



Undergraduate Law and Legal Studies Course Guide



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Acknowledgement of Country

Charles Darwin University acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders both past and present of all First Nations people upon whose lands CDU campuses and centres are located.



Fit learning around your lifestyle

Study your way with a leader in online learning

At CDU, you can fit your learning around your lifestyle. Choose to study online from anywhere in Australia, part-time or full-time, and complete your placements close to home.

How online study works



Whether you study online or on campus, you will have access to our online learning platform, Learnline.



Take part in interactive lectures and group discussions live, or download recordings and resources to access later.



You'll have 24/7 access to your own study-specific tutoring service and round-the-clock technical support via email.



Access your laptop, desktop or mobile device and upload assignments from anywhere.



Meet other students and have lots of opportunities to make friends.



“

“CDU is very multicultural. Each day can be different and everyone brings their own individual approach to learning, which gives students the opportunity to learn from each other.”

Max, Bachelor of Laws

Study Law and Legal Studies at CDU

As a leader in human rights, transnational, cyber and customary law, CDU's law degrees prepare you for a career in today's global environment. From criminal and constitutional law to international and family law, the areas of legal practice available to our graduates are diverse. You can make an impact on the lives of society's most vulnerable people and even change the way our world operates.

A law degree from CDU offers an academically rigorous education in theory, doctrine and policy, creating highly skilled legal professionals.

Our graduates become solicitors, barristers, judge's associates, and in-house lawyers skilled in thinking critically, analysing and interpreting complex information, problem solving, writing persuasively and researching.

Find inspiration in the social justice and First Nations perspectives woven into the curriculum. Our programs offer a refugee law stream and Indigenous justice stream as well as placements with law firms, the courts and legislative bodies.



Leading university in Australia for law and paralegal employment outcomes.[^]



CDU pioneered flexible, online law degrees in Australia. Study online or on campus, full-time or part-time.



Graduate in 3 years rather than 4. CDU's Bachelor of Laws doesn't require you to study general non-law subjects, so you finish faster.

Many Law and Legal Studies courses are being reviewed at the time of publication and may change. Find your course online for the latest admission requirements and course details: cdu.edu.au/study/law-legal-studies

[^]The Good Universities Guide 2025



Graduate real-world ready

From criminal and constitutional law to international and family law, the areas of legal practice available to our graduates are diverse.

A law degree at CDU offers an academically rigorous education in theory, doctrine and policy, creating highly skilled legal professionals. Our graduates become solicitors, barristers, judge's associates and in-house lawyers who are skilled in thinking critically, analysing and interpreting complex information, problem solving, writing persuasively and researching.

Our clinical placement program offers a refugee law stream and Indigenous justice stream as well as placements with law firms, the courts and legislative bodies.

“

“Knowing my way around legislation meant I can interpret the law and make the information more accessible to others as well.

The people-first approach to flexibility and supportive learning environment at CDU meant I could find a balance with study, work and family life.”

Nikki, Diploma of Laws



Associate Degree of Legal Studies

 **LOCATION** – Education and Community Precinct (Darwin), Online

 **DURATION** – 2 years full-time, 4 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Semester

The Associate Degree of Legal Studies is for anyone interested in broadening their understanding of the legal system without committing to a full law degree.

This course will give you a broad understanding of the law, legal processes and legal principles and introduce you to practical areas of the law such as torts, contracts, criminal law and transnational law. It caters for two groups of students: those with a general interest in legal issues without wishing to complete a full law degree, and those who wish to gauge their interest in legal studies and perhaps later seek to undertake a full law degree program. Upon completion of the first year of the associate degree program, students may seek admission to the Bachelor of Laws degree and apply for credit transfer on the units completed under the associate degree program.

This course does not lead to professional accreditation, though students can transfer to the Bachelor of Laws degree, which is accredited with the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board of the Northern Territory, with up to 160 points of credit transfer depending on the units completed under the Associate Degree of Legal Studies.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Completing the Associate Degree of Legal Studies can lead to career opportunities in administrative, secretarial or paralegal roles in the government, corporate and private legal environment.

Bachelor of Laws

 **LOCATION** – Education and Community Precinct (Darwin), Online

 **DURATION** – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Bachelor of Laws degree provides you with the academic foundation to become a lawyer or work in various industries needing legal expertise, including politics, policy, government, business and private legal practice.

At CDU, you can complete a Bachelor of Laws in just three years, with the option to study your law degree 100 percent online, on campus or a mix of both. On graduating, you will be eligible to apply for admission to legal practice anywhere in Australia.

The Bachelor of Laws teaches you about legal systems and principles in Australia and abroad. You'll gain skills in legal research, analysis and communication, and learn theoretical perspectives on the law. The course also has a unique focus on transnational law (which looks at how laws are applied in more than one jurisdiction) and comparative law (which examines different legal systems from around the world), so you'll gain insight into the legal issues facing today's globalised economies and societies.

You can study where, when and how it suits you. If you choose to study law online, you'll have 24/7 access to CDU's online learning platform, recorded lectures and tutorial assistance.

As the Bachelor of Laws is a competitive course, you're also encouraged to apply for the Associate Degree of Legal Studies or the Diploma of Laws. These programs are an alternative pathway to the Bachelor of Laws.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A Bachelor of Laws degree prepares you for a wide range of jobs. You may choose to pursue a career as a solicitor or a barrister, or work in fields that benefit from legal expertise, such as politics, public service, industrial relations, community advocacy or commerce in general.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

The Bachelor of Laws is accredited by the Legal Practitioners Admission Board of the Northern Territory and provides the academic foundation for admission to legal practice in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia.

To be admitted to legal practice in Australia, you must also complete the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. This may be completed through The College of Law, Sydney.

Diploma of Laws

 **LOCATION** – Education and Community Precinct (Darwin), Online

 **DURATION** – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer Semester

The Diploma of Laws offers you a general understanding of the law, legal processes and legal principles, as well as an opportunity to gain the specialist knowledge you may need for work or other reasons. This program is also suitable for internationally qualified lawyers who need to complete some Australian subjects to qualify for admission to legal practice in Australia and is a recognised pathway to the Bachelor of Laws at Charles Darwin University. This course does not lead to professional accreditation, although students can transfer to the Bachelor of Laws degree accredited with the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board of the Northern Territory, with up to 80 points of credit transfer depending on the units completed under the Diploma of Laws.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Completing the Diploma of Laws can lead to roles in politics, industrial relations and community advocacy in government, private companies and non-government organisations (NGO).

Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry)

	LOCATION – Education and Community Precinct (Darwin), Online
	DURATION – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time
	DOMESTIC INTAKE – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry) provides you with the academic foundation for admission to legal practice. In that context, the course provides you with knowledge of the law, legal processes, and legal principles and cultivates a capacity for legal research, analysis, and communication. There is a focus on the analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application of various sources of legal authority to construct solutions to legal problems. The course also deals with theoretical perspectives on the law and encourages an appreciation of legal issues of special significance to the Northern Territory, including First Nations legal issues.

This Bachelor-level course has an entry pathway for students who already hold an undergraduate degree. The course structure and content are the same as the standard Bachelor of Laws. However, the course title is distinguished by including “Graduate Entry” to place distinction on a graduate’s multiple qualifications.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Law prepares you to pursue the pathway towards a career as a solicitor or barrister. It may also provide career paths into areas where an in-depth understanding of the law is advantageous, including politics, public service, industrial relations or community advocacy.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

The Bachelor of Laws (Graduate Entry) is accredited by the Legal Practitioners Admission Board of the Northern Territory and provides the academic foundation for admission to legal practice in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia.

To be admitted to legal practice in Australia, you must also complete the Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. This can be taken through The College of Law, Sydney, and completed online.

Bachelor of Laws Honours

	LOCATION – Education and Community Precinct (Darwin), Online
	DURATION – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
	DOMESTIC INTAKE – Semester 1

The Bachelor of Laws Honours is a one-year course for high-achieving Bachelor of Laws graduates. It may provide you with a pathway to a PhD, enhance your career prospects and advance your legal research and writing skills.

During the course, you’ll undertake a substantial legal research project in an area relevant to your career. This is an opportunity to deeply explore a legal topic of your interest and develop a sound understanding of the research methodologies relevant to law and legal scholarship. With the support of CDU’s academic staff and your research supervisor, you will be encouraged to produce quality research and develop your project to a publishable level. If you successfully complete the Bachelor of Laws Honours, you can be eligible for admission to a PhD.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Law prepares you to pursue the pathway towards a career as a solicitor or barrister. However, it may also provide career paths into areas where an in-depth understanding of the law is advantageous, including politics, public service, industrial relations or community advocacy.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This course is recognised by the Legal Profession Admission Board in the Northern Territory.

A woman with dark curly hair and a man with short dark hair are sitting at a wooden table. The woman is wearing a black and white patterned top and is smiling while looking at the man. The man is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and is also smiling. They appear to be in a casual setting, possibly a cafe or a meeting room, with a window and some papers visible in the background.

A place for you at CDU

Undergraduate

Entry requirements that recognise your achievements

Each university course has its own entry requirements – if you've achieved the required ATAR and meet the criteria you can apply directly into the course of your choice.

But perhaps you didn't ace Year 12, decided to start your career with a trade, parked your first degree to go travelling, or already have great professional experience in your industry.

We welcome and celebrate unique paths like these, which is why we offer a range of non-traditional, flexible entry requirements.

Postgraduate

Ready for the next step in your studies?

Postgraduate courses range from graduate certificates through to doctorates and can help you take the next step in your career. In most cases, you will need to have completed an undergraduate degree to apply for a postgraduate course. In some cases, consideration can be given to non-graduates who have relevant professional experience. For some courses, other criteria such as an interview, curriculum vitae (CV), audition or portfolio submission apply. Check the admissions requirements for your chosen course at cdu.edu.au/study

Inherent requirements

Many professions require practical, physical, cognitive, literacy, numeracy and certain personal capabilities, such as ethical behaviour, communication skills and legal reporting compliance.

Find out more at: cdu.edu.au/inherent-requirements

How to apply

1. Visit cdu.edu.au

Explore course information, entry requirements and selection processes for your preferred courses.

2. Select your preferences

Register with [SATAC](https://satac.edu.au) and select up to six preferences. Make sure you select your dream degree as your first preference and check the key dates for applications. Late applications may still go through but the application fee may be higher.

3. Apply

Follow instructions from SATAC to complete and submit your application. SATAC may contact you for further information.

4. Accept your offer and enrol

If you are successful you will receive an offer to study at CDU. This will arrive by email from SATAC. Offer rounds will be made from December, with the majority of offers being sent in January for Semester 1 intake. CDU will then email you information on how to accept and enrol.



TIP

After you've enrolled with CDU take the time to apply for available scholarships: cdu.edu.au/scholarships

Returning to study with us?

If you've previously completed a TAFE Certificate III or higher, the Tertiary Enabling Program or an undergraduate degree at CDU, you may be able to apply for your next course directly through CDU rather than via SATAC.

MyNextCourse is an easy, online portal that allows you to apply faster, avoid application fees and receive your offer sooner.

Visit mynextcourse.cdu.edu.au



Be supported

We are a university that will empower and support you. Whether you study online or on campus, you'll be connected to a network of support services to help keep you focused, motivated and on-track with your studies.

Free academic skills programs

Language and learning support is free and confidential, assisting you with skills development tailored to your specific unit. Language and learning advisors work with you to help you understand assignment requirements and improve communication and study skills for your discipline.

You will be paired with a dedicated peer advisor to help you navigate your studies. They will check in with you every other week. This ongoing support ensures that you're progressing well in your studies and academic life. Peer advisors also run collaborative sessions focusing on preparing you for assignments and exams.

Online study buddies

Enjoy seamless, interactive collaboration with your peers, tutors and lecturers on Learnline. Jump into forums, join discussion boards and chat online with your fellow students – any time of the day or night, across Australia and beyond.

Free career advice

The Careers and Employment team offers expert advice and online tools to help you find a job, understand your work style, build your CV, practice job interviews and more.

Log on to the library

Online and on-campus students have 24/7 access to library resources. Knowledgeable and friendly library staff are ready to help over the phone, via email or face-to-face on most campuses.

Staying well

CDU offers a range of resources to help improve your wellbeing including confidential counselling and wellbeing services.

Equal access

The Access and Inclusion team is on hand to provide free and confidential services and support for students with a disability and/or health conditions. This may include providing adjustments to your study conditions, course materials or assessments or the provision of supportive resources like assistive technology.

Scholarships and financial help

CDU offers scholarships to help you complete your studies. Scholarships are available across a range of categories – not just for high achievers. Get assistance with fees, budgeting and grants to help with your financial health and wellbeing.

Student Central

Student Central is your one-stop spot for support and guidance. You can phone, email or visit them on campus for advice on admissions, timetabling, enrolling, exams, course fees and payments, study plans, scholarships and more.

Respect. Now. Always.

At CDU we believe in diversity as a strength and welcome differences in culture, race, religion, gender identity, ability, and sexuality. We are proud of the diversity of the CDU community, and we are working together to create a fair, safe, and inclusive university where everyone can thrive.

CDU is a part of the Universities Australia, Respect. Now. Always. initiative. We are committed to ensuring our students and staff are safe from gender-based violence, sexual assault or harassment.



Why Choose CDU?

Join students from all across Australia who choose CDU to empower and support them to launch or progress their career.



A leading university for graduate employment outcomes¹

Graduate job-ready – with a salary to match. CDU graduates earn 5% more and are 6% more likely to land a full-time job than the average university student.²



Study your way

CDU is a specialist in flexible study. Fit learning around your lifestyle with part-time, full-time, online and on-campus options.



Top 5 Australian university for first-in-family study

We're a leading university for supporting students who are the first in their immediate family to go to university.¹



Scholarships to help you through

We have a diverse range of scholarships that recognise hard work, support those in need and assist students with the financial burden of studying.



The dual-sector advantage - we're a TAFE and a university

From certificates and apprenticeships through to diplomas and degrees, we have a course to fit your preferred level of study and pathway options. This means if you complete a TAFE course and decide to continue studying, you can do it all with CDU.

1. The Good Universities Guide 2025

2. 2023 Graduate Outcomes Survey National Report

Contact us

E: study@cdu.edu.au

Freecall: 1800 061 963

Mon – Thursday 8.00am - 4.00pm

Friday 8.00am – 3.00pm (ACST)

cdu.edu.au

Casuarina

Larrakia Country

Orange 1.1

Ellengowan Drive, NT

Education and Community Precinct

Larrakia Country

54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT

Darwin Waterfront

Larrakia Country

21 Kitchener Drive, Darwin NT

Palmerston

Larrakia Country

University Avenue, Palmerston NT

Alice Springs

Arrernte Country

Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs NT

Katherine Town Centre

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

19 Second Street, Katherine NT

Katherine Rural

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

Lot 5626 (16km North of Katherine)

Stuart Highway, Katherine NT

Nhulunbuy

Yonju Country

Lot 1468 Dartnall Close, Nhulunbuy NT

Sydney

Gadigal Country

Level 10, 815 George Street,

Haymarket, Sydney, NSW

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct, matters covered by this publication are subject to change. Charles Darwin University does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

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Student Central

Freecall: 1800 061 963

E: study@cdu.edu.au

You make CDU



cdu.edu.au