

POSTGRADUATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAMS

Legal Research Dissertations

LAW810, Word Length: 10,000 – 20,000
LAW863, LAW864 Word Length: 10,000 – 20,000

Dissertation requirements

Topics for the dissertation may be drawn from any area relevant to the course of study for which the candidate has appropriate qualifications. The dissertation is subject to regular supervision by one of the staff members participating in the programs. Before enrolling in a dissertation, students are required to:

- Formulate a proposal for the dissertation
- Complete the attached form; and
- Contact whichever of the staff members participating in the programs seems most qualified to supervise the topic
- Discuss the proposal with that staff member

The discussion will establish whether the proposal is manageable within the constraints of the dissertation, whether the student has sufficient background and access to resources to take on the proposed topic, and whether that staff member is able to supervise. An individual staff member may not be able to take on supervision for a number of reasons, including proposed absence on leave and other commitments. Where possible the supervision work is spread evenly among staff members participating in the programs.

After this initial discussion the student is required to submit a detailed outline of approximately 200-300 words to the supervisor. The supervisor is to submit that outline to the program convener by the end of the third week of classes.

There will be regular contact between supervisor and candidate, through face to face meetings, by telephone, or by other means agreed between the supervisor and candidate. The timetable of preparation of drafts and discussion will be arranged between the supervisor and candidate once the topic is formulated.

Submission of dissertation

The submission dates vary depending on whether the dissertation is completed at the end of the academic year, or at the end of semester 1.

- A dissertation completed at the end of Semester 1 must be submitted before classes commence in Semester 2
- A dissertation completed at the end of the academic year must be submitted before the re-enrolment date for the following year.

A student completing a dissertation must be enrolled in the relevant unit at the time of submission of the dissertation. Any student who misses the above deadlines must therefore re-enrol for the unit for the following semester. If the dissertation is submitted before the date on which fees for that semester are payable the student can discontinue as soon as the dissertation is submitted and any fees paid will be refunded.

Formal requirements for submission

Two copies of the dissertation must be submitted, spiral bound, either to the supervisor or to Ms Ursula Thurgate, Postgraduate Student Administrator, Room 539 W3A, for forwarding to the examiner.

Examination of dissertation

The dissertation will be examined by one examiner, who will, if possible, be a member of staff participating in the programs. The supervisor and student will discuss possible examiners, and an examiner will be appointed no later than 3 weeks before the end of the final semester of enrolment.

The examiner will grade the dissertation and provide a written report of approximately 200 - 300 words. The examiner will then inform the supervisor of the proposed grade. If the supervisor and examiner cannot agree on an appropriate grade a second examiner will be appointed.

The examination process normally takes 6 - 8 weeks, so a student who submits a dissertation before the end of November should be able to graduate in the following semester. The university deadlines mean that students who complete the dissertation at the end of the first semester will generally have to wait until the following year to graduate.

One copy of the dissertation will be retained by the Division and the other returned to the student together with the examiner's report.

DIVISION OF LAW

Postgraduate Students – Research Projects

<i>Student Id:</i>	
<i>Student Name:</i>	
<i>Semester & Year:</i>	
<i>Unit Code & Title:</i>	
<i>Research Topic:</i>	
<i>Supervisor:</i>	
<i>Signature & Date:</i>	
<i>Head of Department:</i>	
<i>Signature & Date:</i>	

Copy to the Postgraduate Student Administrator