



LAW 895

Legal Research Dissertation

FY1 External 2019

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

Francesca Dominello

francesca.dominello@mq.edu.au

Contact via francesca.dominello@mq.edu.au

6 First Walk 619

Monday 1-2pm

Credit points

8

Prerequisites

(Admission to MEnvLaw or MIntEnvLaw or MIntTrdeComLaw or MIntRelMIntTrdeComLaw or LLM or (42cp in LAW or LAWS units at 400 or 500 level) or (admission to JD and 32cp in LAW or LAWS units at 800 level)) and permission by special approval

Corequisites

LAWS818

Co-badged status

Unit description

The dissertation topic may be drawn from any area in the LLM program. The word limit for the dissertation is 20,000 words. The student will be supervised by one of the staff members participating in the LLM program. The dissertation will normally be examined within the Law School.

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:

Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.

Demonstrate sophisticated skills of communication, appropriately synthesising appropriate scholarship in the relevant areas.

Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply

higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.

Use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society.

Demonstrate ethical awareness and capacity to meet their professional and community responsibilities.

Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

General Assessment Information

Special Consideration

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests, oral presentations.

Submission

All written assessments in the unit are to be submitted electronically by way of Turnitin on the iLearn page. Plagiarism detection software is used in this unit.

Format

All assessment tasks in this unit must be typed in **Word format** and be **double spaced** to facilitate marking in Turnitin.

Word Limits

Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be assessed.

Moderation

The Dissertation Proposal will be marked by the unit convenor. The marking of the oral presentation will be shared by the unit convenor and the student's supervisor. The final Dissertation will be marked by an academic staff member in the Macquarie Law School, or an external examiner will be appointed. Once marking is completed, the result and feedback will be communicated by the convenor to the student's supervisor, who will then have an opportunity to provide further comments. In the event of disagreement between the examiner and supervisor, the unit convenor reserves the right to make a determination about the final grade that should be awarded for the paper.

Style

All written assessments should use the latest edition of the AGLC.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Dissertation Proposal</u>	10%	Yes	5:00 pm Friday, Week 3, S 1
<u>Presentation</u>	10%	No	Week 9, S 2
<u>Dissertation</u>	80%	No	5.00 pm, Friday, Week 13, S 2

Dissertation Proposal

Due: **5:00 pm Friday, Week 3, S 1**

Weighting: **10%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

In consultation with your supervisor students are to submit an 8 page research proposal (includes footnotes and bibliography)

The proposal is to be submitted in Turnitin on iLearn.

Any work that exceeds the page length will not be marked. Research projects may advance only after approval of a proposal by the convenor.

The proposal should include the following:-

- a working title of the project,
- the area of law in which your topic is situated ,
- background of the research area and the research question that you are seeking to explore arising from this background,
- a brief summary of the aims of your research
- a brief summary of the existing literature relevant to your research topic and a clear statement of the contribution of your research on your topic.
- the methodological approaches which you will use to answer you research question,
- tentative conclusions based on initial research (these can change as you conduct further research)
- an outline of the structure of the proposed dissertation.
- a timeline for completion

You must use headings dividing each section of the proposal.

The main parts of the proposal must be double spaced with margins not less than 2.5cm on the right and left. All text must typed in 12 pt Times New Roman. Footnotes can be in 10 pt Times New Roman.

The summary of the chapters of the thesis and timeline for completion can be single spaced with margins of 2.5cm on the right and left. This information can be put in tables (but this is not compulsory).

The bibliography can be single spaced with a space in between each reference with margins not less than 2.5cm on the right and left.

You must comply with the AGLC.

Failure to comply with these instructions will result in loss of marks at the discretion of the marker.

Note the new Special Consideration policy for written assessments:

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Further instructions on how to complete the assignment and how it will be assessed will be available on iLearn..

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.

Presentation

Due: **Week 9, S 2**

Weighting: **10%**

Students are required to present a summary of their research orally in person. Oral presentations should be between 3 - 5 minutes with an extra 3 minutes for questions. The use of powerpoint slides is optional.

The date and time for the presentations will be scheduled in Week 9, S2 on a day and at a time which is suitable for students, their supervisors and the convenor. These details and location for the presentation will be posted on iLearn at the start of S2. For External students unable to attend in person, alternative arrangements will be made agreeable to the students, their supervisors and the unit convenor. .

Students will be given advance notification of when the presentation will be scheduled. If, however, a student is unable to attend on the day of the presentation, s/he should apply for special consideration. If successful other arrangements will be made. This is a timed assessment. If a student fails to attend without special consideration they will receive 0 marks for this assessment.

Further instructions on how to complete the assignment and how it will be assessed will be

available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.
- Demonstrate sophisticated skills of communication, appropriately synthesising appropriate scholarship in the relevant areas.
- Use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society.
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

Dissertation

Due: **5.00 pm, Friday, Week 13, S 2**

Weighting: **80%**

20,000 word graded research dissertation due 5pm, Friday of Week 13, S2.

Your research dissertation is to be submitted via Turnitin in iLearn. The paper is to be submitted in **Word format. NO PDFs will be accepted.**

You must comply with AGLC

The word length is 20,000 words max, including footnotes and bibliography. Word limits will be strictly applied and work above the word limit will not be marked.

The essay should be double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman. The footnotes can be in 10 pt Times New Roman. The bibliography can be single spaced with a space in between each reference.

The supervisor of a dissertation cannot also be an examiner of that dissertation. Examiners are normally members of staff in the School of Law. A supervisor may present a special case for the appointment of an outside examiner, who will normally be a member of a similar Department in another university or a legal practitioner.

Examiners will assess the dissertation based upon the criteria set out in the rubric that can be found on iLearn. Examiners will also complete a written report at the end of the examination process. This will be inserted in your paper in Turnitin. You will have access to that report in Turnitin.

Once marking is completed, the result and feedback will be communicated by the convenor to the student's supervisor, who will then have an opportunity to provide further comments. In the event of disagreement between the examiner and supervisor, the unit convenor reserves the right to make a determination about the final grade that should be awarded for the paper.

The examination process may take 6 - 8 weeks.

Note the new Special Consideration policy for written assessments:

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Further instructions on how to complete the assignment and how it will be assessed will be available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.
- Demonstrate sophisticated skills of communication, appropriately synthesising appropriate scholarship in the relevant areas.
- Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.
- Use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society.
- Demonstrate ethical awareness and capacity to meet their professional and community responsibilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

Delivery and Resources

1. Technology used and required

To participate successfully in this unit, students will require access to the unit iLearn page. This will require access to secure and reliable computer facilities. Students will be required to upload all written assessment tasks by way of Turnitin on the unit iLearn page.

2. Delivery mode

There are no tutorials in this unit. However, students are welcome to attend the tutorials in Laws561/Laws564. Time and location can be found here: <https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2019/>. Tutorials commence in Week 1.

The unit will be undertaken with supervision from a staff member and assistance from the Unit convenor. Students will need to negotiate a timeline for completion of assessment tasks with their supervisor which should include a schedule for meetings and a writing schedule.

The unit will use an ilearn website.

3. Required and recommended resources

Required:

Any readings posted on the ilearn website of the unit.

Australian Guide to Legal Citation (Melbourne University Law Review, 4th ed, 2018) which can be found here <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/aglc>

Recommended:

Terry Hutchinson, *Researching and Writing in Law* (Thomsons, 4th ed, 2018)

Rowena Murray, *How to Write a Thesis* (Open University Press, 2002)

OJ Jejelola, 'Legal research: an overview of a research proposal' (2014) 2 European Scientific Journal 50.

Dawn Watkins and Mandy Burton, *Research Methods in Law* (Taylor & Francis, 2017)

SH Amin, *Research Methods in Law* (Royston, 1992)

Michael McConville and Wing Hong Chui (ed), *Research Methods for Law* (Edinburgh Press, 2nd ed, 2017)

Craswell, G & M Poore. *Writing for Academic Success* (Sage Publications, 2nd ed, 2012)

Creswell, J. *Research Design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. (Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, 3e 2009)

Dawson, J and N Peart. *The Law of Research: A guide* (Otago: Uni Otago Press, 2003)

Dunleavy, P. *Authoring a PhD* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) Chapter 9 on publishing

Enright, C. and P Sidorko. *Legal Research Technique*. (Sydney: Branxton Press, 2002).

Halliday, S., and P Schmidt. *Conducting Law and Society Research: Reflections on methods and practices*. (CUP, 2009)

McKerchar, M. *Design and Conduct of Research in Tax, Law and Accounting* (Sydney: Thompson LBC, 2010)

Punch, K. *Developing Effective Research Proposals* (Sage, 2006) (useful on literature reviews 44-49)

Watt, R. *Concise Legal Research* (Sydney: Federation Press, 6th ed, 2009)

MOTIVATIONAL STRATEGIES

Useful websites:

Turbocharging your writing <http://www.ithinkwell.com.au/resources.html>

Aimed at PhD students and GPs, this site run by psychologists has a range of practical tips and strategies to help you plan and stick to your plan.

The Desk <https://www.thedesk.org.au/about>

Set up by the University of Queensland and funded by Beyond Blue, this Australian website aims to help students with modules, tools, and quizzes on avoiding perfectionism and procrastination,

as well as advice on a broad range of stresses facing students. You need to register to use the site.

Unit Schedule

This Unit is completed under the supervision of a member of staff. However, the students should also undertake the teaching activities of Laws818. In addition, the following outlines how the unit will be conducted.

WEEK	ACTIVITIES
1-2 (Session 1)	Appointment of Supervisor Discussion with Supervisor of research topic Liaise with Supervisor to finalise research topic and develop abstract
3 (Session 1)	Submit abstract to Co-ordinator
9 (Session 2)	Three to five minute presentation of draft paper in seminar setting to staff and fellow students
11 (Session 2)	Submit draft of complete research paper to supervisor for feedback
13 (Session 2)	Submit final paper

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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](#)

- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

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

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/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 ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

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

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate sophisticated skills of communication, appropriately synthesising appropriate scholarship in the relevant areas.
- Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

Assessment task

- Dissertation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.

Assessment tasks

- Dissertation Proposal

- Presentation
- Dissertation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Dissertation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the core principles governing their areas of enquiry.
- Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.
- Use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society.

Assessment tasks

- Dissertation Proposal
- Presentation

- Dissertation

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate sophisticated skills of communication, appropriately synthesising appropriate scholarship in the relevant areas.

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Dissertation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to utilise and reflect on prior knowledge and experience, apply higher-level critical thinking skills and integrate learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments to learning.
- Demonstrate ethical awareness and capacity to meet their professional and community responsibilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

Assessment task

- Dissertation