

THE GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDE 2020

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES



This is a detailed profile of the law and paralegal field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.

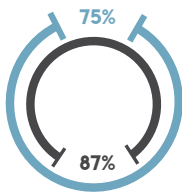
LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

Law offers the opportunity for intellectual absorption and career preparation. If you don't want to be a lawyer, there is no question that law offers diverse career opportunities, with employers ranging from accounting firms and government departments to banks and big businesses.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE POSTGRADUATE

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS



1,683

UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL

60,099

UNDERGRADUATE

16,963

POSTGRADUATE



MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$60,000

UNDERGRADUATE

\$72,000

POSTGRADUATE

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2018, 2017 and 2016. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post-graduation.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Legal Publishing



Legal Advising



Conveyancing



Legal Services



Administration



Law



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT	LEARNER ENGAGEMENT	LEARNING RESOURCES																																																														
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WHAT TO STUDY

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN? The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

LAW & PARALEGAL STUDIES

LAW

Can you see yourself cross-examining witnesses in a courtroom? Do you like a good debate? What about reading, research and analysis? Many students see law as offering a secure career in what can be a high-status profession, but it's important to keep in mind that law courses are usually competitive and can involve a great deal of hard work.

Law offers the opportunity for intellectual absorption, as well as career preparation. Over time, the LLB (Bachelor of Laws) has transformed from a purely professional degree to a popular generalist qualification — not everyone who studies law wants to practise. If you don't want to be a lawyer, there is no question that law offers a great base for you to build on for a wide range of jobs, with employers ranging from accounting firms and government departments to banks and big business.

A law degree requires many hours of studying and reading legal tomes dedicated to many compulsory subjects. Law usually takes around five years to complete and may be offered as a double degree, giving students a broad education that can be applied in several fields.

If your interest is mainly in being a lawyer for corporations, criminals or refugees, you need to know that the majority of the subjects you take will not be in these areas. Although you will get the chance to choose some subjects, about half of them will be the core units that are required for admission to legal practice.

For more information, visit:

- Law Council of Australia
www.lawcouncil.asn.au

PARALEGAL STUDIES

If you are interested in law, you should also consider paralegal studies. The following are just some of the majors you can study in this field:

- Border management
- Civil practice
- Criminal justice
- Criminology
- Forensic science
- Justice administration

- Juvenile justice
- Legal studies
- Police studies

While law is often front of mind for those considering a career in the legal system, fewer students consider the roles available in justice administration — police officers, parole officers, prison officers, paraprofessionals who assist lawyers, and people who design and run security systems in big organisations, among others. Most of the paralegal studies courses are designed to prepare people to enter these occupations, while others focus on areas more closely tied to humanities disciplines.

Although paralegal courses were traditionally offered in the vocational education sector, many are now available at degree level — either as standalone degrees or as majors within arts or social science programs. Some of the newer specialisations include defence and counter-terrorism studies.

WHERE TO STUDY

Legal education today is better than it was, but a lot of it remains detailed and difficult to fully understand. Some schools might be better than others at bringing it to life with problem-based methods. In addition, your school's reputation and your involvement in societies and extracurricular work will be important for your career to flourish.

Consider all of your course options. You could do law as a graduate entry course (such as a Juris Doctor) after you have gained some experience studying or working in a different field. Don't forget that to practise as a lawyer you must undertake practical training upon completing your degree, either through a 'traineeship' at a law firm or through an approved course, which usually takes about six months.

Entry into paralegal studies courses is generally easier than law, although the overall level of difficulty has increased over time. Relevant courses are offered at most universities, although some will boast a more extensive course menu than others.

