2025

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture— Faculty of Law



POSTGRADUATE









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OUTSTANDING





Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 17 universities worldwide

to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction; further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained here was accurate at the time it was prepared. However, matters covered by this publication are subject to change due to a continuous process of review, and to unanticipated circumstances. The University therefore reserves the right to make any changes without notice. So far as the law permits, the University accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any person due to reliance (either whole or in part) on the information contained in this publication, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.



"I have always been deeply passionate about understanding the complexities of armed conflicts and finding ways to mitigate their devastating impacts on human lives. The combination of a prestigious academic institution, the conducive environment of Wellington, and the opportunity to work closely with esteemed scholars in my field of interest made Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington the perfect choice for pursuing my doctoral studies."

Maria Rabino-Neira

Candidate, Doctor of Philosophy in Law

WELCOME

A warm welcome to postgraduate study at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

Whether you are a working professional or someone looking to build on your undergraduate studies, you'll find our programmes offer a world of opportunity to deepen your knowledge and skills in specialised areas of the law.

You'll have the chance to experience a range of Law study areas taught by leading academics and legal professionals with specialist expertise, including practising lawyers, solicitors, and barristers.

Our courses are delivered in a flexible format that allows for deep immersion, as well as the opportunity to make close connections with your peers.

Located in the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's legal and political capital, Wellington's law school is prominently positioned to offer you access to a hub of decision-making and debate. Scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and public servants contribute to the analysis, application, and development of law in New Zealand and overseas. Join our faculty community and become part of the conversation through the programmes and opportunities we have to offer in 2025.

A postgraduate degree from the Faculty of Law is highly regarded both in New Zealand and internationally. You will become part of a global, active, and influential network of more than 4,500 alumni.

I encourage you to apply now for postgraduate study in Law in 2025 and to discover how the Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington can help you thrive in your future career.

Professor Lee Godden

Dean

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture—Faculty of Law



Te Herenga Waka—Victoria **University of Wellington's Faculty** of Law is consistently ranked among the top 100 law schools in the world, confirming our position as one of the best places in the world to study Law.

We are ranked first in New Zealand for research quality, according to the Tertiary Education Commission's Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) Quality Evaluation.



"I am enjoying my study at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington immensely. It is helping me in devising creative legal solutions for a fair and final settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims within my own iwi of Lake Waikaremoana (Ngāti Ruapani) and Rotorua (Ngāti Whakaue). My previous studies, combined with my experience as a historian within my iwi and for the Waitangi Tribunal, have helped me develop an appetite for legal research."

Rāpata Wiri (Ngāti Ruapani, Ngāti Whakaue) Student, Master of Laws

PROGRAMME OPTIONS

QUALIFICATIONS

Title	Overview	Details
Graduate Certificate in Law (GCertLaw) 60 points	Full time: 1 trimester. Part time: up to 2 years.	 The 60-point GCertLaw allows you to study at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level from a choice of 300- to 500-level LAWS courses. If you decide to continue on to postgraduate study, 500-level courses completed as part of the GCertLaw may be credited to an LLM (see below).
Graduate Diploma in Law (GDipLaw) 120 points	Full time: 2 trimesters. Part time: up to 3 years. ▶ A flexible programme providing a pathway into law studies at an advanced (graduate) level in the postgraduate and undergraduate programmes. ▶ The GDipLaw is designed for tertiary graduates from different backgrounds, legal professionals, and legal practitioners from overseas who are seeking a New Zealand qualification for legal accreditation.	▶ The 120-point GDipLaw allows you to study at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level from a choice of 200- to 500-level LAWS courses, and including at least 75 points at 300 level or above.
Postgraduate Certificate in Law (PGCertLaw) 60 points	Full time: 1 trimester. Part time: up to 2 years. ➤ A flexible programme that enables you to build your legal skills or focus on a new specialisation. ➤ There is a range of options to suit legal professionals, graduates from different backgrounds, or legal practitioners from overseas.	 The 60-point PGCertLaw allows you to study at postgraduate level from a choice of 400- and 500-level LAWS courses. If you decide to continue with postgraduate study, 500-level courses completed as part of the PGCertLaw may be credited to an LLM (see below).
Master of Laws (LLM) 120 points	Full time: 1 year. Part time: up to 3 years. ▶ An internationally relevant postgraduate qualification offering a breadth of content and experience, with original research as a strong element. ▶ May be completed by coursework, a combination of dissertation and coursework, or thesis. ▶ LAWS 581 Advanced Legal Study (10 points) is a compulsory course for the LLM. This covers research methodologies, legal theories, and basic skills required for successful postgraduate study in law.	Master of Laws by coursework ➤ You can tailor a programme of seminars or short courses to suit your needs. ➤ You will take 120 points at 500 level (plus LAWS 581). ➤ Up to 40 points may be substituted from an LLM programme from another approved university, or from equivalent non-Law postgraduate courses at Victoria University of Wellington. Master of Laws by dissertation and coursework ➤ You can incorporate an in-depth piece of research into your studies, with a 35,000-word dissertation (LAWS 592) that accounts for 90 of the 120 points. ➤ In addition to LAWS 581, 20 points can be selected from 500-level Law courses. Master of Laws by thesis ➤ Enables you to research a legal topic of interest in depth, undertaking a 50,000-word, 120-point thesis. ➤ LAWS 581 is a required course for the LLM by thesis.
Master of International Trade (MInTr) 180 points	Full time: 1 year. Part time: up to 3 years. ➤ The degree is made up of four core courses totalling 120 points, and further courses totalling 60 points.	You will learn through lectures, seminars, class discussion, and meetings with lecturers and the programme director, and through your own independent study and research.
Master of Construction Law (MConsLaw) 180 points	Full time: 1 year. Part time: 3 years. ➤ This collaborative curriculum is designed to equip you with expert-level understanding of the intricacies of construction. ➤ The degree is made up of a selection of courses encompassing contract drafting, dispute resolution techniques, procurement strategies, and risk management protocols, as well as pivotal legislation such as the Building Act, the Resource Management Act, and Māori land law.	This programme is taught through a mix of online resources and short, intensive teaching blocks, allowing you to learn at your own pace.

Philosophy in Law (PhD) Part time: 6 Doctoral qualifica and is su	Full time: 3-4 years. Part time: 6-7 years.	PhD students undertake a thesis demonstrating original and independent research conducted under
	▶ Doctoral study is the highest level of qualification offered by the Faculty of Law, and is suitable for candidates who want to undertake advanced and original research.	supervision, with a maximum length of 100,000 words.
	► As New Zealand's top-ranked law school for research, we offer excellent facilities and guidance by scholars of national and international standing.	
	▶ LAWS 581 Advanced Legal Study (10 points) is a compulsory course for the PhD. This covers research methodologies, legal theories, and basic skills required for successful postgraduate study in law.	

INDIVIDUAL COURSES

Title	Overview	Details
Certificate of Proficiency	 Perfect if you wish to take a stand-alone postgraduate course that is not credited towards a qualification. If you decide later to pursue an LLM, or a PGCertLaw, GradDipLaw, or GCertLaw, you can credit courses towards it. 	 Individual 500-level LAWS courses can be taken throughout the year, under the University's Certificate of Proficiency enrolment option. Not available to international students.
Assessment- free courses for professional development	 We offer time-strapped professionals the opportunity to access relevant, thought-provoking research and expertise without the added workload of assessments. This means a reduced fee that will fit into most professional development budgets, and a reduced time commitment. 	 Students can attend and participate in selected 300- and 500-level LAWS courses without completing assessments. Enrolment in this capacity cannot be applied to a formal qualification.

To view the full range of our postgraduate courses for 2025, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/postgrad-law

COURSE DELIVERY AND ASSESSMENT

Our postgraduate (500-level) Law courses vary from year to year and are designed to enhance your understanding of a broad range of current and emerging issues in law. They offer a flexible approach to study and include relevant career development opportunities for working professionals.

These courses aim to hone areas of specialisation by allowing you time and space to reflect on the broader significance of your experiences as a scholar or practitioner in law, business, or policy. They also provide an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals sharing your specialist areas of interest.

With the permission of the course coordinator, you may enrol in a 300-level LAWS course in place of a 500-level LAWS course, where you will complete a 7,500-word essay instead of the final piece of assessment.

Our courses meet the requirements of the New Zealand Law Society's Continuing Professional Development programme.

Our courses incorporate a range of teaching and assessment methods. For detailed information about what to expect in a specific course, go to our website.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/course-finder

Examples of course delivery methods

- Taught: Concentrated learning based on a syllabus set by the lecturer. Lecturer-led instruction, along with class discussion and other activities.
- Seminar: Strong research focus, with significant time dedicated to the presentation and discussion of research papers by students.
 Includes instruction, facilitated discussions, and other activities.

Examples of assessment methods

- Research paper: The major form of assessment is a research paper, normally 7,500 words (for 20-point courses, held over one trimester) up to 15,000 words (for 40-point courses, held over two trimesters).
- Take-home exam: This is the major form of assessment.
- Mixed: Assessment is split between the above.
- Other shorter tasks are likely to be required (such as position papers or class participation).

MASTER OF LAWS

Full time: 1 year (three trimesters)

Part time: 3 years

The 120-point Master of Laws (LLM) programme at Victoria University of Wellington allows students to pursue advanced study under the guidance of internationally renowned academics and leading legal practitioners, and to perfect their expertise in cutting-edge legal issues in all areas of the law

As New Zealand's top-ranked university for research quality, the University has a great reputation for academic excellence, underpinned by the quality of our learning environment and innovative teaching. The Faculty of Law is strategically located close to government, Parliament, the courts, and other public and private stakeholders. This gives our students an unparalleled opportunity to be near the centre of debate and decision-making that shapes law and legal policy issues in New Zealand.

The Master of Laws has one core course (LAWS 581 Advanced Legal Study) and a wide annual selection of courses. Up to 40 points may be substituted from an LLM programme from another approved university, or from equivalent non-Law postgraduate courses at Victoria University of Wellington.

The programme has three qualification options and is flexible to suit the needs of students looking for a quality learning environment and law professionals juggling work, study, and professional development.

With the permission of the course coordinator, you may enrol in a 300-level LAWS course in place of a 500-level LAWS course, where you will complete a 7,500-word essay instead of the final piece of assessment.

The qualification options are:

- Master of Laws by coursework
- Master of Laws by dissertation and coursework
- Master of Laws by thesis.

Acceptance into the Master of Laws programme is at the discretion of the Faculty of Law's director of postgraduate studies, and normally requires a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB(Hons)) with at least a B average and proof of English proficiency.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/llm

General questions, admission, and enrolment information

Postgraduate Administrator

J +64 4 463 6341

■ law-postgraduate@vuw.ac.nz

Director of Postgraduate Studies Professor Alberto Costi

■ alberto.costi@vuw.ac.nz





Make a difference through discovery

"The eclectic courses offered at the Faculty of Law and the emphasis on original research and critical thinking made Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington the natural and only choice for me. My decision to pursue a PhD was thanks to the support of the Faculty's staff at the University, who helped me hone my research, analytical, and writing skills with their regular constructive feedback."

Prakriti Bhatt

Candidate, Doctor of Philosophy in Law

MASTER OF

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Full time: 1 year (three trimesters)

Part time: 3 years

Victoria University of Wellington's Master of International Trade is Australasia's only multidisciplinary degree covering the cultural, economic, legal, and political aspects of international trade

It offers an unrivalled opportunity to learn from the University's experts across business, humanities and social sciences, law, and science, as well as experts from the public and private sectors, and to develop networks through the University's links to government and industry.

Elective courses can be any that are relevant to international trade and might include courses from Geography, Earth Sciences, or Māori Studies.

Acceptance into the Master of International Trade programme is at the discretion of the programme director and normally requires a Bachelor's degree with at least a B average.

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www.wgtn.ac.nz/minttr

General questions, admission, and enrolment information

Postgraduate Administrator

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■ law-postgraduate@vuw.ac.nz



"Learning in the Master of International Trade was cumulative, with each new area of law, economics, and politics supporting each other. In that vein, my degree prepared me exactly for my career— I now work for WTI Advisors, a small, Geneva-based consultancy that advises clients, including governments, on matters to do with international trade law, economics, or policy. Learning about trade economics, international politics, and trade policy gave me some fantastic context for why the legal work we do is important."

Scott Macdonald-PattersonGraduate, Master of International Trade

MASTER OF

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Full time: 1 year (three trimesters)

Part time: 3 years

Discover new opportunities and elevate your career trajectory with the Master of Construction Law.

The Master of Construction Law is a collaborative postgraduate degree led by experts from the Faculty of Architecture and Design Innovation and the Faculty of Law.

The interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to provide you with competency in law relevant to construction, while building knowledge relevant to architecture and design. The degree is made up of a selection of courses encompassing contract drafting, dispute resolution techniques, procurement strategies, and risk management protocols, as well as pivotal legislation such as the Building Act, the Resource Management Act, and Māori land law.

Whether you're from a legal or a construction background, our programme merges these areas to give you a multifaceted understanding that is essential for success in the industry.

Our programme's flexible framework combines online resources and short, intensive teaching blocks. You can tailor your studies to suit your schedule, making it ideal for learners across New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific region.

General questions, admission, and enrolment information

Postgraduate Administrator

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■ law-postgraduate@vuw.ac.nz

Director of Postgraduate Studies Professor Alberto Costi

■ alberto.costi@vuw.ac.nz



INTERNATIONAL **STUDENTS**

Our most popular programme among international students is the 120-point LLM by coursework, which is normally completed within one year over two or three trimesters.

International students can commence an LLM at the start of either Trimester 1 or 2. Students should apply as early as possible to allow time to organise a visa and arrange travel and accommodation.

International students seeking admission to the LLM must apply through Te Kahupapa—Wellington University International. Information about accommodation, the application process, fees, funding opportunities, and related matters is on the website.



www.wgtn.ac.nz/international

SCHOLARSHIPS

All international students can apply for the Faculty of Law's LLM fees scholarship, which contributes \$5,000 towards fees. Other scholarships are also available (see page 11 for more information).

INTERNSHIPS

The LLM internship is a special course for international students. It provides them with an unprecedented opportunity to experience working in a New Zealand legal workplace environment. The Faculty of Law internship coordinator works to find each student an individual placement that is a good fit for that student's legal interests. Students are placed in private law firms, government departments, the courts, community law centres, and other suitable organisations.

The internship allows students to participate in a professional environment and learn how the legal workplace operates in practice. There will be a component of legal or policy research and analytical writing. Recent students have interned at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Office of Film and Literature Classification; the Waitangi Tribunal; various community law centres; and leading law firms.

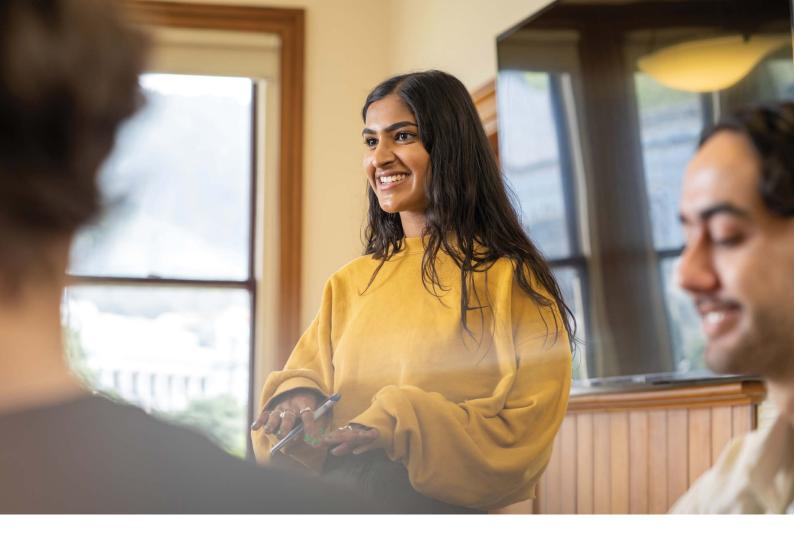
ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

The Faculty of Law's English requirements for international postgraduate students are:

- IELTS overall band of 7, including a writing sub-score of 7 and no sub-score below 6.5 (or equivalent); or
- TOEFL 100 on the internet-based test with a minimum of 25 in writing; or
- a minimum of three ratings of 5 for reading, writing, and speaking, and one rating of 4 for listening, from Victoria University of Wellington's English for Academic Purposes programme.

PRACTISING LAW IN **NEW ZEALAND**

Information about the requirements to practise law in New Zealand is available at https://nzcle.org.nz



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Overview	More information	
Domestic and internation	Domestic and international students		
Wellington Master's by Thesis Scholarship	\$15,000 stipend plus a fees waiver equivalent to domestic fees. The 90-point LLM Dissertation (LAWS 592) meets the University's definition of a thesis.	www.wgtn.ac.nz/masters- by-thesis-scholarship	
International students only			
Faculty of Law International Students LLM Fee Scholarship	\$5,000 towards fees for students enrolled full time for an LLM and who are paying full international fees. The scholarship may be granted to students with a good academic record who can show financial need.	www.wgtn.ac.nz/ scholarship-llm	
Angelo South Pacific Postgraduate Educational Scholarships	Payment of fees and a return airfare for third- or fourth-year students intending to undertake one trimester at the University of the South Pacific and who are undertaking an LLM or a postgraduate diploma.	www.wgtn.ac.nz/south- pacific-law-scholarship	
Tongarewa Scholarship	Up to 10 scholarships of \$10,000 will be available to both undergraduate and postgraduate recipients, and up to nine scholarships of \$5,000 will be available to postgraduate recipients. Scholarships will be paid towards fees.	www.wgtn.ac.nz/tongarewa- scholarship	

For details of other available scholarships, and related information, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

KEY DATES AND ENROLMENT INFORMATION

2025 TRIMESTER DATES

Trimester 1: Monday 24 February to Saturday 21 June (classes finish Friday 30 May)

Trimester 2: Monday 7 July to Saturday 1 November (classes finish Friday 10 October)

Trimester 3: Monday 10 November to Saturday 14 February 2026

APPLY AND ENROL

Domestic students

Applications can be submitted online at www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply by the following dates. Late applicants may be considered.

Qualification	Date
GCertLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
GDipLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
PGCertLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by coursework	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by dissertation and coursework	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by thesis	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
MInTr	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
MConsLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
Certificate of Proficiency	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
Assessment-free courses for professional development	Go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/wellingtonuni-professional and select 'Law' for a list of courses open to assessment-free participants. Subject to availability of spaces, applications may be considered up until the course commences. To enrol, contact profdev@vuw.ac.nz or call +64 4 463 6556.

International students

Applications are to be submitted by the following dates. For information on how to apply, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/international-apply Late applications may be accommodated.

Qualification	Date
GCertLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
GDipLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
PGCertLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by coursework	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by dissertation and coursework	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
LLM by thesis	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
MInTr	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025
MConsLaw	1 December 2024 to start studying in Trimester 1, 2025

Domestic and international students

PhD

Te Here Tāura Rangahau—Faculty of Graduate Research is the first point of contact for all students interested in enrolling in a PhD at Victoria University of Wellington. For details, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/fgr

Before applying, applicants are welcome to contact prospective supervisors at the Faculty of Law—see opposite for names and areas of expertise.

Applications are to be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Research by 1 March, 1 July, or 1 November. Late applications may be accommodated—email the postgraduate administrator.

■ law-postgraduate@vuw.ac.nz

Acceptance into courses is dependent on availability of spaces.

LEARN FROM THE BEST

At Victoria University of Wellington's Faculty of Law, research supervision at both PhD and Master's levels is second to none. Our faculty members' areas of interest are listed below.

More information on thesis supervision is at www.wgtn.ac.nz/law-supervisors

Detailed profiles of faculty members are at www.wgtn.ac.nz/law/staff



Professor Gordon Anderson Employment and labour law: international labour regulation



Business entrepreneurship; iwi governance structures; Māori business law; public law; social enterprises



Associate Professor Grant Morris Legal history; negotiation and mediation; law and literature; employment law relating to personal grievances



Professor Bill Atkin Torts; family law; medico-legal; social welfare law



Environmental law: climate change: Indigenous rights; statutory interpretation

Professor Catherine lorns Magallanes



Professor Joanna Mossop Law of the sea: international environmental law; Antarctica



Professor Graeme Austin Copyright; trade marks; international intellectual property; general civil obligations



Professor Dean Knight Public law generally (constitutional and administrative law, especially judicial review); local government and democracy



Criminal law; criminal justice; evidence; gendered violence; legal ethics; legal philosophy; feminist legal theory



Dr Mark Bennett General legal philosophy and political theory: trusts law; property theory; wealth structures and avoidance; residential tenancies



Associate Professor Meredith Kolsky Lewis International trade law; international economic law



Competition law: law and economics: remedies

Paul Scott

Victoria Stace



Professor Richard Boast KC Legal history: land law: Māori land claims: the Treaty of Waitangi and the Waitangi Tribunal: Latin American law



Dr Marnie Llovdd International humanitarian and human rights law related to armed conflict, peace. and security; counterterrorism and foreign fighting; humanitarian law and policy; legal identity and forced migration



Company law; financial markets regulation; insolvency law; commercial law; financial consumer law; personal property securities law



Public law: administrative law: law and democracy; law and sexuality



Dr Bjørn-Oliver Magsig Public international law: international environmental law; law of the sea; law of freshwater resources; climate change law



Reader Māmari Stephens Māori and law: Treaty of Waitangi issues: welfare law; law and language; social security law; Māori jurisprudence



Professor Alberto Costi

Public international law: law of armed conflict; international environmental law; comparative law; public law; climate change



Dr Danica McGovern Criminal law and justice



Professor Yvette Tinsley Criminal law: criminal justice: sentencing and

penal policy; law and forensic science; law and psychology; socio-legal studies



Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown

Te Tiriti o Waitangi; decolonisation; family law, child protection and children's rights



Professor David McLauchlan

Law of contract



Hai-Yuean Tualima

Pacific legal systems; customary law; Indigenous rights; international intellectual property; human rights



Professor Susy Frankel

International intellectual property; copyright; patents; trade marks; Indigenous peoples' intellectual property; international trade law



Professor Geoff McLay

Torts; trusts and equity; law reform; legislation



Dr Mele Tupou Vaitohi

Public international law; Tongan constitutional law



Professor Lee Godden

Climate change law and energy transition; comparative native title and Indigenous peoples' land and water rights; disaster law and climate adaption; environmental law; legal theory and jurisprudence; property law



Professor Nicole Moreham

Law of privacy; breach of confidence; media law



Comparative legal systems, Chinese law, law and society/culture, legal history, property (land) law



Dr Michelle Zang

European constitutional law; European external relations; international economic/ trade/investment law; international dispute settlement



CONTACT US

General questions, admission, and enrolment information

Postgraduate Administrator

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Postgraduate law and your career; topic development for the LLM dissertation and thesis

Director of Postgraduate Studies Professor Alberto Costi

alberto.costi@vuw.ac.nz

