



Master of Legal Studies (MLS)

The Master of Legal Studies is designed for professionals from non-legal backgrounds who would like to enhance their existing knowledge and skills with legal expertise.

Quick facts

Programme type: Taught and research options

Points: 120 or 180

Duration: Full-time & part-time

Intake: February & July

Postgraduate fees for international students



[Find out more](#)

Programme overview

The MLS programme is designed for professionals from non-legal backgrounds who require some knowledge of legal matters.

Professionals such as accountants and auditors, architects and town planners, business development managers, compliance managers, engineers, IT professionals, police and public sector staff have greatly benefitted from this programme.

The degree also equips participants with essential skills in legal reasoning, analytical and critical thinking, and in-depth knowledge of the New Zealand legal system.

The taught or coursework MLS programme enables you to select from over 30 courses covering particular areas of law. Our courses range from tax law, healthcare policy and international business to climate change law, human rights litigation and intellectual property law. These courses are taught by leading legal experts, drawn from our Faculty and from leading Universities around the world.

Where could this programme take you?

There are a wide range of professions that will benefit from this programme. Please note that completion of this degree will not satisfy the entry requirements for admission as a barrister and solicitor in New Zealand and is not a substitute for an LLB degree.

Jobs related to this programme:

- Accountants and auditors
- Architects and town planners
- Business development managers and compliance managers
- Engineers
- IT professionals
- Law enforcement
- Policy analysts, engineers and professionals in the compliance field
- Public sector staff



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Come and study with world-leading researchers

Jaime King is an experienced supervisor of undergraduate and graduate research in areas at the intersection of law, medicine, ethics, and policy.

Currently, Professor King is on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics.

Professor King teaches Comparative Health Law and Policy and the Medico-Legal Honours Seminar. As a research supervisor, Professor King emphasises regular meetings, consistent feedback, research and writing skills, integrating different disciplinary content, and helping students to effectively express their ideas.

Professor Jaime King



Flexible delivery

Our programme provides flexible study for both full-time and part-time students. You can study while you work to keep up the momentum or go full-time to get to the next level even faster. Entry to the MLS is available throughout the year providing the flexibility you need to accelerate your career.

Flexible study options include:

- Full-semester courses taught in the early evening once a week
- Half-semester courses taught for six weeks of the semester in the early evening once a week
- Intensively-taught courses over three to five days (usually incorporating a weekend break, ie Thurs, Fri, Mon)
- Independent research programmes.

Join an outstanding cohort of postgraduate students

“Studying for the Master of Legal Studies at the University of Auckland has been a pivotal experience in my professional journey, particularly as someone from a non-law background.

“The flexibility of the programme allows me to customise my studies, which means I’m not just learning abstract concepts but engaging with material that’s directly relevant and applicable to my career.

“My experience at the University of Auckland has been incredibly enriching so far. One of the standout aspects is the diverse learning environment. It’s fascinating to interact with students from various countries, especially in the law section, which makes classroom interactions much more engaging and thought-provoking.”

Crystal Wang, Master of Legal Studies (MLS)



Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

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