

Faculty of Business and Economics
Summer Research Scholarships
2026/2027 Projects (Commercial Law)

Project code:	BUS002
Project title:	Who Matters in Company Law? Directors' Duties and Stakeholder Interests
Discipline:	Commercial Law
Supervisor(s)	Lynn Buckley
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Skills Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong legal research skills • Ability to analyse case law and legislation • Excellent written communication • Attention to detail and accurate referencing • Interest in company law, corporate governance, or sustainability
Project description	
<p>Directors' duties sit at the heart of company law and corporate governance. Traditionally, these duties have been closely associated with protecting the interests of shareholders. Recent developments in a number of common law jurisdictions, however, have prompted renewed debate about the role of other interests within corporate decision-making, including consideration of employees, creditors, communities, and the environment.</p> <p>This project examines these contemporary developments in directors' duties and the growing discussion surrounding stakeholder interests in company law. Drawing on developments in jurisdictions such as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, the research explores how courts, legislatures, and legal scholars have approached questions concerning corporate purpose, stakeholder interests, and the responsibilities of company directors.</p> <p>The student will assist with a comparative analysis of case law, legislation, law reform reports, and academic literature. The project will contribute to a scholarly article examining emerging developments in corporate governance and the future direction of directors' duties. It offers an opportunity to engage with some of the most significant contemporary debates in company law and to gain first-hand experience in legal research and academic scholarship.</p>	