Doctoral study in Law at the Auckland Law School

The Auckland Law School is New Zealand’s leading law school, ranked 55th in the world by subject\(^1\), testifying to its high quality of teaching, learning and research, alongside some of the best worldwide.

The PhD in Law Programme

The PhD degree is a thesis-only research degree. A doctorate is normally carried out over a minimum of 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time. The degree is undertaken under supervision by senior academics, usually by a lead supervisor and a co-supervisor. PhD candidates must complete a sustained course of research at the University of Auckland, resulting in the production of a substantial original thesis that meets internationally recognised academic standards.

You will be part of a fully engaged PhD cohort of high quality PhD candidates from around the world who you will get to know and share ideas and research with. Stimulating and rewarding, a PhD at Auckland Law School provides an exciting opportunity to engage in independent, cutting-edge research.

Auckland Law School is home to a number of renowned research centres led by accomplished eminent researchers.

We cater to different interests, strengths and qualifications, you will be guided by experienced scholars in most legal fields.

The faculty’s core research areas:
• Constitutional, Administrative and Public Law
• Contract, Torts, Equity and Private Law
• Corporate and Commercial Law
• Criminal Law and Justice
• Human Rights Law
• Indigenous Peoples and the Law
• Intellectual Property
• International and Comparative Law
• Land and Environmental Law
• Law and IT
• Legal History and Theory
• Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Family and Relationships Law

Future Opportunities

The Doctor of Philosophy is the highest degree in the field of law. Graduates of the Programme often go on to pursue careers in academia and in legal practice.

There are opportunities where you can present your PhD findings at international conferences.

We host a wide range of seminars and public lectures at the faculty from international, well renowned academic visitors, which PhD students have the opportunity to be apart of.

No. 1 Law School in New Zealand
No. 55 worldwide\(^2\)
The Davis Law Library is the Largest Law Library in New Zealand
No. 1 in New Zealand and Top 100 worldwide for graduate employability\(^2\)
8,000+ international students from 100+ different countries

\(^1\)QS World University Rankings 2024  |  \(^2\)QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022
PhD topic: I have always been fascinated by how the society works and its complex interaction with other variables like gender, culture and religion. This has guided my passion into human rights and family law.

“My experience at the University of Auckland has been rewarding in several ways. Apart from a rich academic experience, I have had the opportunity to meet peers from diverse backgrounds and learn about their stories. Auckland is home to a very diverse population and the way it embraces all of this diversity is its highlight for me. There are always so many opportunities to attend events and activities and its truly heart-warming to be a part of them.”

Divya Rathore, India

PhD topic: My doctoral study focuses on international tax dispute resolution. My research emphasizes on the necessity of foundational principles as a requirement for the establishment of an efficient international tax dispute resolution system, which simultaneously promotes justice, and is well-adapted in the challenges of the 21st century.

“The University of Auckland provides a multicultural environment, hence the perfect opportunity to expand my horizons and meet people with diverse cultural backgrounds who can share their diverse insights. At the same time, the law PhD cohort is ready to offer support and inspiring conversations that lead to a genuine exchange of ideas. Feeling that I am part of a truly intellectual community is highly beneficial for my doctoral experience.”

Maria Eleni Pouliasi, Greece