



# LAWS8021

## Health Law

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

*Macquarie Law School*

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### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Esther Erlings

Contact via Via Ilearn only

See iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(Admission to JD and (LAWS600 or LAWS8001)) or (admission to LLM) or (admission to MPH)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

As a result of increased globalisation, technological change and social transformations, domestic and global health issues and challenges have become increasingly interconnected. This unit examines how domestic and international law serve as important tools in the quest to prevent injury and disease by lowering health risks among populations. Students will learn about the principal domestic and international legal instruments, regulatory strategies, and enforcement approaches that exist to improve health and wellbeing in a variety of critical contemporary health related contexts. Consideration will also be given to the important role other actors, such as intergovernmental organisations, business and civil society, may play in promoting and protecting health.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Identify, evaluate, critique and apply fundamental doctrines, concepts, principles in health law

**ULO2:** Analyse governance frameworks and their relationship to legal frameworks in health systems

**ULO3:** Carry out advanced research, synthesis and integration of knowledge to generate

appropriate responses to contemporary socio-legal problems in health law

**ULO4:** Produce an independent research report at an advanced level of written expression in accordance with formal writing conventions

## General Assessment Information

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

### Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours.

Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

### Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                | Weighting | Hurdle | Due        | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Professional Skills | 20%       | No     | Ongoing    | Individual           | No              | Observed    |
| Research Plan       | 30%       | No     | 30/08/2026 | Individual           | Yes             | Open        |

| Name                  | Weighting | Hurdle | Due        | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>Research Essay</u> | 50%       | No     | 08/11/2026 | Individual           | Yes             | Open        |

## Professional Skills

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will develop essential legal professional skills through structured classroom activities such as oral advocacy, critical reasoning, strategic problem-solving, collaborative work, team leadership, mooting, simulated client consultations, legal presentations or demonstrations, doctrinal analysis and problem solving, and/or collaborative legal research. These activities are designed to develop students' professional capabilities including capacity to communicate legal concepts clearly and engage professionally with diverse audiences in diverse contexts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, evaluate, critique and apply fundamental doctrines, concepts, principles in health law
- Analyse governance frameworks and their relationship to legal frameworks in health systems

## Research Plan

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 28 hours

Due: **30/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students are required to develop and submit a written research proposal for their research essay relating to a current issue or development in health law. The proposal must clearly set out the proposed research question and approach to the question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, evaluate, critique and apply fundamental doctrines, concepts, principles in health law

- Analyse governance frameworks and their relationship to legal frameworks in health systems
- Carry out advanced research, synthesis and integration of knowledge to generate appropriate responses to contemporary socio-legal problems in health law

## Research Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 50 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students are required to submit a research essay — based on their research essay proposal — that critically analyses a current issue or development in health law.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, evaluate, critique and apply fundamental doctrines, concepts, principles in health law
- Analyse governance frameworks and their relationship to legal frameworks in health systems
- Carry out advanced research, synthesis and integration of knowledge to generate appropriate responses to contemporary socio-legal problems in health law
- Produce an independent research report at an advanced level of written expression in accordance with formal writing conventions

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

<sup>3</sup> An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

## Delivery and Resources

### Delivery

Lectures: 2 pre-recorded lectures each week (total 2 hours).

Tutorials: 1 online tutorial of 2 hours per fortnight.

This unit is worth 10 credit points, which equates to 150 hours of work divided over lectures, tutorials, readings and assessment.

### Resources

There is no required text book. All readings will be accessible via iLearn, the library website, or the internet.

Students require access to a computer, internet with decent speed and a secure/reliable server. The iLearn page contains all Unit requirements and a weekly schedule for teaching, readings and tutorials. Information about all assessment tasks is also available on iLearn.

## Unit Schedule

| Week | Topic                              |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 1    | Social Determinants of Health      |
| 2    | International Regulation           |
| 3    | Medicine and Intellectual Property |
| 4    | Public Health                      |
| 5    | Therapeutic Goods Regulation       |
| 6    | Professional Regulation            |
| 7    | Consent                            |
| 8    | End of Life Decisions              |
|      | Break                              |
|      | Break                              |
| 9    | Restrictive Practices              |
| 10   | Confidentiality and Privacy        |
| 11   | Medical Negligence                 |
| 12   | Apologies and Disclosure           |

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

### Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the **Handbook**