

FIRST YEAR GUIDE | 2021

The background image shows a university courtyard. In the foreground, five students are standing and talking on a paved area. Behind them is a large, historic stone building with Gothic-style architecture, featuring arched windows and a central entrance. Mature trees with green and some autumn-colored leaves are scattered throughout the courtyard, framing the building and the students.

SURVIVING

LAW

SCHOOL

NOTRE DAME SYDNEY LAW SOCIETY

The University of Notre Dame Australia



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
AUSTRALIA

Broadway site

02 8204 4404 | sydney@nd.edu.au



Department/School	Building
Admissions	NDS5
Benito's Cafe	NDS3
Beyond the Books	NDS4
Campus Life	NDS4
Campus Services	NDS7
Chaplaincy	NDS1
Counselling	NDS5
Fees Office	NDS5
Finance Office	NDS7
Institute for Ethics and Society	NDS1

IT Services	NDS4
Lecture Rooms (Pioneer House)	NDS5
Lecture Rooms (St Benedict's)	NDS2
Library (Canavan Hall)	NDS6
LTO (Learning & Teaching Office)	NDS4
The NDA Store	NDS3
Notre Dame Study Centre	NDS5
Office of Marketing & Communications	NDS17
Office of University Relations	NDS17
QMO (Quality Management Office)	NDS4

Reception	NDS5
Registrar's Office	NDS5
Research	NDS9
SAUNDA Office	NDS4
School of Art & Sciences	NDS2
School of Business	NDS15
School of Education	NDS5
School of Law	NDS15
School of Philosophy & Theology	NDS16
Staffing Office	NDS7
St Benedict's Church	NDS8

Student Administration	NDS5
Student Recruitment Office	NDS5
Study Abroad	NDS5
Theatre	NDS2
Vice Chancellery	NDS17

Darlinghurst Site
160 Oxford St, Darlinghurst
> School of Medicine
> School of Nursing

CONTENTS

04 FOREWARD

Alicia Hull

05 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Ebony Billett

06 DEAN'S ADDRESS

Professor Michael Quinlan

09 MEET YOUR SOCIETY

NDSLS 2021

10 HELPFUL HINTS

Take it from a bunch of final year students!

12 HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Need a coffee?

15 CALENDAR

Everything you need to know to keeps up to date in SEM 1



FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS



Notre Dame Sydney
Law Society



@ndsls

FOREWARD

from the Education Director

ALICIA HULL

Hello!

Firstly, I wish to **Congratulate** for being accepted into university, and choosing to join us at the School of Law!

You are now at the beginning of a great adventure. This Guide contains all the important information and useful tips to help you on your journey. The time will fly by! Before you know it, you will find yourself in your final year, on the path to another great adventure (just like me!).

During your time at Notre Dame you won't just form connections, you will form friendships – with students and lecturers alike. The Law School staff are committed to helping all students achieve their potential by equipping us with all the necessary skills to enter the profession.

Making friends is daunting and it can take some time. I didn't immediately meet all the friends that I have today – your best friend could be in a different class to you and you don't know it yet! But I still remember many of my friends introducing themselves to me in the first week. It is challenging but you just have to put yourself out there! Short term pain for long term gain!

Another important thing to take away from this Guide, is that there is more to Law School than simply attending classes. attending social events and ganging around campus is part of the university experience! Competitions are a great way to learn from experience, and look good on a resume!

Finally, please don't hesitate to ask questions or talk to members of the Notre Dame Sydney Law Society (NDSLS for short) if you recognise us around campus, or send us an email! We have been elected to serve **you**, we were all once first years like **you**, and we are students like **you**!

Goodluck, all the best and have fun!

Welcome to Notre Dame!



WELCOME

from the President

EBONY BILLET

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME SYDNEY.

You have certainly made a wonderful choice in selecting our University and I congratulate you on your acceptance to Notre Dame and I look forward to meeting you, whether that be virtually or in person this year. Being someone new is always a daunting experience, particularly if you don't know anyone and have to face the reality of attending University for the first time via Zoom. Although the welcome to University will be very different to previous years, I can promise you that the lecturers are always helpful and very approachable, especially to help you ease the nerves and settle into the life of a University student.

To help encourage you, I have compiled a short list to make things not feel overwhelming for you.

- Make friends with those in your class.
 - Having class virtually certainly makes things harder to develop friendships, though add them on Facebook and message them. Friendship is one of the most important, if not the most important aspect, of surviving law school. As first year students, you will be able to help each other settle into the life of a University student and talk about how to best accomplish assignments and the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (4) (AGLC).



- Make sure you organise your time appropriately.
 - As a law student, organisation is the key to being successful. Plan your time accordingly, as to what weekly readings you need to do and what assignments need working on.
- Never let go of opportunities presented to you.
 - The NDSLS offers a plethora of opportunities including skills-building workshops, networking events and social events. You never know what will come about of it.
- Most importantly, enjoy your time at Notre Dame.

Get involved and make long lasting memories you can cherish. I look forward to meeting you and wish you every success as a new student at the University of Notre Dame, it is certainly a wonderful achievement and something you should be very proud of. Enjoy your time here and please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

God bless.

ADDRESS

from the Dean

PROFESSOR MICHAEL QUINLAN

Welcome to the School of Law of the University of Notre Dame Australia in Broadway, Sydney (Notre Dame Law).

Choosing which degree and which university to study at are very difficult tasks. Making these decisions in an environment of uncertainty and disruption caused by a global pandemic is even harder. You have my sympathies. I am sure that you have thought very carefully about your decision to join us at Notre Dame Law. Thank you for choosing to study with us. I have no doubt that you have made the right decision and that you will enjoy the unique learning environment that is Notre Dame Law. We see the project that you are just beginning to be a joint exercise to get you from where you are today to where you want to be when you graduate. Like any shared activity there are things that you can do and there are things that Notre Dame Law and the Notre Dame Sydney Law Society (NDSLS) can and will do for you. Let's start with what we can do for you.

What Notre Dame Law will do for you

We have a very special commitment to providing you with an excellent standard of training for the legal profession. In fact this is one of the specific demands that the Objects of the University make of us. In order to meet this requirement, uniquely of all law schools in Australia, all of our academic staff have experience working as lawyers, Canon lawyers or experts in environmental law in Australia or overseas. Most of your teachers have been partners in law firms with decades of legal experience. For example, before my appointment as Dean in 2013, I had the great privilege of working for over 23 years at Allens, where I was a partner for more than 14 years. All of our teachers have made a conscious decision to teach here in order to help you do the best that you can.

Our law degree concentrates on developing not only a very sound knowledge of the academic discipline of the law but also some of the basic skills that lawyers need to be successful. We have a very clear focus on developing a deep knowledge of the fundamental building blocks of the law. Most of these are found in the "Priestley 11" courses which are mandatory for admission in all Australian States and Territories (they include torts, contracts, property, criminal law etc.).



Our students benefit from a real commitment of time and focus on these areas. We will provide you with practical skills such as advocacy, public speaking, commercial practice and alternative dispute resolution to better prepare you for a career in the law.

We will provide you with many opportunities to be mentored by practising lawyers and opportunities to undertake internships as part of your degree. We will also help you to think not just about what the law is, but about what it should be, and to develop lifelong learning skills. We will also provide you with weekly updates on career, mentoring, internship and volunteering opportunities, student and alumni successes and course information through our weekly newsletter, *The Jury's In*. I know you will have a lot of demands on your time and it can be easy to miss each week's *The Jury's In* but I really do encourage you to read it. Many of our students and alumni thank me for ensuring that we publish *The Jury's In* as they have found work or volunteering or other opportunities within its pages.

What the NDSLS will do for you

You are very lucky to be joining a law school with an incredibly proactive, enthusiastic and engaged student society. The NDSLS is a student body representing every student enrolled at Notre Dame Law. The NDSLS will enrich your student experience if you engage with its impressive website and Facebook site, participate in the competitions it runs in mooting, negotiation, client interviews and other areas, read its Careers Guide and Student Guide and its regular newsletter, attend the Careers Week events and the social events and lectures it puts on including the Law Ball, the Annual Social Justice Lecture and Annual Women in Law Panel and help it to raise funds for charities and Non-Government Organisations.

What you can do for yourself

When you finish your degree employers will be interested in your academic results, in your work

experience and in your other achievements. Think now about what those will look like when you write your first job application to work in the law. Plan ahead. Your academic results will make a difference to the range of options that you have when you finish your degree. Work hard to achieve the best results that you can. Develop contacts in the law and gain experience in the law. Take advantage of the mentoring and internship opportunities we offer. Join or get involved in organisations where you will meet lawyers such as the Young Lawyers section of the NSW Law Society, the St Thomas More Society and political parties. Think of all the lawyers that you already know – family, friends, family of friends and friends of family. Think of lawyers that you have a connection with – lawyers in your local area, lawyers who went to your school, lawyers from your work, church, faith, sporting or other communities which you are part of. Get in touch with them. Learn about what they do. Ask whether they know of any lawyers looking to hire law students. Volunteer. Take up leadership roles. Get involved in the NDSLS, the community and build up your network of contacts in the law.

An international approach to studying law

At Notre Dame Law we recognise the impacts of globalisation on the law. This is why all of our law students must study at least one international law elective but each year there is more than one international law elective on offer and students can choose to take more international law electives. You can also study some of your law courses abroad. We are always looking to expand our offerings but to date most of our law students who have studied law abroad have studied classes, taught in English, in Lyon in France or in Maynooth in Ireland. The university has recently announced an exciting new relationship with the Catholic University of Paris which in French is known as the Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP).

Our first new program with ICP was the Master of Laws (coursework) (LLM) which commenced in Semester 2, 2020. Alongside this program we continue to offer three postgraduate research programs in law: the Master of Laws (Research), the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Even though you are just starting your university level legal studies you might like to start thinking about going on to further studies with us after completion of your Bachelor of Laws (LLB) combined or single degree. The LLM has an international law focus. Students can commence their LLM studies in semesters 1 or 2 and study the program full-time or part-time.

Students who enrol in this one year LLM will have the option of completing all of their studies with us but they may also choose to complete the second semester of their LLM at ICP. Notre Dame students who complete a semester of their LLM at ICP will receive a certificate of completion of a semester of studies from ICP as well as their LLM. The LLM has been designed to be flexible. The opportunities which it provides for overseas study of law in English in two Catholic Universities – one in Australia and one in France make the program unique. If you wish to go straight on to study the LLM after you complete your LLB you will need to complete your LLB with Honours, at a high credit level or be able to demonstrate relevant practical experience. So now you know what you need to do in the course you are about to take if you want to go straight on to study the LLM.

Our approach works

Law students from Notre Dame Law have the opportunity to compete in a wide range of competitions internally and externally. I encourage you to do so whilst you are with us. For a small school our law students achieve extraordinary results. The Quality Indicators in Learning & Teaching website collates external surveys of law students across all Australian universities and law schools. It is worth having a look at as you will see that the university and Notre Dame Law you are joining always rank extremely well in all of the areas that will impact on your study experiences and your future including Skills Development, Teacher Quality, Overall experience, Learner Engagement and Student Support. In short the evidence is in – Notre Dame Law is an excellent law school. You have made a great choice!

I look forward to writing and reading about your achievements as you become part of the Notre Dame Law success story. Enjoy your time here. It is a really friendly place and I am sure that you will make many lifelong friends at Notre Dame Law.

God bless

MEET THE 2021 COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Ebony Billett
VICE PRESIDENT	Jasmine Robertson
SECRETARY	Jack Tobin
TREASURER	Jose Corpus

DIRECTORS

CAREERS	Paige Gavenlock
COMMUNICATIONS	Christina Buhagiar
COMPETITIONS	Lucas Ullman
EDUCATION	Alicia Hull
IT	Jemima Barlow
SOCIAL EVENTS	Fleur Mulcahy
SOCIAL JUSTICE	Meg Abbott
SPONSORSHIP	Taylor Campbell
SPORTS	James Pelosi

YEAR REPS

SECOND	Brooke Nguyen
THIRD	Imogen Mahony
FOURTH	Rebecca Saleme
FIFTH	Georgina Morton
MATURE AGE	Grace Poon

ASSISTANTS

CAREERS	Amy Skinstad
COMPETITIONS	Jeremy Zalewski
SPONSORSHIP	Amy Oreshkin



FIRST YEAR CORE COURSES

Legal Process & Statutory Interpretation

In this course you will develop a critical understanding of the institutions and practices fundamental to the law in Australia. Statutory interpretation is an essential skill that will be developed throughout the duration of your degree. Get ready to read some cases!

Legal Research & Writing

Your introduction to legal problem scenarios. It will teach you how to use credible sources, reference, and writing style requirements.

Legal History

As the name suggests, this course is centred around the history and development of the Australian legal system, and other influential international jurisdictions.

Criminal Law

This course provides an introduction to criminal offences and procedure. In Crim A you will learn about the elements of an offence, murder and manslaughter. In Crim B you will learn about assault, sexual and property offences, defences and liability. You will apply this knowledge to solve legal problems both orally and in writing.

11 HELPFUL TIPS

Learn the tricks of the trade from students who have been there, done that! The things Law Students wished they knew when they were in first year.

Say Hello!

Everyone is a little nervous when they start Law School, but don't be shy! Law degrees take a long time – you might as well be friends! Introduce yourself to students, your lecturers and even the person behind you in line at Benito's! A new friend could be one 'hello' away!

Embrace Campus Culture

A great way to feel part of the Notre Dame community, and connect with likeminded people, is to join a club or society. NDSLS run many exciting academic and social events and initiatives throughout the year – you might even consider a student leadership position! Events such as Law Ball, First Year Morning Tea, Start of Semester Meet & Greet, NDSLS x SAUNDA Harbour Cruise and ND Gift should be on every Law Student's social calendar.

Ask Questions in Class

Don't be afraid to ask questions! There is no such thing as a dumb question! University is for learning. If you are unsure of something, do not hesitate to ask your lecturers. They are here to help you! It's better to understand the concept sooner rather than when you are frantically trying to do your assignment the night before.

Study (I'm serious!)

Get organised, stay motivated! University can get very busy very quickly, and it can be difficult when the responsibility is all yours. Find a study system that works for you: highlighting, colour coding, sticky notes, timetabling – and remember to take breaks!

Ask for Help

Notre Dame offers so many services both on campus and online; counselling, careers, chaplaincy and academic support. If you are finding things tough (we all do at times) don't hesitate to reach out to Assistant Dean Prasan to discuss assessment extensions.

AGLC4

The sooner you can get on top of referencing the better! It isn't something you can avoid, and it might even earn you some extra marks! AGLC4 can be tricky to learn with so many rules! The Library has lots of helpful resources online and even runs workshops to teach you the basics. Make sure to download a digital copy of AGLC4!

Textbooks

Textbooks that thick come at a hefty price! Zookal offer great discount codes. For second hand textbooks, make friends with students in the year above or search the Notre Dame Textbook Exchange Facebook Group. Chat to your lecturer about which textbooks are necessary for each course, and make use of the Library for extra research!

Listen to Podcasts

There are some great resources around if you are looking to learn more about the law in practice. Because it's 2021, a great way to do this is through podcasts. **Hearsay: The Legal Podcast**, and **The Happy Lawyer Happy Life Podcasts** are great ways to hear firsthand what it's like to be a lawyer!

Take Time For Yourself

Looking after your physical and mental health is crucial. Make sure you are exercising, eating and sleeping well – particularly during busy assessment and exam periods. Take time out each week to do something for yourself so that you don't become overwhelmed.

Check Emails & Blackboard!

It's super important to regularly check your emails and Blackboard. Lecturers will frequently upload lecture materials, marks and make announcements.

Try YOUR Best!

Not everyone can get a HD, and we all have bad days sometimes. First year will be tough, but that does not necessarily reflect the rest of your degree. What is important is that you are passionate about what you are studying and that you try YOUR best. We can learn from every experience!

**Just
Breathe**

Brooke

Activate your career.

The largest range of
Practical Legal Training
programs, all purpose-driven
to ensure you have the best
start to your career.

Kiarah Grace Kelly

Collaborative Family Lawyer,
Brisbane Family Law Centre
Graduate of Griffith University

- Just 5 days face-to-face attendance
- Courses located in Kensington, St Leonards, Parramatta & Wollongong
- More than 20 start dates in NSW in 2020
- 15 week full-time or 30 week part-time program
- Emphasis on task-based learning

Learn more at collaw.edu.au/PLT

Competitions

Negotiations

In a mock mediation session, you will act as a solicitor and attempt to resolve a dispute. The objective is to avoid an entrenched position while improving your reasoning by getting your opponent to agree to an outcome in the best interests of your client.

Client Interview

You will be required to apply a given legal rule to a set of facts in the most straightforward way. You will be provided with a brief and will be required to conduct an interview with your client, before providing them with advice.

Mooting

The NDSLS offer two moots: a junior moot (reserved for first and second year students) and an open moot. A moot is a simulated appeal in a superior court, based on a mock fact scenario and judgement from a lower court. It will involve legal debate regarding whether the lower court made the correct decision.

Witness Examination

You will act as counsel in a simulated civil or criminal trial and be required to examine and interrogate witnesses to uncover the 'facts' and find logical solutions to a particular legal problem. Witnesses will be required to testify and face cross-examination.

**For more information
about these
Competitions,
check out the Competitions
Guide on the
NDSLS website!
ndsls.org/competitions**



Events

Your calendar just got exciting!

First Year

Morning Tea

Grab something to eat and mingle with other first year law students and NDSLS Committee members. It's a great way to meet friends and learn about the NDSLS during your first week as a law student!

Start of Semester Drinks

A casual night of good company and good food to start the semester. A great way to catch up with law students and hear about their summer break (or rather internships).

ND GIFT

Law Students talk the talk, but can they walk the walk? Compete against the other Schools at ND in sports such as futsal, basketball, netball and dodgeball. We need your help to stop Medicine from taking the trophy!

NDSLS x SAUNDA

Harbour Cruise

Law Students love to party! Even better, dance the night away right in the middle of Sydney Harbour. Co-hosted with the Student Association, this night will be one to remember!

Law Ball

Put on your finest and spend an evening of celebration with the ND School of Law! This is by far the social highlight of the year, and is all the motivation you need to complete all those assignments!!



Keep up to date
with NDSLS
socials so that you
don't miss out!
We'll see you on
the dancefloor!

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

There is only one way to survive a 3 hour Law lecture... SNACKS!

The most important information in this Guide; here is a list of the best places around campus to satisfy those hunger cravings!

COVID19 has seen the closure of many local businesses, but expect to see many new ones opening in the New Year. Let us know if you find somewhere new worth adding to this list!

Something for Jess

Located on Abercrombie St, the all-day breakfast menu is fresh and locally sourced; with plenty of vegan and plant based options. Monthly specials means there is always something new to post on Instagram.

Benito's

How can we not mention our very own Benito's in this list? The perfect place to grab a quick coffee and snack to keep you awake during class. The outdoor seating is a great place to catch up with friends on a sunny day!

The Broadway Crown

Known simply as 'The Crown'; it's the perfect spot for lunch or a drink after class (or two!). Their daily specials, happy hours and loyalty program make it a quintessential hangout for Notre Dame Students!



La Herradura Coffee Stable

Offering the tastes of Columbia in Sheppard St! Right near NDS15, you'll find students & lecturers grabbing coffee on their way to the Law School.

Toby's Estate

This specialty roaster is a few doors down from the LOGOS Building. Their expert baristas will give you a new 'philosophy' about coffee on campus!

Starbucks

For the ridiculously long coffee order, free wifi, and the aesthetic of course!

The Two Wolves

A not-for-profit run by volunteers offering the best in Mexican street food. If you didn't take a picture with a sombrero were you even there?

You can also find plenty of restaurants and take away outlets in both Central Park Mall and Broadway Sydney!



make the difference

to your career, clients and community

Aim beyond pure legal knowledge. Beyond commercial advice. Be known for something more: a clarity of thought and an instinct for problem solving that can influence governments and leading businesses the world over. Join us and we'll help you enrich and expand your worldview, grow your skills and influence new ways of thinking. In other words, we'll help you make the difference.

Begin now at ashurst.com/careers

Connect with us on



ashurst

NDSLS: *Notre Dame Sydney Law Society*

ndsls.org

Notre Dame Student Life

notredame.edu.au/current-students/student-life

ALSA: *Australian Law Students' Association*

alsa.asn.au

NSW Young Lawyers

lawsociety.com.au

College of Law

collaw.edu.au

AGLC4: *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*

law.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/3181325/AGLC4-with-Bookmarks-1.pdf

Zookal

<https://textbooks.zookal.com.au/>

Notre Dame Textbook Exchange

facebook.com/groups/175486562544812/

Helpful Links

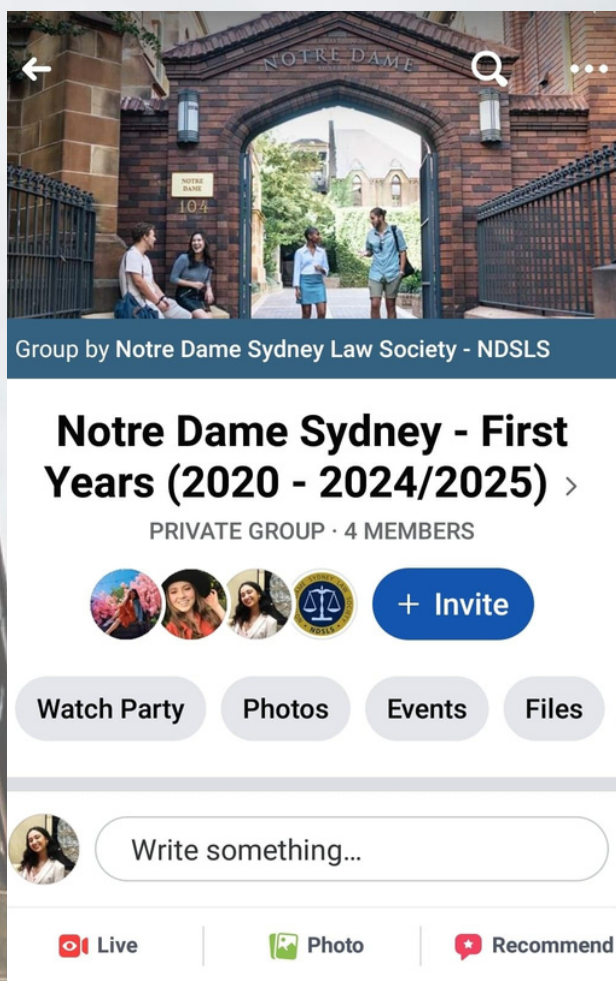


FIRST YEAR BINGO

PURCHASE TEXTBOOKS	MEET THE DEAN	ENTER A COMPETITION	FIRST YEAR MORNING TEA	LAW BALL
VISIT THE LIBRARY	NDSLS X SAUNDA HARBOUR CRUISE	JOIN A CLUB OR SOCIETY	CHICKEN SCHNITTY @ THE CROWN	JOIN THE LAW MENTOR PROGRAM
CHECK YOUR ND EMAIL!	START OF SEMESTER DRINKS	Free	ND GIFT GO TEAM LAW!	NOMINATE FOR FIRST YEAR REP
NOTRE DAME BALL	ATTEND MASS @ ST BENEDICT'S	VISIT THE NOTRE DAME STORE	KILL TIME BETWEEN CLASS @ TIMEZONE	ATTEND CLASS!
FORGET TO MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE	VISIT THE WHITE RABBIT ART GALLERY (IT'S FREE!)	VISIT SPICE ALLEY	GET THE BUS FROM CENTRAL TO ND	FOLLOW NDSLS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Consider this your first year bucket list!

A list of 'must do' things on campus, around Chippendale, and with the NDSLS in 2021. Let us know how you go!



STAY CONNECTED

*Join the Facebook
Group for First Year
Students*

- Keep up to date with the NDSLS
- Know what's happening in the Law School
- Meet first year students

Welcome to Notre Dame