

## Legal Studies A/T

Legal Studies explores the law, and its institutions and processes, in a social, economic and political context allowing students to investigate, question, and evaluate their personal view of the world and society's collective future.

Students develop their knowledge and understanding about how legal systems impact on the lives of citizens, seek to balance the rights and responsibilities of individuals, the community, and governments, in an effort to achieve justice and equality for all. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of laws, institutions and processes, and consider opportunities for reform.

Legal Studies provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills in research, analysis and evaluation of information. Through the use of logical and coherent arguments, students will explore the implications and consequences of decisions made by individuals, organisations and governments. Students will communicate their insights in a range of modes and mediums.

It is designed for students contemplating the law as a career. This subject is equally appropriate as a preparation for further studies in Economics, Business, Accounting, History, Sociology and Global Studies.

### Course Patterns

This course is non-sequential and there are no prerequisites or compulsory units.

All units can be studied at T or A level.

Minor (minimum of 2 semesters) or major (minimum of 3.5 semesters) courses may be completed in Legal Studies.

## Units

### Crime and Justice

Students investigate the responses of individuals and societies to social transgressions. They examine the criminalisation and punishment of conduct in various jurisdictions over time. They investigate existing law making, legal and judicial procedures and structures, including both common law and statute law. Students investigate theories of justice and punishment.

### Civil Law

Students investigate civil law. They examine the origin, purpose, and scope of regulation under civil law. Students apply civil law principles and doctrines that regulate the relationships and activities of individuals and groups to a range of case studies. They evaluate conflict resolution processes to determine their fairness and efficacy, and the possibilities for reform to achieve more just outcomes.

### Contemporary Issues and the Law

Students study the significance of legal rights and responsibilities in everyday life from different political, economic and social perspectives. Through the use of a range of contemporary examples, students investigate how the law attempts to balance the rights and responsibilities of the individual with the best interests of the wider community.

### International Law

Students investigate the origin, institutions, and processes of international law. They examine how it might be enforced in the context of global treaties and an anarchic international system. Students investigate the impact of international law at global, national, and local levels. They consider the relevance of international law to ordinary people and

the challenges they are faced with accessing international law. Students evaluate case studies of contemporary international legal processes for their fairness and efficacy, including insecurity caused by corruption, autocracy, climate change and conflict.

### Independent Study

This unit is available for students who have completed at least three units in this course.

### Profile of the fraudster

There is a continuing upward trend in the likelihood that an internal fraudster is a university graduate (**35% in 2014 to 47% in 2016**), which likely reflects the increasing education profile of the workforce.

#### Most likely characteristics of internal fraudster

