Master of Laws (Research) (LW52)

Year offered: 2011
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 012654G
Course duration (full-time): 1 Year
Course duration (part-time): 2 Years
Domestic Fees (indicative): Aust citizens or PRs will be awarded an RTS/RTA place or a QUT sponsorship for tuition fees. If you exceed the max time, you will be charged - 2011: $9,750 per semester (indicative)
International Fees (indicative): 2011: $11,000 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: At any time
International Entry: At any time
Total credit points: 96
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48
Standard credit points per part-time semester: 24
Course coordinator: Assistant Dean (Research)
Discipline coordinator: Assistant Dean Research
Campus: Gardens Point

Progress Reports
4.1 The Principal Supervisor and candidate are required to complete a QUT Annual Report, completed online via QUT Virtual and due on 30 September as well as an informal report to the Assistant Dean Research by 30 April.
4.2 Where the candidate's progress is deemed satisfactory, the Research Degrees Committee shall approve continuation of candidature.
4.3 Where progress is deemed unsatisfactory, the Research Degrees Committee, on advice from the Faculty Research Committee, will normally place the candidate under review for a period of up to three months from the date that the candidate is advised in writing of the decision. The Research Degrees Committee will inform the candidate of the required remedial action to be followed taking account of the advice provided by the Principal Supervisor and the Faculty.
4.4 A report on the action taken to resolve the deficiencies in the program must be made to the Faculty Research Committee and the Research Degrees Committee may then approve continuation of candidature if these deficiencies have been redressed and progress is again satisfactory.
4.5 If progress is still unsatisfactory after the Review Period, the Research Degrees Committee, on advice from the Faculty Research Committee, shall ask the candidate to show cause why the enrolment of the candidate should not be terminated.
4.6 If a candidate fails to submit an annual report through their Principal Supervisor to Research Degrees Committee by the due date without applying, in writing, for an extension on the prescribed form two weeks prior to the due date, the Research Degrees Committee may ask the candidate to show cause why the enrolment of the candidate should not be terminated.
4.7 Upon failure of the candidate to show cause the candidate’s enrolment will be terminated.

Thesis Requirements
5.1 The thesis submitted for the degree shall be not less than 50,000 words and not more than 60,000 words in length and shall constitute a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding in the area of the law and subject of the research. It shall include a title page, table of contents and bibliography, and shall otherwise comply with the University’s requirements for presenting theses.
5.2 The candidate shall submit a detailed research outline to the Assistant Dean, Research within two months of admission to candidature. The research outline should address the following:
• The proposed title of the thesis;
• The objectives of the program of research and investigation;
• An outline of the proposed research;
• The Research methods and plan;
• The relation of the study to previous work in the same field by the candidate and others;
• A preliminary literature review;
• A substantial bibliography;
• A timeline for the completion of the research
• A copy of the Research Ethics Review Checklist
• The proposed supervisor(s) and their credentials
• An intellectual property agreement if required
• Memo of Understanding for any external supervisor

5.3 A candidate shall submit three copies of the thesis in the form prescribed by the University for the submission of theses to the Assistant Dean, Research in the year in which the candidate is required to complete the degree. On submission of the thesis, the candidate shall furnish a written statement to the effect that the thesis is that candidate’s work alone, except where due acknowledgment is made in the text, and does not include material which has been previously submitted or accepted for a degree or diploma.
5.4 The Principal Supervisor shall recommend to the Faculty Research Committee the names of two examiners for the thesis, at least one of whom must be external to the University and neither of whom are the candidate’s supervisor.
5.5 The Law Faculty Research Committee, through the Office of Research, shall refer the thesis to two examiners.
Each examiner shall report, normally within two months of receipt of the thesis, whether in the examiner’s opinion, the thesis is of the standard required for the award of the degree. Each examiner shall also recommend that the thesis:

(i) be accepted
(ii) not be accepted, or
(iii) be accepted subject to amendments to be made to the satisfaction of the Principal Supervisor.

5.8 After both examiners’ reports are received the Office of Research will forward them to the Assistant Dean, Research, the Principal Supervisor and the candidate with an appropriate covering letter. (Until such time as the examination process is complete the identity of the examiners will be withheld from the candidate.)

Examiners in Agreement
Where both examiners recommend that the thesis be accepted (recommendations (i) or (iii)), the Assistant Dean, Research will consult with the Principal Supervisor to discuss any corrections or revisions that the candidate may be required to make and where revisions are required.

Where corrections or revisions are to be made to the satisfaction of the Principal Supervisor, the Principal Supervisor must certify to the Research Degrees Committee that they recommend acceptance of the thesis in fulfilment of the conditions for the award of the LLM (Research) degree.

Examiners not in Agreement
Where the recommendations of the examiners are not in agreement as to whether the thesis should be accepted for the award of LLM(Research) or as to whether the thesis may be revised, the Law Faculty Research Committee will refer the thesis to a third examiner.

Upon receipt of the third examiner’s report, a majority decision shall be adopted. Where the majority decisions is that the thesis be accepted or that the thesis be rejected, this shall be the decisions of the examiners as the case may be. Where the recommendation of three examiners clearly differ and no clear majority exists, the Assistant Dean, Research or nominee shall liaise with the Principal Supervisor to determine the further course of action.

Appeals
A candidate whose thesis has failed may lodge an appeal against the outcome of the examination process. The grounds for appeal may be on matters of process only, i.e. procedural irregularities in the conduct of the examination or documented evidence of examiner bias as evidenced by comments in the examiners reports.

An appeal must be lodged within sixty (60) days of the date of written advice from the Office of Research on the outcome of the examination. This appeal must include the specific grounds on which the appeal is based. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Advancement). The Director, Postgraduate Research Studies, will determine whether a potential conflict of interest exists in relation to his/her consideration of the appeal. In cases where a conflict of interest exists, the Director, Postgraduate Research Studies, will appoint a member of academic staff, with expertise in research candidate supervision to consider the appeal.

The Director, Postgraduate Research Studies, or appointee will decide whether a case exists and may seek the advice of the Faculty or school as appropriate. The appeal may be allowed or dismissed. If an appeal is allowed, the Director, Postgraduate Research Studies, or appointee cannot recommend that the degree be awarded but shall recommend that the thesis be re-examined.

The Director, Postgraduate Research Studies, or appointee will make a determination on the appeal as soon as practicable and will advise appellants, in writing, of the result of the appeal.

5.9 Following final acceptance of the thesis, one bound copy and one electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Office of Research for inclusion in the QUT Faculty of Law Library. These copies shall be in the prescribed form as set out in the University Requirements for Presenting Theses and be provided at the candidate’s expense. An additional copy shall be bound at the Faculty’s expense for inclusion in the Faculty Office collection. Any corrections resulting from the examiners’ assessment shall be made prior to binding, and by retyping if they would otherwise be obtrusive.

Further Information
For further information please contact:
Senior Administration Officer (Research)
Phone: +61 7 3138 5203
Email: law.research@qut.edu.au

Course Structure

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Part-time course structure, Year 2, Semesters 1 and 2

IFN472  Part-Time Masters Research thesis unit
IFN496  Part-Time Masters Research thesis unit

Potential Careers: