firms. Although the recent political unrest seemed to have cast shadows on Hong Kong, the impact is slowly being offset by the newly forged Greater Bay Area Initiative. The Greater Bay Area plan focuses on strengthening the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau tri-regional corporation in infrastructure, technological innovation, and commercial opportunities. This directly boosts the Hong Kong legal industry that provides key support to the region's trade and finance.

In the meantime, Hong Kong is witnessing an increasing number of Chinese firms as the city emerges as the new centre of international arbitration and litigation. Under such circumstances, Hong Kong law firms welcome law students educated under a common law system.

Pathway

Candidates will have to demonstrate competence in the following 11 core units:

- Contract
- Tort
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Land Law
- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence
- Business Associates
- Commercial Law

If candidates have not completed Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law in Hong Kong, they will also need to pass the Hong Kong Conversion Examination before enrolling in the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) Admission.

For law graduates in Hong Kong, there are two different pathways - becoming a barrister or a solicitor.

PCLL is currently offered by the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the City University of Hong Kong.

Deadlines for applying to PCLL

University of Hong Kong

The application deadline is 12:00 noon (Hong Kong time) on 30 April 2022 (for admission in September 2022).

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Applications for 2022-2023 admissions are now invited. The application deadline is 30 April 2022.

City University of Hong Kong

Applications for admission to the PCLL programme in 2022/2023 are accepted beginning from 16 November 2021. The application deadline is 30 April 2022.

For law graduates in Hong Kong, there are two different pathways - becoming a barrister or a solicitor.

Barristers

Mini Pupillage

A short work experience placement that students undertake by shadowing a barrister. It is usually around 2-week long. Typically, mini-pupils can help prepare research memos, draft legal documents, and attend client conferences with a possible

option to attend hearings in court. Applicants will usually be required to include your curriculum vitae and your transcript to the Mini Pupillage Committee at a respective chamber.

Pupillage

All persons who want to practise as a barrister in Hong Kong are required to complete pupillage with another practising barrister with no less than 5 years standing. The length of pupillage can vary, but it is usually one year. Aspiring barristers are required to have completed at least 6 months of approved pupillage before seeking admission. To practise, they must undertake a pupillage for a further six months. During this time, aspiring barristers have a limited right to practise under the supervision of their pupil masters. Usually, aspiring barristers undertake pupillage after obtaining PCLL.

Prominent barrister chambers

- Temple Chambers
- Des Voeux Chambers
- Parkside Chambers

Solicitors

Vacation Scheme

Prominent law firms in Hong Kong typically offer a 4-week vacation scheme for penultimate and final year law students during winter/summer. It is usually designed to give students an intensive experience with each firm's culture and work. At the end of a vacation scheme, vacationers might be offered a 2-year training contract.

Training Contract

Training contract is usually around 2 years where trainee solicitors rotate four seats in different practices and divisions. Traineeship usually commences upon the completion of a PCLL. Some law firms offer a stipend during trainee solicitors' 1-year PCLL studies.

Mayer Brown - A full service US law firm known for its asset finance, insurance, construction, labour and employment, and real estate practice.

Deacons - An international law firm headquartered in Hong Kong. It offers full service for all major practice areas. Some known clients include McDonald's Corp, Samsung and Yahoo Inc!

Howse Williams - An independent Hong Kong law firm. Its partners have spent the majority of their careers in Hong Kong. They have an in-depth insight of business in Asian regions and around the globe.

After successfully completing PCLL as well as 2 years of employment as a trainee solicitor/or a 12-month pupillage, candidates will be eligible to practice as a solicitor/ barrister in Hong Kong.

Foreign Registered Lawyers

Foreign lawyers must register with the Law Society in Hong Kong as registered foreign lawyers. A registered foreign lawyer cannot practise Hong Kong law. Their area of practice is limited to the law of the jurisdiction in which they are qualified. Hong Kong law firms can employ registered foreign lawyers as employees but not as partners.

Singapore

Before working in Singapore, it's better to know some basics about the Singaporean common law system. Islamic law governs Muslims in personal matters. Shari'ah Courts adjudicate matters relating to marriage, divorce, division or disposition of matrimonial property.

The Singapore legal profession is fused. An admitted advocate and solicitor can appear in any court in the country. Advocates and solicitors are regulated under the Legal Profession Act (LPA).

There are no express rules permitting temporary practice by foreign lawyers. However, foreign arbitrators and mediators have the flexibility to enter Singapore and render arbitration and mediation services without having to apply for a work pass with the Ministry of Manpower or a licence with the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Pathway

A foreign lawyer can obtain a full licence to practise law in Singapore and will be subject to the same requirements as a local applicant. Rules governing admission to the legal profession in Singapore may be found in Part 2, Division 2 of the LPA, Chapter 161; Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules, Chapter 161, Rule 15.

Rules governing foreign legal consultants may be found in Part IXA of the LPA, Chapter 161; Legal Profession (International Services) Rules 2008 (LPIS Rules 2008).

To qualify as a foreign legal consultant pursuant to section 130K of the LPA and Rule 18 of the LPIS Rules 2008, a foreign lawyer must:

- Be admitted to practice law in a foreign jurisdiction.
- Be employed by any foreign law practice located in Singapore, or any Singapore law practice.
- Practise foreign and international law exclusively in the law practice in which one is registered.
- Maintain the benefit of an insurance policy. A foreign lawyer may be employed by a local practice.

To seek admission to practise law in Singapore, a foreign lawyer must be a 'qualified person' as defined under the LPA and the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules.

If foreign lawyers have two or more years of relevant practice experience, they may seek admission to practise law in Singapore by sitting for and passing Parts A and B of the Singapore Bar examination.

If foreign lawyers do not have two or more years of practice experience, they must:

- Be citizens or permanent residents of Singapore (or have obtained an exemption).
- Attained at least lower second class honours or the equivalent or have a Bachelor of Laws degree conferred by an institution specified in the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules.
- Sit for and pass Parts A and B of the Singapore Bar examination.
- Serve a 12-month training contract before they qualify to be admitted as advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Foreign lawyers may seek exemptions from one or more of these requirements, and such exemption applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis on the merits of each application.

Under an amendment to the Legal Profession Act that came into force in May 2011, foreign lawyers may apply to the Attorney-General to practise certain areas of Singapore law under a new Foreign Practitioner Certificate. To qualify, foreign lawyers must satisfy a number of requirements. For example, foreign lawyers are required to pass the Foreign Practitioner Examinations, to have been engaged in relevant legal work for at least three years, and to meet the character requirements.

There are no citizenship restrictions on foreign legal consultants.



Law firms in Singapore

Here's a brief list of leading top-tier law firms in Singapore as of 2021:

- **Allen & Gledhill:** Services include banking & finance, construction & engineering, investment funds, M&A and litigation. Notable clients include Karen Wilson, Zul Ahadi, Chua Lee, Hong Soon Quek and Edward K.
- **Rajah & Tann:** Services include banking, corporate finance, shipping, insolvency and M&A. Notable clients include Zafri Zackery, Sarmila Ariff and David Hillary.
- **WongPartnership:** Services include corporate & financial services, intellectual property, litigation & dispute resolution, construction and regulatory. Notable clients include Candy Ong, Kerry Sanders and Jason Chin.
- **Drew & Napier:** Services include corporate/M&A, defamation, corporate litigation, blockchain & digital assets, asset recovery. Notable clients include Jensen Tan, Kerry Sanders, Phirum OL and Sweetu Ghirish.
- **WMH Law Corporations:** Services include litigation & arbitration, matrimonial & private wealth, commercial disputes, construction disputes and criminal law. The firm's clients consist of individuals and corporations, including foreign listed companies with annual turnover of approximately USD\$1 billion, as well as local companies listed on the SGX.

China

Pathway

To be qualified as a lawyer in China, candidates are required to pass the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination. Only persons with PRC nationality can sit the said exam.

Prominent Law Firms in China

- **Yingke Law Firm:** A full service global law firm. It is the largest direct-invested law firm in Asia Pacific with strong focus in banking and finance, energy, technology and innovation, healthcare and life sciences.
- **Zhong Lun Law Firm:** One of the top eight Chinese law firms with eight overseas offices. These offices are located in Hong Kong, London, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Main practice areas include real estate, capital markets/securities and private equity & investment funds.
- **Allbrightlaw:** The seventh largest law firm. Main areas of practice include corporate and commercial, securities and capital markets, banking and finance, and real estate.

Canada

Pathway

For foreign-trained lawyers, candidates are required to sit an exam organised by the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA). The exam mainly covers five areas of law - Foundations of Canadian Professional Responsibility, Canadian Law, Canadian Constitutional Law, Canadian Criminal Law and Canadian Administrative Law.

The link below provides a schedule of 2022 NCA Exam: <https://nca.legal/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NCA-Sched-Ver-4C-Rev.-Dec-2021.pdf>

After passing the NCA exam, candidates are required to undertake their respective provincial Bar Admissions Course and partake in articles lasting 9-12 months.

After completing the Bar Admissions Course and completing articling, candidates are required to take and pass the provincial Bar Examination. Once such exam is passed, foreign-trained lawyers will be eligible for admission.

Top Law Firms in Canada

- **Borden Ladner Gervais LLP:** A fully bilingual law firm across all practice areas and sectors. It provides a variety of services to national and multinational corporations.
- **Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP:** It provides a full range of legal services, including its prominent litigation and intellectual property practice.
- **Norton Rose Fulbright LLP:** A global law firm that offers legal services in areas like employment and labour, intellectual property, commercial law and litigation.

PART-TIME JOBS

We understand this is a hot topic on your mind. From our experience, this is where you get to meet the best (and sometimes worst) members of the legal profession.

Currently, the Department of Home Affairs has temporarily relaxed student visa work limits to all sectors. This means that international students can work before their course commences and work more than 40 hours a fortnight in any sector. This is due to be reviewed in April 2022. Please regularly check the Department of Home Affairs website for any updates.

Some interesting forums you might find helpful to understand the legal profession in Australia:

- Reddit Aus Law: <https://www.reddit.com/r/auslaw/>
- Reddit Aus Legal: <https://www.reddit.com/r/AusLegal/>
- Lawyers Weekly: <https://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/>

The type of work commonly involves document review, drafting, case law research, and other administrative tasks. For the most part, your job would be to assist someone, so the area of law you work in will be closely related to that person's expertise. A paralegal job typically gives students a good glimpse on how a firm/organisation operates.

Application

It is also helpful to adjust expectations. In your early years as a law student, your employer understands that you are still learning the basics. So during a job interview, they may ask you about your academic interests, your general career plans, and situational questions based on common sense. As you progress in your degree, you'll see more interview questions probing about your knowledge in your employer's practice areas, as well as questions about your experience studying a particular subject.

These paralegal positions are commonly advertised as PLT (practice legal training)/law clerk/paralegal/legal assistant. Have a look around:

- Indeed: <https://au.indeed.com/>
- Seek: <https://www.seek.com.au/>
- LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/>
- College of Law: <https://jobs.collaw.com/>
- Glassdoor: <https://www.glassdoor.com.au/>
- Legal Vitae: <https://legalvitae.com.au/>
- CareerHub: <https://careerhub.sydney.edu.au/>
- SULLS Job Board: <https://www.sulls.org.au/jobs-board>

Resume Exemplar

In Australia, the convention is to have a 2-page resume. A typical resume should include your education, your work experience (in reverse chronological order), personal skills, and any awards or accolades that you have received. Candidates are also encouraged to include the number of hours that they work every week. This helps show recruiters and HR that you can juggle not only your university studies but also a part-time job. It is also important to quantify your achievement at work rather than merely narrating your job duties.

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
CONTACT NUMBER | EMAIL | LINKEDIN URL

EDUCATION

University of Sydney **Sydney, Australia**
Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) – Dalyell Scholar Expected MONTH YEAR
• WAM: XX.XX

WORK EXPERIENCE

[NAME OF FIRM] **Sydney, Australia**
Paralegal, Office of General Counsel (15-20 hours per week) MONTH DATE – MONTH DATE
• Provided efficient assistance to the [NAME OF FIRM] legal team by researching and drafting advice for the operating rules of the [NAME OF FIRM] Group, Corporations Act, and trade practices law using Practical Law, LexisNexis and Westlaw
• Diligently drafted and reviewed standard form agreements, e.g., confidentiality agreements
• Collaborated with legal counsels and listings compliance to accurately manage the process for amending the operating rules of [NAME OF FIRM] markets, clearing and settlement facilities
• Meticulously coordinated 40 requests for information, witness statements, affidavits, subpoenas, notices to produce and regular notices and requests every month

[NAME OF FIRM] **Sydney, Australia**
Welfare Assistant, Social Welfare Department (Summer Contract Role) MONTH DATE – MONTH DATE
• Planned and promoted activities and projects with a child psychologist and social workers regarding early childhood intervention for low-income families in [COUNTRY]
• Prepared reports to be submitted to [COUNTRY] and the Social Welfare Department by analysing participation rate, clients' demographics, and quarterly survey results from clients
• Assisted with translating after-school activities brochures from Chinese to English for ethnic minorities

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

King & Wood Mallesons **Sydney, Australia**
Insight Program Participant MONTH DATE – MONTH DATE
• 1 of 40 law students selected from New South Wales to take part in the program which provided me with a glimpse into life at King & Wood Mallesons where we participated in modules, such as The Business of Law, KWM in Practice, LegalTech, and Alumni session

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

[NAME OF LEGAL CENTRE] **Sydney, Australia**
Legal Administrative Assistant MONTH DATE – MONTH DATE
• Drafted and proofread correspondence and legal documents for solicitors and intake officers
• Undertook phone calls from clients seeking legal advice in relation to Centrelink payments and scheduled appointments based on solicitors' availability and matters urgency

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Languages: Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin and English
Technical Skills: iManage, JIRA, Carpe Diem, Practical Law, LexisNexis, Westlaw, Microsoft Suites, LoanIQ, Actionstep, Leap, and Enterprise Content Management (ECM)

Cover Letter Exemplar

In Australia, the convention is to have a 1-page cover letter. You might be eager to share with prospective employers about your experiences and skills, but it is better to keep the cover letter succinct so that the reading process does not get too overwhelming for recruiters. The attached template should serve as a basic guide. You can decide to add on or remove as much as you wish to, as long as you are able to express yourself in the best way possible. A key tip to writing a good cover letter is to look out for the required skills in the job description and match those with your existing experiences. You want to show the recruiters how your experiences are relevant and useful to the role. You can use sub-headings to highlight your skills and experiences, it is one way to make your overall cover letter easier to follow. Remember, show not tell, be concise and critical

Example Cover Letter 1

[Your name]
[Your address]
[Your contact number and/or email]

[Name of contact person]
[Position]
[Organisation name]
[Address]

[Date]

Dear [Mr/Ms last name of contact person],

RE: Application for [Organisation] Summer Clerkship Program

I write to express my interest in [Organisation Name's] [Location] [Summer / Winter] Clerkship Program. I am a penultimate year student undertaking a Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Laws at the University of Sydney, having just completed my undergraduate degree in [Major]. I have a strong distinction average, which I achieved whilst actively participating in extracurriculars, including being elected by my peers to the role of 2020 [Position] of [Student Society/Leadership Organisation], and working part-time.

I am drawn to [Organisation Name] for your expertise in [practice group], as illustrated by [recent deal / project by firm], and would love to be on the forefront of such innovation. My interest in commercial litigation and [practice group] was developed through my two year stint as a paralegal at a boutique commercial law firm, and further reflected in my attainment of a High Distinction in Contracts and Introduction to Property and Commercial Law.

I believe my achievements and experiences demonstrate the [specific characteristics] [Organisation Name] seeks in its lawyers. At my internship with [relevant Organisation], I assisted with various customer service requests in a fast-paced, high-performing environment. This stint has strengthened my ability to engage effectively with clients from all walks of life, enhancing my verbal communication and professionalism. My commitment to excellence in client service can be further demonstrated through my proven abilities to meet sales targets under tight deadlines, enabling my attainment of [relevant award / target / goal]. In my capacity as [Student Leadership Role], I am responsible for overseeing the [role] Subcommittee, facilitating [role responsibilities/activities], and inaugurating the [important initiative/publication]. This role also sees me working collaboratively with the rest of the [leadership board/student society executive] to make important decisions for the society, providing me with strong leadership and teamwork skills.

My personal values and interests suggest I would be an ideal cultural fit for [Organisation]. I actively participate in volunteer work at the [Volunteer Organisation] and would be keen to contribute to [Organisation's] pro bono program. I share the social culture of [Organisation] as reflected through my active participation in various sports, as well as my membership of the 2019 [Role] subcommittees. My drive for success and commitment to excellence is evidenced by having spent the 2020 winter break preparing for, and ultimately winning, the [Moot Competition]. My extensive extra-curricular involvements have afforded me excellent organisational skills, and the ability to meet tight deadlines under pressure.

I believe that my [skills] would be valuable to [Organisation], and I welcome the opportunity to discuss my potential to be a valued member of the [Organisation] team. I may be contacted either via my mobile on [number] or via email at [email].

Yours sincerely,
[Your name]

Evangelina Cheung - LLB/BCom IV

My name is Evangelina, and I am a fourth-year Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce student. I am currently working as a paralegal at an international law firm.

Tips for First Year LLB and JD Students

It might be difficult for most people to land a paralegal job in their first year as your work experience in high school or undergraduate might be limited to tutoring, retail or hospitality jobs. You can try to land a job as an administrative assistant or alike where the skills are more transferable to a paralegal/ law clerk job. I was a welfare assistant for 6 months before landing my first paralegal gig at a boutique insurance law firm in the second semester of my first year.

It will also be helpful to apply to volunteer roles at legal centres where it can help build a narrative that you are interested in pursuing a career in law while giving you a glimpse of what law is like outside of university.

I will recommend students to use CareerHub and SULLS Job Board when looking for their first paralegal job as the job advertisements on both websites are usually looking for students to fill the roles rather than working professionals.

Tips for Second and Third Year LLB and JD Students

More paralegal opportunities open up to second and third year law students as you gain a deeper understanding in law. Do not limit yourself to boutique law firms and broaden your searches - be proactive - cold emailing, turning on "open to work" function on LinkedIn, and networking. Make sure that you have a professional-looking LinkedIn and a resume that is always ready to go. I had received job offers from prominent law firms and corporations through cold emailing and being approached by recruiters on LinkedIn.

General Tips for International Students

It is important to know about your work rights before you commence your part-time job. Some employers may exploit international students as many are unfamiliar with their legal entitlements in Australia. You should receive a contract that details your entitlements before you start your job. Please double check your wages and superannuation to ensure that it meets the award wages. You should also be paid even if you are on probation.



Jasper Le - LLB/BArts II

Introduction

I'm a second-year Law and Arts student. I'm currently a legal clerk at a boutique criminal law firm based in Sydney. My experience with part-time jobs in Australia is not that much different to the majority of university students. It is tough in the beginning but once you've got the gist of it, you start to enjoy and learn a lot more from your journey.

Early on

At first I wasn't sure about pursuing a career in the legal field so I worked at different places here and there during my first year. It wasn't until the end of my first year that I was hooked on a prospective career in law. I then started applying at several places. Cold-emailing, LinkedIn messages and Zoom calls you name it.

Personal tips

Tips from Your Peers

My advice would be not to get too sad when your application doesn't go through, people rarely succeed in their first attempt so you're not alone. It's important to learn from your rejections, to reflect upon what you could have done better for future applications.

You should always send a catch-up email every 2-3 months to show the people who rejected you know that you are still interested in working for them. From personal experience, I've got most of my interviews, 1-on-1 coffee chats and offers from catching-up emails. If you've been doing well at university, winning competitions or working at a new place, let them know and they will really appreciate it. If appropriate, you should always include your most recent resume and cover letter in the email.

You might not get the job in your first attempt, but it's important to learn from your mistakes and improve the second time around. There's always an opportunity waiting for you out there, you just need to persevere and have a positive attitude. If you knock on 100 doors, you only need one to open to change your future.

Rights at Work

PLT (Practical Legal Training)

We want you to put your rights and safety front and centre of your mind. To put simply the advice we received from Sean Stimson (International Student Solicitor, Redfern Legal Centre): should your work days count towards your PLT days, your employer is not legally required to pay you because your PLT is considered to be part of your vocational training.

This means, in an unpaid PLT situation, if you've accumulated the number of days required for PLT and your employer is still showing no intention in paying you - it is a good time to gently poke them and chat about salary. If you're working as an unpaid paralegal and there has been no mention of PLT, you might want to check with your employer and be clear about expectations up front.

Whether or not you get paid for your work experience will depend on where you work.

Because law firms are aware that PLT is a compulsory part of becoming a lawyer, they normally only offer unpaid positions. You will need to complete at least 15 days work experience in Australia after starting the PLT program and accrued at a minimum rate of 2 days per week. However, a number of firms will provide wages or at least travel and meal allowances to PLT students.

Undertaking 15 weeks of full-time work without being paid can put most people through a considerable financial hardship. In some cases, if you have previous legal experience, it may be possible to get some of it recognised and put towards your PLT requirements. If you think this may be an option, it is well worth investigating.

You may undertake work experience at more than one location, and with more than one supervisor, provided that each placement satisfies the rules relating to the work experience component of practical legal training. Rules concerning work experience vary slightly between each state and territory, however, there is often a minimum number of days that graduates must spend gaining supervised work experience at a place that provides legal services.

There is no time limit as to when a law graduate may commence practical legal training after obtaining their law degree. Graduates who have prior experience working in a law firm, in a community legal centre, with a barrister, or in a court, may apply to have that experience recognised as contributing to their practical legal training, but such experience cannot be used to satisfy the entire placement. You can start your experience up to 2 years before beginning your PLT, during which you can accrue up to 60 days work experience.

Visit the College of Law website for more detailed information: <https://www.collaw.edu.au/learn-with-us/forms-and-documents>

Wages

Please don't be afraid to talk about money with your boss. However unsure or nervous you might be, the value you bring to your firm is a lot more than you think.

A good measurement of how much you should get paid is the Legal Service Award, find out more at: <https://portal.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/872/legal-services-award-ma000116-pay-guide.pdf.aspx>

Superannuation

You should also be aware that you are entitled to have your employer to pay for your Super (Superannuation). Superannuation is money that employers pay eligible workers to provide for their retirement.

Employers are required by law to put a minimum of 10% of your pay into your Super account with your selected fund - there is no excuse for your law firm to not pay for your Super. At the commencement of any employment, you should be asked by your employers to provide details of your Super fund.

The YourSuper comparison tool operated by ATO can help you to compare MySuper products and choose a super fund that meets your needs. Legalsuper, for example, is a MySuper product that is tailored to the legal community.

Taxes

Before commencing any paid work in Australia, you should obtain a tax file number (TFN) which is free and is used to identify an individual for tax and superannuation purposes. You can apply for a TFN on ATO website.

Note there is also tax - we suggest keeping an eye out for free tax seminars organised by our university career centre and student bodies like SRC and SUPRA.

If you have made up your mind in taking up unpaid work - be sure to ask your employer if any allowance is available for your food and daily travel. We are here if you need advice or if you're simply feeling unsure about how you're being treated at work.

Workplace Safety

We've heard all kinds of horror stories about scary bosses - no doubt law is a high-pressure area to work in. However, there is a fine line between 'scary' and 'abusive'. Some common issues we've previously been made aware of include: verbal abuse - being shouted at, distasteful sexist jokes, casual racism, being asked to do excessive overtime, relentless work demands over the weekend, bosses with personal boundary issues, unethical handling of vulnerable clients, aggressive clients with boundary issues, and unsupportive bosses telling staff to 'be resilient' instead of offering any useful mental health support...

Workplace safety is a real issue and no amount of self-care or 'mindful yoga' can rescue us out of a toxic environment that relentlessly beats us down. We recommend doing a thorough background research for any online reviews made by clients and former employees. Sometimes if the employer is notoriously bad, you'll be sure to find their names in lengthy online articles dedicated to explaining to you how bad they are.

It is also good to ask around - chances are someone in your cohort has worked for that lawyer/firm. Please also reach out to your SULS International Student Officer, who will be able to help you ask around, should you wish to remain anonymous.

If you wish to share with SULS your experience with a particular employer, please do not hesitate to contact your International Student Officer directly at: international@suls.org.au

Volunteering

If social justice interests you, you can volunteer at your local community legal centres and other organisations:

Community Legal Centres NSW: <https://www.clcsw.org.au/volunteer>.

Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre: <https://www.eeclc.org.au/contact-us/volunteer>.

Inner City Legal Centre: <https://www.iclc.org.au/volunteering/>.

Immigration Advice and Rights Centre: <https://iarc.org.au/support-our-work/volunteers/>.

Marrickville Legal Centre: <https://www.mlc.org.au/get-involved/>.

Redfern Legal Centre: <https://rlc.org.au/jobs-volunteers>.

South West Sydney Legal Centre: <https://www.swslc.org.au/contact/get-involved/>.

Welfare Rights Centre: <https://welfare-rights-centre.org.au/jobs-and-volunteers>.

Western Sydney Community Legal Centre: <https://www.wsclc.org.au/join-us/>.

Other organisations:

Australian Pro Bono Centre: <https://www.probonocentre.org.au/>.

Environmental Defenders Office: <https://www.edo.org.au/volunteer-with-us-2/>.

Justice Action: <https://www.justiceaction.org.au/contact-us/get-involved>.

Justice Connect: <https://justiceconnect.org.au/work-with-us/volunteer/>.

Legal Aid NSW: <https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/about-us/working-at-legal-aid/practical-legal-training-and-work-placements>.

Public Interest Advocacy Centre: <https://piac.asn.au/about-us/careers/>.

Refugee Advice and Casework Service: <https://www.racs.org.au/work-with-us-volunteer>.

Women's Legal Service: <https://www.wlsnsw.org.au/about-us/volunteer-with-wls-nsw/>.

Unions NSW: <https://www.unionsnsw.org.au/volunteer/>.

Some of them only take applications during their recruitment seasons, but don't hesitate to reach out to them and get yourself on their radar with a well-drafted email and your CV.



Tips from Your Peers

Yichi Zhang - LLB/BCom IV

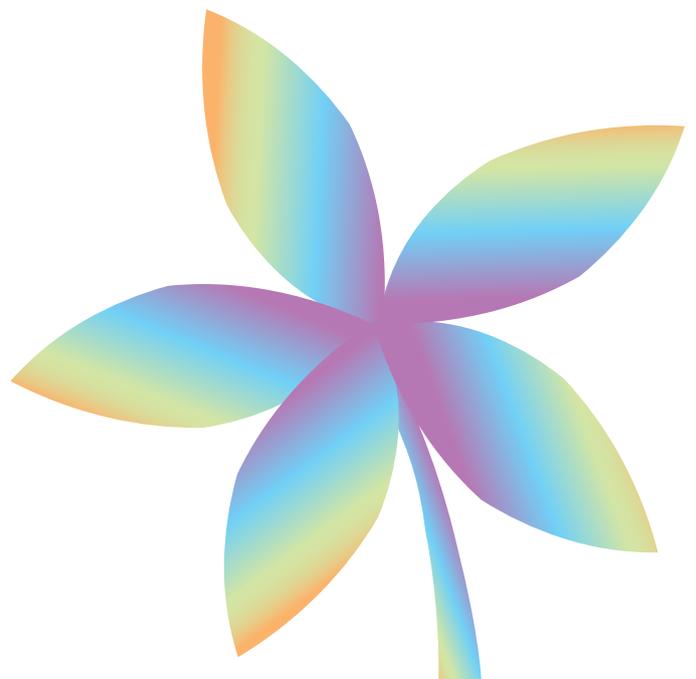
Volunteering at Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) has truly been an eye-opening experience for me... not only is it a way to give back to the community and the less fortunate, but also a platform through which I have met like-minded and motivated individuals.

A Day at MLC

MLC requires volunteers to serve as the first point of contact for potential clients. This involves taking calls for matters such as traffic offences, domestic violence issues and tenancy disputes. We are expected to record the relevant facts regarding the issue and organise them in a clear and concise manner to assist the solicitors in their consultations with the clients. Since MLC is located in Sydney's diverse inner west,

our clients come from a variety of backgrounds. As a result, some clients may not be fully fluent in English, and it is not uncommon for multilingual volunteers to speak in the client's mother tongue to overcome these language barriers.

Although I have been at MLC for almost a year, I still find myself being regularly challenged in new ways with unique issues and new clients constantly reaching out to MLC for assistance. I would highly recommend applying to MLC to all students regardless of what year of study they are currently in, as it is truly an opportunity that will expand one's horizons and forge new connections.



SOCIAL LIFE

Mental Health Management

How do I survive law school? This is the most asked question in this year's International Student Mentoring Program's sign-up sheet. Miriam Chan, an expert on student's mental health issues in the USYD Students Counselling Service, offers her advice on how to deal with mental health issues for international students while juggling with the pressures of law school:

How to thrive as an International Student at Law School

Welcome to Australia and to Sydney Uni Law School! What an exciting journey you're on, full of new opportunities and experiences in a fabulous new country and school. Most students throughout their time at university will face various challenges and pressures, especially during the pandemic.

Law school stressors may include:

- High pressure
- Deadlines
- Competitiveness
- Heavy workload
- Pessimistic and adversarial nature of law
- Managing expectations and fear of disappointing (self, family)

Additional stressors international students face include:

- Adjustment to a new country
- Culture shock
- Isolation and loneliness away from usual supports (family and friends)
- Lack of social connections in Sydney
- Crises back at home
- Managing uncertainty about future- work, Permanent Residency, finances.
- Language barriers (for some) & additional time/energy in completing readings and assessments.
- Border restrictions/quarantine due to COVID-19

How you experience stress is dependent on many factors including the types of stressors, your coping strategies and your support. Healthy boundary setting is important to ensure self-care is a priority. When uni deadlines loom, it's easy to drop everything that's not study related. If we're not careful, it can result in burnout, loneliness, academic failure and mental health illness.

To set some goals in these areas, remember to plant **SEEDS**.

S: Social

Form and maintain social connections. Balance time to connect with family and friends back at home (different time zones does make this more challenging) and step out of your comfort zone to develop new friendships in Australia. Every international student is encouraged to get involved in social activities (check out Sydney Uni's clubs and societies <https://usu.edu.au/clubs-societies/list.aspx> which focus on a range of film, music, art, faith, sports interests) as these help lead to an enriching and holistic university experience.

E: Exercise

Sweat regularly. Get out for a walk, bike ride, play badminton -- whatever you enjoy! Bottom line: Try and get your heart going for at least 30 minutes a day.

E: Education

Learn new things (not just about Law but in other areas also). Take classes and read books. Learning new things will build new connections in the brain and help you to build resilience. This is a great time to learn to swim or meditate, to explore Sydney's cafes or local bushwalks.

D: Diet

Eat well. Try to move away from highly processed foods. Eating a lot of simple carbohydrates (especially sugar) can impact your brain and make it difficult to study effectively. Make it a priority to stock your fridge with fruit and vegetables and have 3 meals a day.

S: Sleep

Get 6 or more hours of good sleep every night, and practice good sleep habits. Limit your screen time before bed, charge your mobile phone out of your bedroom, work at your desk rather than in bed.

Planting and cultivating these SEEDS mean you will be less likely to be stressed, anxious and depressed.

Set some healthy boundaries now and stick to them. Review your timetable regularly and adjust your schedule to ensure you are looking after yourself. It's important to balance uni work and have fun in order to maintain a productive and healthy lifestyle. If you don't make time for your wellness, you'll be forced to make time for your illness.

Some signs your mental health might be struggling include:

- Feeling anxious or worrying that is hard to stop
- Feeling depressed or unhappy
- Sudden and dramatic changes in mood
- Sleep problems
- Weight and appetite changes
- Quiet or withdrawing from people and activities you enjoyed
- Turning to drugs/alcohol and other addictions
- Feeling guilty or worthless
- Changes in behaviour or feelings

Mental health problems can affect many areas of students' lives- reducing your quality of life, academic achievement, physical health, satisfaction with your Uni experience and negatively impacting your relationships.

Remember this period of entering into a new country, starting a new degree is a time of transition. There will be challenges and some adjustments to be made- be mindful of them and act early to address them. Be prepared to adapt your learning approach, make use of the University's Student support services. Be proactive if you're struggling - talk to family and friends who care for you, book an appointment with the Student Counselling Service. Keep a sense of perspective, it's normal to take some time to adjust and settle into a new environment. Believe in yourself - you have been accepted into Sydney Uni Law School because you have the ability to succeed. Well done!

Where can you get help?

- The **University of Sydney Student Counselling Service** provide support for a wide range of personal, social, and psychological issues that may impact a student's academic performance. We offer a free, short-term, confidential service to Sydney Uni students. The University of Sydney Student Counselling Service is open 9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri (except public holidays). To make a telehealth appointment please call 02 86278433 or book online <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/counselling-and-mental-health-support.html>
- If you need to talk to someone after hours you can call the **University of Sydney Student Mental Wellbeing Support Line** on 1300 474 065 or text 0488 884 429 (SMS chat) for support 5pm-9am on weekdays, and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.
- In a medical emergency, dial 000 and ask for an ambulance.
- For any significant mental health support call, **NSW Mental Health Access Line** on 1800 011 511.

Remote Learning

Since the beginning of this pandemic, remote learning has become the sole way for many students to study at university. In 2022, the situation continues for offshore students and for those who are unable to attend classes on campus.

Here are some pros and issues faced in of remote learning:

Pros :

Saving time and money! You can save a huge amount of time and money on everyday commutes. Some units have also digitised the required textbooks in e-reserve which can sometimes help you save on those pricey textbooks.

A flexible schedule! With online lectures, you can choose the time that is most suitable for you to listen to them. Additionally, you can participate in your tutorials and seminars from wherever you are, and utilise your other time for work, volunteering, reading, and other commitments.

Issues :

Focus and motivation can be a struggle. Remote learning well requires a high level of self-discipline - you are the only one holding yourself to account!

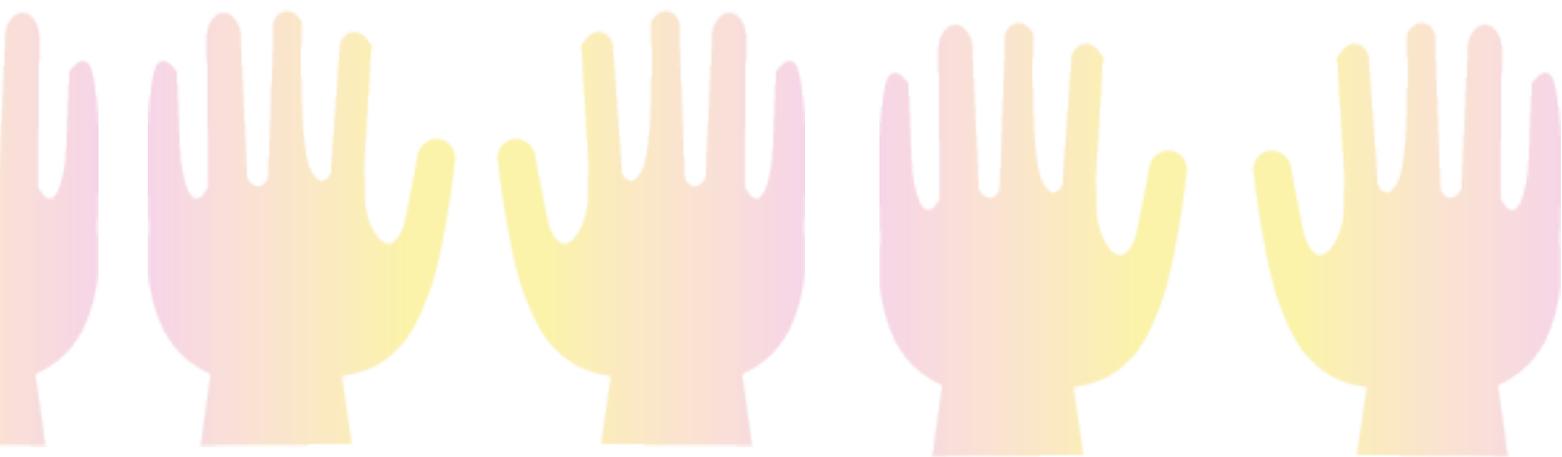
Making friends can be hard on Zoom.

Time-zone struggles! However note that for assessments, if your time zone falls between 10.00pm and 6.59am in your timezone, you may be eligible for special arrangements. You would have to apply within 14 days of being notified of the assessment date. For more information, check out: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/special-consideration.html>

It can be exceptionally frustrating if you do not have good internet connection or a reliable VPN (should you need one).

How you can improve your remote learning experience:

- Find a place with good internet connection. If you are unable to get this at home, consider going to a library or a safe place that has a good internet connection.
- Don't panic if you are disconnected! Try to log in as soon as possible. However, if you are unable to do this or if this occurs during an assessment such as on-call, just let your tutors know as soon as you are able to do so.
- Turning on your camera can make you more focused as there is the added social pressure of staying on task. If you experience anxiety or if your internet connection is unable to support this, ask a friend to keep tabs on you and vice versa so you can keep each other accountable.
- Make sure you participate as though you are in a real classroom. If you find it difficult to speak without accidentally interrupting someone else or you're feeling anxious, consider using the raise hand function on zoom or just sending through your answer or question in the chat function. Most tutors and lecturers will be happy to address those questions as well.
- Answer the questions actively and feel free to ask questions as usual either through unmuting yourself or through the chat function.
- Knowing your classmates through cameras has become the new "normal". While it might feel 'unnatural', the best way forward is to expand the boundaries of your comfort zone and reach out. Utilise breakout rooms as opportunities to start conversations - since you're studying the same unit, that is always a helpful ice-breaker to get the conversation going!
- There are PASS sessions available through zoom which can help you get to know some of your classmates during group work!
- Prepare for your on-call as usual and having your answers organised helps when answering questions. Remember to simulate eye contact with your tutor when answering questions you will have to look at the webcam as opposed to their face.
- Don't forget to unmute yourself before talking and similarly remember to exercise caution with the mute button so you don't accidentally interrupt your tutors or anyone on-call. This also applies to messages - it can get very awkward if your private Zoom DMs are seen by everybody because they were accidentally set to public!
- Try to get into the group chat for the units you're taking- almost every unit has one. Alternatively/ in addition, get into the group chat for your cohort. They can be great places to meet people and ask questions about the unit if you're unsure. Sometimes they even remind you of assignment deadlines!



Tips from Your Peers

You are not alone in your remote learning struggles! Here is an account from your peers at law school with some tips and tricks on how to navigate this new realm of learning.

Clara Lam JD III

What do you possess to face uncertainties and challenges in life? It is not easy for many of us in the year of 2021 - another year of global pandemic, prolonged lockdown and online study (whether you were in Sydney or not). Being an international student myself, studying in Sydney and being thousands miles apart from my family made me feel disconnected sometimes, and online study was not very helpful in making new friends at Uni (what a struggle for extroverts!). But I want to share with you some tips that helped me overcome this uncertain time, and hope it will help you too.

1. Connect with friends and family. Law school is tough, what makes it easier is the people around you who support you and not give up on you in the journey. So show appreciation to them
2. Make good use of extra time. It actually saved me

so much time from commuting, I used that time for exploring new hobbies. And it is good to take your brain off from studying law from time to time and do something different.

3. Keep a healthy diet and make sure you exercise. It was so easy to feel dejected when studying and staying at home all day, but I found joy in keeping a clean diet - going to the grocery and picking up fresh veggies and fruits, being creative in cooking etc. I also enjoyed swimming regularly, especially in the morning. I see this as an opportunity to practise discipline, which is highly transferable in other areas of life.
4. Practice meditation. Make time to allow yourself to sink in and examine your mind and feelings. Cultivate the courage to face your real self, discover what you have grown from difficulties. And be grateful for who you are today. As the Greek Philosopher Socrates said, "an unexamined life is not worth living".
5. Don't be afraid to seek help, you don't have to have it all together. There are a lot of supports offered by University of Sydney and SULLS, from academic, career, and psychological support. You are not alone!



Clubs and Societies

Tired of reading textbooks and cases? You will find it rewarding participating in club activities you enjoy and meeting new people. More than 200 clubs of the University of Sydney Union (USU) can be divided into the following six categories.

For the full list of clubs, please visit: <https://usu.edu.au/clubs-societies/list.aspx>.

Arts & Performance

There are various revue societies and orchestras. If you enjoy dance numbers, satires and pun jokes, you may want to join Law Review Society. Website: <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Arts-Performance/Law-Revue-Society.aspx>.

Do you play a Chinese instrument? The recently founded University of Sydney Chinese Orchestra brings together students to play traditional Chinese music. For more information, please visit <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Arts-Performance/University-of-Sydney-Chinese-Orchestra-%E6%82%89%E5%B0%BC%E5%A4%A7%E5%AD%A6%E5%8D%8E%E4%B9%90%E5%9B%A2.aspx>.

Ethnocultural & Faith

Feeling homesick? Love to meet friends with a common cultural or religious background? Whether you are Armenian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Korean... you can find an association celebrating your culture. Website: <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Ethnocultural-Faith.aspx>.

Faculty & Professional

If you are seeking professional opportunities and expanding your circles of friends, these are just the right clubs for you!

Chinese Law Students Society (CLSS) aims to enhance the quality of law students' life and provide its members with global legal opportunities. Website: <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Faculty-Professional/Chinese-Law-Students-Society.aspx>.

Korean Law Students at the University of Sydney (KLUS) and South East Asian Law Society (SEALS) also provide networking opportunities and help enlarge circles for their members. Websites:

KLUS: <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Faculty-Professional/Korean-Law-Students.aspx>.

SEALS: <https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Faculty-Professional/South-East-Asian-Law-Society.aspx>.

If you aspire to become a consultant, or a business and community leader, clubs such as 180 Degrees Consulting and Financial Management Association of Australia are perfect platforms to develop your professional skills and interact with your peers and potential employers.

180 Degrees Consulting:
<https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Faculty-Professional/180-Degrees-Social-Innovation-Group.aspx>

Financial Management Association of Australia:
<https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Faculty-Professional/Financial-Management-Association-of-Australia.aspx>.

Housing

Find your accommodation

It is ideal to explore student accommodation options both on and off campus before you make the decision. Comparatively student accommodation on campus would provide an immersive living experience that will allow you to fit in the student community.

On campus: Camperdown and Darlington campus:

University-managed accommodation:

Previously there were seven University-run housing options around the main campus. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented situation of COVID-19, some accommodations that were available are now closed. An update of the list of available accommodations can be found at: https://usyd.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortalX/7C3CEFBB/1/1/Home-Welcome_to_the_Unive?UrToken=308793FE

Upon application, you may nominate three different preferences chosen from available on-campus locations. In addition, you can submit your living preferences such as the gender of people you would like to live with, special medical needs, and particular dietary requirements.

Social life is the core value of living in a student accommodation. Neighbourhood meet-up is an excellent way to expand your social network. Residential picnics integrate students into the community. Other accommodation activities such as cardio boxing, tennis competition, and rock climbing are also great ways to meet friends, network, and chill out after intense study sprints.

While people may worry that COVID-19 has transformed student accommodations into risky places, it is worth noting that the University has a comprehensive plan for preventing and mitigating potential spread of the virus. In all common areas within University-managed accommodations, there is a sufficient supply of hand sanitizers and sanitary wipes to help you COVIDSafe.

Private rental market:

Looking to rent a place outside can be stressful and hectic for international students, who have to do this all by ourselves. Here are some tips in finding off-campus private housing:

- Don't be disheartened if your application is rejected as the market is extremely competitive - just keep trying and you'll eventually secure a place in no time!
- As the Sydney rental market is notoriously competitive, allocate sufficient time before the semester starts to find a place and settle down - it'll take longer than you think
- Keep all official documents (bank statements, driver's licence (if applicable), passport picture, etc...) in one place for easy access as you will most likely be making lots of applications
- Do not rent a private place without having inspected the premises.
- Make sure that a tenancy agreement is in place before moving in or paying rent (and also that they align with the NSW residential tenancy standard form https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/910180/Standard-Residential-Tenancy-Agreement-2020.pdf)
- Don't forget to bargain with your landlord on rents and bills.
- Know your legal rights as a tenant. Several student-oriented resources are available in this respect.

Here are some of helpful links in your search of a private rental property:

Rental property search engines

- Realestate: www.realestate.com.au
- Domain: www.domain.com.au
- Flatmates: www.flatmates.com.au

Share Housing Survival Guide: <https://sharehousing.org>
SRC's legal advice for undergraduate students: <http://srcusyd.net.au/src-legal-service/>
SUPRA's legal advice for postgraduate students: https://supra.net.au/cpt_helps/rentin
Fair Trading NSW Government on renting: www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting

Your rights as a tenant - things to keep in mind:

The law guarantees tenants many rights in order to correct the unfair bargaining power between tenants and landlords. Here are some major ones that you should be aware of:

Starting a tenancy

- The landlords must tell the tenants if the property is (i) planned to be sold; (ii) subject to court action; (iii) in a strata scheme subject to change.
- The landlords must make full disclosure to the tenants if the property (i) has significant health or safety risks; (ii) has been affected by flooding; (iii) is affected by law such that a parking permit would not be available.
- Although landlords can choose the most suitable tenants for their property, they cannot unfairly discriminate based on (i) race; (ii) sex; (iii) gender identity; (iv) age and (v) disability status.
- Bonds must be lodged to NSW Fair Trading (i.e. not to the landlords' personal accounts).
- Full list of rights and responsibilities: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting/starting-a-tenancy>.
- hanging paintings.
- The landlords (or their representatives) cannot enter the property without the tenants' consent unless for a valid reason and a notice in writing.
- If the property is repossessed (i.e. the landlords failed to make payments in time and the bank takes the property), tenants will have at least 30 days to vacate the property. As compensation, this 30-day period would be rent-free. Tenants are entitled to a refund if they have paid for this period in advance.
- Full list of rights and responsibilities: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting/during-a-tenancy>

During the tenancy:

- The tenants must prepare a condition report upon moving in. Be sure to make it as detailed as possible, as any deviation from this report in the property's condition at the end of the lease will affect the recovery of your bond.
- The tenants can make "minor modifications" to the property that landlords cannot reasonably object to. It even applies to installing nails or screws for
- **Ending the tenancy:**
- If the tenants do not owe the landlords any money and there is no damage to the property, the bond must be repaid in full.
- For agreements lasting three years or less, if the tenants terminate a fixed-term agreement early, they are liable to pay a "break fee" to the landlords depending on the length of the remaining period.
- Landlord must give 30 day notice to the tenant to terminate a fixed term agreement
- Full list of rights and responsibilities: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting/ending-a-tenancy>

As with most things in life, the law is constantly changing! Updates on residential tenancy laws can be found on the NSW Fair Trading website: <https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/renting/new-residential-tenancy-laws>.

Religiously-affiliated off-campus accommodation:

These options are often regulated as boarding houses and are associated with a faith. On average, they offer rents significantly below the private student accommodations, however, the trade-off is that they require more community expectations of residents in accordance with their respective ethos.

Name	Location	Rates	Comments
Flo Harris Lodge	Petersham	\$280-\$360/week inclusive of all bills, all meals, and weekly laundering of bed sheets.	Affiliated with the Petersham Baptist Church. However, Flo Harris accepts students of all faiths and none. Check it out at: https://www.floharrislodge.org.au/
Arundel House	Ultimo	\$320 - 380 /week inclusive of all bills, all meals	Female-students only. Intimate with only 39 students. Associated with St Barnabas's Anglican Church, Broadway. You do not have to be religious to apply. Residents are expected to contribute approx. 1 hour of rostered chores a week. Check it out at: https://arundelhouse.asn.au/
Xavier House	Stanmore	Rates are unpublished. However, expected rates are within the \$200-300 range. Rents inclusive of all bills, all meals, Wi-Fi and facilities.	Male-students only. Catholic ethos. Small community of 23 students in a heritage mansion in Stanmore. Very close to Stanmore train station and buses. Contact Xavier House for more information: https://www.sydneycatholic.org/directory/listing/xavier-house

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LEGAL SUPPORT

As international students embarking on a rigorous course in Australia's largest city, you may find your external pressures as demanding as academic commitments. However, there is a comprehensive range of international student legal support services available both internally in the university and externally at the community legal centres (CLCs).

On-Campus Legal Support

As international students embarking on a rigorous course in Australia's largest city, you may find your external pressures as demanding as academic commitments. However, there is a comprehensive range of international student legal support services available both internally in the university and externally at the community legal centres (CLCs).

Student's Representative Council (for undergraduate students)

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is the peak representative body for undergraduate students. It features 35 elected Councillors and student office-bearers who campaign, engage in student activism, and provide legal support for students in need. The SRC funds the following two services targeting students.

SRC Legal Service

The SRC 's solicitors provide free legal advice, a referral service and representation in court where appropriate. Matters that the SRC deals with include:

- Police & court matters
- Traffic, transport offences, and fines
- Immigration law & visas
- Employment law
- Consumer rights
- NCAT (NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal) appeals
- Witness & certification of documents via a Justice of the Peace, etc.

Book a Zoom/Phone appointment by calling: 02 9660 5222. Please note that in-person appointments are currently suspended owing to COVIDSafe restrictions.

Find out more information about the SRC's Legal Service at: <http://srcusyd.net.au/src-legal-service/>.



SRC Caseworker

The SRC Caseworkers provide free, independent and confidential caseworker advice and support across a wide range of issues affecting students. These issues include:

- Academic rights & institutional appeals
- Special consideration & special arrangements
- HECS & fee refunds
- Academic misconduct & dishonesty allegations
- Show cause & exclusion
- Tenancy & accommodation
- Harassment & discrimination
- Financial & tax assistance (July - October)

Find out more about the SRC's Caseworker service at: <http://srcusyd.net.au/src-help/>.

To get involved in off- or on-campus student activism, please visit the SRC at: <http://srcusyd.net.au/get-involved/>.

SUPRA Postgraduate Advocacy Service

SUPRA provides free and independent caseworker advice who can assist you with academic and welfare issues:

- Academic appeals & show cause
- Harassment, discrimination, bullying and sexual misconduct
- Special consideration & special arrangements
- Research supervision
- Academic progress
- Academic dishonesty and plagiarism
- Fees and finances, etc.

To get help from a caseworker, you'd have to first join SUPRA. Then you can email them at: help@supra.usyd.edu.au to book an appointment. Remember to attach any supporting document(s) and detail your issue in your first email.

Please visit SUPRA's Postgraduate Advocacy Service for more details: https://supra.net.au/cpt_helps/postgraduate-advocacy-service/.

Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (for postgraduate students)

Similar to its undergraduate counterpart, SUPRA participates in student activism, advocacy, and offers legal support with a focus on postgraduate students. SUPRA operates two services accessible only to postgraduate students:

SUPRA Legal Service

SUPRA Legal Service Pty Ltd provides free legal advice, representation in court, and a referral service to postgraduate students who are SUPRA members.

Their solicitors can assist you with a wide range of legal issues, including:

- Administrative law (government etc.)
- Consumer complaints
- Intellectual property
- Institutional disputes
- Credit and debt
- Criminal law
- Domestic violence
- Employment law
- Family law (advice only)
- Migration* advice
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Victims compensation
- Other general complaints

*Schedule an appointment by sending an email to: help@supra.usyd.edu.au. Specify your problem areas as much as you can and attach supporting documents. Once received, your email will be forwarded to a Solicitor/Registered Migration Agent within 24 hours.

Please visit SUPRA Legal Service's website for more details about their service: https://supra.net.au/cpt_helps/legal-service/.

Off-Campus Legal Support

Apart from on-campus legal support, some CLCs also provide specialist advice on issues affecting international students.

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC)

RLC operates an independent legal service specialising in international students matters, the International Student Legal Service NSW. Funded by Study NSW and the Fair Work Ombudsman, this initiative is supported by the City of Sydney. It is available to tertiary students across NSW.

If you would like to seek legal advice from RLC, please fill in this form, describe your problem and RLC will contact you and book you in for a session with their International Student Solicitor Sean Stimson: <https://redfernlegal.wufoo.com/forms/contact-redfern-legal-centre/>.

Alternatively, you can discuss your problem area and book appointments by phone at: 02 9698 7645.

Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)

The Fair Work Ombudsman is the regulatory body charged with enforcing the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth), which offers protections against discrimination by employers on the basis of their personal attributes such as race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. If you feel like you have been discriminated against in the workplace, you can submit an online inquiry at <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/online-enquiries>. Alternatively, you can contact the FWO via phone at: 13 13 94.

If you do not feel comfortable contacting the FWO, you may choose to report the instance of discrimination by filing an anonymous complaint to SALS at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBW6yJKbtiswpOdo6cTRqMAhDACAaw0Rb4LVbMUtclh6z7eSA/viewform>

QUEER SUPPORT

Other than many struggles common to international students, LGBT+ international students might also face their unique sets of challenges. Fortunately, so many LGBT+ focused support are here for you. Here is a short sample!



Sydney Law School

Sydney University Law Society (SULS) Queer Portfolio

The Queer Portfolio is a unit of SULS that creates and offers a range of LGBT+ events and resources to LGBT+ law students: conferences, the Queer Welfare Handbook, and a Queer Mentoring Programme! Law students are encouraged to apply to be a part of the Queer Portfolio. For more information, contact the Queer Officer (email is below).

Email: queers@suls.org.au.

University of Sydney

Queerspace

A hang-out space open to all queer-identifying and questioning students, located in Manning House on campus! Queerspace is also home to QuAC (Queer Action Collective), an autonomous collective for queer-identifying students at the University. For further information, email the contact below.

Address: G10, Ground Floor of Manning House, University of Sydney
Email: info@usu.edu.au.



Queers Of Colour (QOCO)

The only society for queer people of colour on campus, QOCO aims to create a community where people of colour can explore the intersection of their queer and cultural identities. Organising lowkey events for quiet queers, they want to provide a supportive network for students who may feel isolated from LGBT+ spaces and/or their cultural roots and foster connections with each other to celebrate their authentic selves. For further information, email the contact below.
<https://usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-Clubs/Special-Interest/Queers-Of-Colour.aspx>.

Email: usydqoco@gmail.com.

Pride Network

A network of LGBT+ staff and students across the University of Sydney community. Offers a Canvas page, featuring online events and a blog!
Website: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/about-us/vision-and-values/diversity/pride-network.html>.

SHADES

A student-run society for LGBT+ students, which organises several social events – online and in person! You can expect game nights, parties, speed-friending events, and movie nights. <https://www.usu.edu.au/Clubs-Societies/Our-clubs-societies/Just-for-fun/Shades.aspx>.

Email: usydshades@gmail.com.

Queer Action Collective

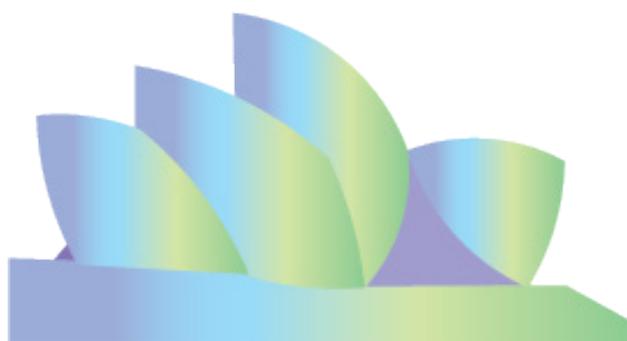
A group fighting for queer rights on campus and in the wider community! Meetings are held weekly at the Queerspace, with discussions focusing on how to support the community and achieve political goals.

Website: <https://srcusyd.net.au/student-office-bearers/>

Student University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) Queer Network

A network for LGBT+ postgraduate students at the University of Sydney! The Network hosts social and chat events. Go check the Facebook page!

Contact the SUPRA Queer Officer at queer@supra.usyd.edu.au.



Sydney

ACON

A Sydney-based organisation which offers LGBT+ counselling and support, HIV counselling, substance support counselling, and free workshops! Located in the heart of Surry Hills.

Address: 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Website: <https://www.acon.org.au/>.

Email: acon@acon.org.au.

Twenty10

An organisation for LGBT+ young people (ages 12-25) offering a hangout space, mental health advice, sexual health service, advocacy, and emergency accommodation for vulnerable LGBT+ youth. Twenty10 also offers inclusivity training and consultation for businesses and organisations.

Address: 37 Shepherd St, Chippendale, NSW 2008 – very close to Broadway, Victoria Park, and, of course, the University of Sydney and Sydney Law School.

Website: <https://www.twenty10.org.au/>.

Email: info@twenty10.org.au.

Australia & New Zealand Tongzhi Rainbow Alliance Inc.

ANTRA is a community-based not-for-profit organisation, which has been presenting themselves in the young Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking LGBTQIA+ communities since 2013 in the form of social chat groups on WeChat, LINE, Facebook and various online forums.

Website: <https://www.antra.org.au/>.

Email: info@antra.org.au.

Queer Group, Headspace

An organisation for LGBT+ young people (ages 12-25) offering a hangout space, mental health advice, sexual health service, advocacy, and emergency accommodation for vulnerable LGBT+ youth. Twenty10 also offers inclusivity training and consultation for businesses and organisations.

Address: 37 Shepherd St, Chippendale, NSW 2008 – very close to Broadway, Victoria Park, and, of course, the University of Sydney and Sydney Law School.

Website: <https://www.twenty10.org.au/>.

Email: info@twenty10.org.au.

The Gender Centre

A non-profit which offers a variety of services for the transgender and gender non-conforming communities: counselling and psychological support, accommodation services, case management services, tenancy support services, rural and regional support, and senior citizens support, among others.

Address: Ground Floor, 41-43 Parramatta Rd, Annandale, NSW 2038

Website: <https://gendercentre.org.au/>.

Email: reception@gendercentre.org.au.

Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC)

ICLC is a CLC that provides a state-wide legal advice service for the LGBTIQ community. In partnership with Dentons, ICLC also offer the Trans and Gender Diverse Legal Service for transgender and gender diverse people experiencing legal problems. This service will take place one day per week, including an appointment-based legal clinic every second Monday from 2-6pm. Currently appointments are being operated remotely over the phone.

Website: <https://www.iclc.org.au/>.

Email: iclc@iclc.org.au.

Nationwide

QLife Australia

QLife Australia is a service that provides a hotline, webchat, and peer support and referral for all people in Australia eager to discuss sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings, and relationships. QLife is available from 3pm to midnight, every day.

Website: <https://qlife.org.au/>.

Phone number: 1 800 184 527

General enquiries: <https://qlife.org.au/contact-us>

National LGBTI Health Alliance

National LGBTI Health Alliance offers information on a variety of LGBT+ services in Australia, and information regarding ageing and aged care, mental health and suicide prevention, palliative care, and workplace disability and inclusion.

Address: 100 Harris St, WeWork Pyrmont, NSW 2009

Website: <https://www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/>.

Phone number: 02 7209 6301

Email: info@lgbtiqhealth.org.au

EXPLORING SYDNEY

New to the city? We've put together a guide of the must-visit attractions of our waterside city, rounded up with tips and tricks so you can make the most of your new home.



1.

Sydney Opera House

The one and only, Sydney Opera House. Stroll along the harbour and take in the magnificent architecture in all its glory for free, or opt for a ticketed-guided tour inside the famous landmark.

Tip: Watch a show! Cabaret, comedy, dance, musicals, opera, ballet - there's something for everyone. If you're ready to splurge, dine at Bennelong for a showcase of Australia's magnificent produce.

2.

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Right next to the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Botanic Garden is a verdant oasis in the heart of Sydney's CBD. Home to innumerable native and exotic plants, it also organises community festivals, exhibitions, plant sales and much more!



3.

Darling Harbour

Looking for fun activities in the city with harbourside views? A mere 3km walk from the Opera House: Darling Harbour has got it all. The plenitude of dining establishments at Darling Square, Darling Quarter, Cockle Bay Wharf and King Street Wharf, 360-degree views of Sydney's skyline atop the Darling Harbour ferris wheel, fascinating museums and The Star Sydney.

When at Darling Harbour:

- Get dessert from the famous Gelato Messina located in Darling Square.
- Check out the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Chinese Garden of Friendship.
- Meet Australia's favourite animals right in the heart of the city at the Wildlife Sydney Zoo or SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium.

Tip: Darling Harbour is a 10-minute walk from Town Hall Station, and a short stroll from the neighbouring Chinatown, Barangaroo and Pyrmont. You may also catch the light rail or the ferry from Circular Quay and alight at Barangaroo Wharf or Pyrmont Bay Wharf.

4.

Sydney Harbour Bridge

Do the BrideClimb! Climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and experience the incredible views of the city (definitely one to cross off the bucket list).

5.

Sydney Fish Market & Blackwattle Bay

Located at the edge of Blackwattle Bay and next to Wentworth Park in the suburb of Pymont, the Sydney Fish Market is only a short distance from the city centre. Seafood lovers will be spoiled by choices with some of Aussies' favourites like oysters, prawns, marron, spanner crab and barramundi. Enjoy an outdoor meal by the water.

Tip: Beware of the food-stealing seagulls!

6.

Chinatown & Burwood

Craving Asian food? Head down to Chinatown in Haymarket or straight to Burwood for the best Sichuan restaurants and bubble tea spots in the city.

Tip: Get fresh and hot cream puffs from Emperor's Bakery little shop window, located at the main entrance of Chinatown. If you're craving Korean BBQ, check out 678 BBQ, also located

Beaches

7.

Sydney = Bondi Beach. Catch the wave at Sydney's most iconic beach. Take instagram-worthy photos at the Bondi Icebergs pool. If you're looking to stretch your legs, try out the Bondi-to-Coogee Coastal Walk (2.5 to 3 hours estimated).

Still keen to get your beach glow? Hop on the ferry at Circular Quay to Manly Beach or head up north to Palm Beach, but remember: safety first! Always swim between the red and yellow flags (hello Tort Law) and never outside them (we wouldn't want to end up on an episode of Bondi Rescue).

Tips: Always check the weather conditions - Sydney's weather can change drastically within a very short time. Also: protect yourself from the sun! Bring a hat, sunglasses and apply sunscreen generously.

8.

Luna Park

As you enter through the wide-eyed and theatrical Luna Park Face, let your inner child out at Sydney's local amusement park as you wander into a world of classic amusement park rides and fair foods. Entry is free, but the rides are ticketed.

COVID Update: Luna Park may be closed due to COVID-safety, so be sure to check their website for updates.

Website: <https://www.lunaparksydney.com/>.

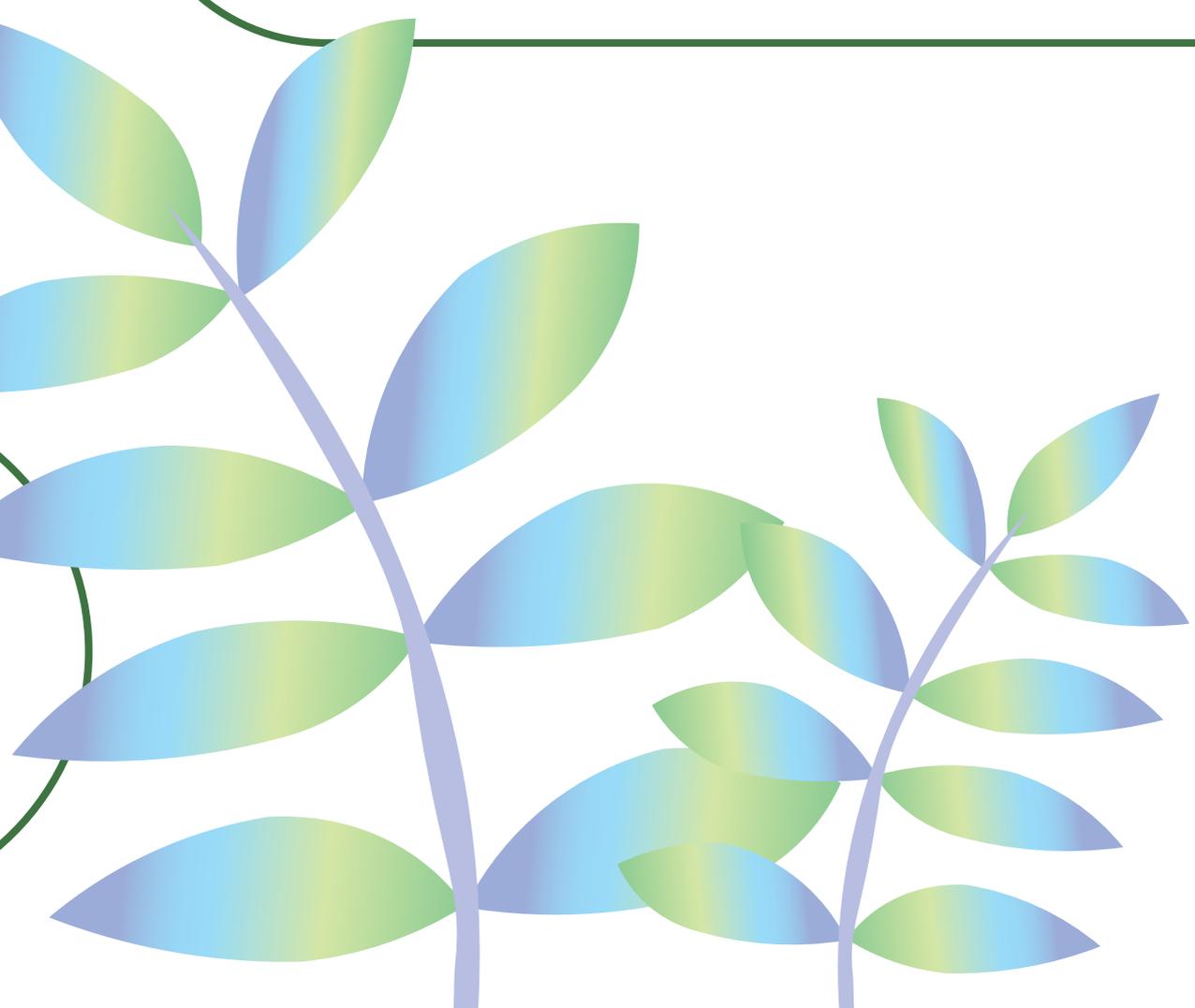
Tip: Parking at Luna Park is very expensive. So catch a bus, train, or ferry if you're planning to spend the entire day there.

9.

Taronga Zoo

Catch a 12-minute ferry ride from the CBD to Australia's largest zoo, located in the suburb of Mosman. Home to the kangaroos and koalas with views of the Sydney Harbour, but expect 'Zoo-food' if you're planning to dine there.

Tip: Check for discounted entry tickets on sites like Scoopon and Groupon.



EXPLORING THE REGION

Itching to venture outside the city or planning a roadtrip with your mates? Here is a list of the most iconic regional destinations in NSW and ACT.

1.

Blue Mountains, NSW - 1.5 hour drive

With spectacular scenery and breathtaking bushwalks, the Blue Mountains is a must-visit world-heritage destination during your time at Sydney Uni. If you're not planning to spend a relaxing weekend there, you should be able to complete a bushwalk or visit a natural attraction and explore the local town, Katoomba, all within a day trip.

Attractions:

- Three Sisters - Blue Mountains' iconic landmark of unusual rock formation.
- Jenolan Caves - Book cave tour tickets ahead of time to avoid disappointment.
- Leura Village - East of Katoomba, a charming little town filled with character heritage homes.
- Katoomba area - High Tea at the Hydro Majestic Hotel with spectacular views of Megalong Valley.
- Scenic World - Scenic Railway, Skyway, Cableway and Walkway - a tourist attraction with amazing views of the Jamison Valley.

2.

Newcastle, NSW - 2.5 hour drive

Relaxing little harbour city situated in the Hunter Region on the East Coast of NSW and north of Sydney. Go there for the stunning coastline and beaches (especially if you're big on surfing) and quaint-town charm.

Attractions:

- Macquarie Pier - Watch the large shipping vessels as they leave and enter the working harbour.
- Nobby's Beach - Surfers, family goers, and local dolphins. Spot the historic lighthouse!
- Newcastle Civic Theatre - Georgian revival building with rich baroque interior giving it that old Hollywood charm. Tickets are not expensive either.
- Fort Scratchley - Former coastal defence, now a museum.
- Merewether Beach - Clean and less crowded beach. Grab lunch with the beach view at the Merewether Surfhouse.
- City Hall - Located next to the Civic Theatre, another heritage-listed building.
- King Edward Park - Picnic or a shrimp on the barbie?

3

Canberra, ACT - 3.5 hour drive or 3.5 hour bus ride from Central Station

Capital city of Australia and home to Parliament, it's almost our duty as law students to visit the city. Smaller than Sydney, Canberra is an exciting mix of history, university students and politicians, along with a plethora of museums, galleries, wineries, breweries and modern architecture.

Attractions:

- Australian Parliament House - Heart of Australian parliamentary democracy.
- High Court building - Where your most important cases are written!
- Australian War Memorial - An archive of Australian history.
- Old Bus Depot Markets & Kingston - Sunday markets inside an industrial former bus depot located in Kingston.
- Telstra Tower - Like Sydney's Westpac tower, but Telstra
- Australian National University - Spot the law students aspiring to become future politicians.



AFTERWORD

So, there you have it! Do make sure to look at the Queer Welfare Handbook, published by SULLS, for a list of further supports and interviews with LGBT+ lawyers from around the world. The Handbook is available at <https://www.sulls.org.au/publications>.

As a side note, if you're a vivacious writer, or love to edit, do have a glance at Yemaya, the annual interdisciplinary Journal of Gender and Sexuality published by SULLS. You can find all of our latest issues inside the link above. Just maybe - you can contribute to the next issue!

From the bottom of our hearts, welcome to Sydney Law School. I wish you an absolutely marvellous start to your degree and year. Now that the borders are reopened, we hope to personally welcome you to the community when you join us!





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