Law and Humanitarian Assistance

Melbourne Burwood Campus | Cloud Campus
Deakin University is ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide across the three major international university rankings\(^1\) and in the top 50 universities under 50.

**Deakin University**

We are ranked 5 stars for world-class facilities, research and teaching, as well as employability, innovation and inclusiveness under the latest Times Higher Education Australian Employability Rankings. With internationally recognised quality of research and teaching, Deakin is now ranked 214 in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). Ranked no. 3 in Australia for graduate employability, our course curriculum integrates real-world expertise with practical skills to give our students a competitive edge\(^1\).

Deakin is one of the largest universities in Australia, with over 52 000 course enrolments and more than 3700 staff. Despite this size, for the past seven years, we have been ranked no. 1 in Victoria for student satisfaction, attesting to the value that the university places on delivering value to students\(^1\).

**Deakin Law School**

Deakin Law School (DLS) is located in Melbourne – the world’s most liveable city for six years in a row and home to a global legal market. We have a reputation for excellence in research – staff are leading experts in corporate law, sentencing, health law, Big Data, commercial law, IP and natural resources – and teaching.

DLS is ranked no. 53 on the SSRN Top 500 International Law Schools, between no. 100–150 on QS World University Rankings and between no. 76–100 on the ARWU and Shanghai rankings\(^2\).

We pride ourselves on delivering a high quality educational experience and students are our primary focus. This yields exceptional student success, such as being placed number 1 amongst 125 participating teams in the 2017 Willem C. Vis International Moot in Hong Kong.

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‘Child soldiers, trafficking in human beings, and genocide, as well as drought, food shortage, or hurricanes, are merely a few examples of the disasters our world currently faces. As we struggle to find solutions, new networks of professionals have been developing – civil society organizations, human rights advocates, and government agencies – devoted to find new ways to improve life conditions at some of the world’s darkest corners. The Deakin Law and Humanitarian Assistance Program was created to give interdisciplinary knowledge and practical tools to those who wish to take part in these global efforts. Whether as a part of the civil society or through governmental agencies and intergovernmental organizations, students of Law and Humanitarian Assistance will enhance their understanding of today’s main conflicts, and will gain tools to resolve, or at least improve, complex real-world problems. Our graduates will not only advance their careers within this developing community, but also, and more importantly – make a positive and meaningful contribution to some of the most daunting problems of our time.’

**Dr Shiri Krebs**

Course Director - Master of Legal Studies
Deakin Law School
Master of Legal Studies (specialising in Humanitarian Assistance)

Course overview

Master of Legal Studies (MLS) specialising in Humanitarian Assistance would be suited to both legal and non-legal professionals. Deakin’s MLS specialising in Humanitarian Assistance will equip graduates with the advanced academic legal and practical humanitarian assistance skills required to be accomplished global practitioners with strong legal skills. The environment in which humanitarian workers find themselves today is more complex and diverse than ever. Conflicts are increasingly complicated and natural disasters are escalating in number and intensity, often occurring in regions already struggling with socio-economic and political constraints. The Master of Legal Studies specialising in Humanitarian Assistance examines law, policy and practice, with multidisciplinary perspectives. This course develops key professional and personal skills, with practical training aimed at enhancing the legal and analytical thinking around humanitarian practices and dilemmas.

Course structure

Course code: M737

Offered: Melbourne Burwood Campus and Cloud Campus

Intake/s: Trimester 1 (March) and Trimester 2 (July)

Duration: 2 years full-time or part-time equivalent

CRICOS Course code: 093171M

The Master of Legal Studies specialising in Humanitarian Assistance requires the completion of 16 credit points. All students must complete 4 credit points of core law units, 4 credit points from the Humanitarian Assistance stream and 8 credit points from the Humanitarian Assistance specialisation.

Please note students wanting to undertake the Humanitarian Assistance specialisation will be required to study in Trimester 3.

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Please note, this is a sample course structure based on full-time study load. Units and trimesters are subject to change.

\(^\) This unit is only available for study in Trimester 3.

Skills and knowledge acquired

Students will study geopolitics in humanitarian crises, armed conflicts and their consequences on civilian populations, civilian-military relations in conflict settings, and current and emerging issues that are affecting humanitarian responses. Disaster relief and emergency response, both pre and post-disaster, will be covered in relation to law as well as human rights standards and the mechanisms in place to enforce these standards and situations, when limitations on human rights are permitted. Topics will also include an introduction to Australian Constitutionalism, representative democracy, responsible government, federalism, state constitutions, separation of powers, constitutional rights and freedoms, and constitutional interpretation and change.

Career opportunities

This degree will allow students to advance their capabilities through advanced legal training of dedicated, relevant legal subjects. Graduates will find careers in areas such as:

- Academia (with further postgraduate study)
- Civil and public service
- Intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs)
- The media (journalism and broadcasting)
Civil and Commercial Law Clinic

The newly introduced Civil and Commercial Law Clinic provides students with a 360-degree experience of professional practice, and a critical appreciation of its value. Students work in an office environment using professional matter management systems, deal with clients, research and provide strategic legal solutions, and engage with various parties including clients, as well as supervisors and colleagues. The Clinic provides legal services over a range of legal issues chosen to give students professional experience in engaging with ‘real world’ legal problems, parties, decision makers and tribunals, giving students an insight into the diversity and complexity of legal practice. This Clinic unit focuses on areas including contract, migration law, consumer law, victims of crime compensation and special circumstances, and fair work employment.

Students will manage their own legal matter under the supervision of Clinic supervisors and specialist legal practitioners – from initial client intake and interview to final outcome and closing of file (subject to Clinic time limits). Students develop high level professional skills through the challenge of applying theoretical legal knowledge to real world clients in order to develop strategic legal solutions that meet client needs. The Clinic develops advanced employment-ready skills and gives students the opportunity to critically look at the legal systems, and consider aspects of law reform.

Entry requirements

- a bachelor degree or other qualification at a higher AQF level in any discipline or successful completion of MQP (or MQP extended)*, or
- other evidence of academic capability judged to be equivalent.

International students will also require a IELTS overall score of 6.5 (with no band score less than 6) or equivalent.

* Alternative for international applicants only

Apply

Domestic
Apply online at deakin.edu.au/courses/how-to-apply.

International
Apply online at deakin.edu.au/courses/how-to-apply/international-students, in person at a Deakin office, or through a Deakin agent.

Contact us

Domestic
Telephone: 1800 MYFUTURE (1800 693 888)
Email: myfuture@deakin.edu.au

International
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Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

Fees

The Master of Legal Studies is a full fee-paying course. View current fees at deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/fees.

Credit for prior learning

Credit for prior learning may be granted to students who have successfully completed appropriate prior studies or relevant work experience.

Scholarships

Deakin University offers a range of scholarships. For details and availability of scholarships please visit deakin.edu.au/scholarships.