Programme Structure

The Diploma in Law requires 120 points, comprising: LAWS103 Legal Method and LAWS106 Legal Systems and Societies (40 points at 100 level), LAWS201 Public Law A, LAWS204 Contracts and LAWS207 Torts (60 points at 200 level) and an additional 20 points in law at 200 level. The Diploma is normally a two year programme.

Most students study LAWS103, LAWS106 and LAWS201 in the first year of study and LAWS204 and LAWS207 in their second year of study, with either LAWS203 or LAWS206 as elective papers.

The Admissions Committee may allow students, who are sufficiently academically prepared, to enrol in all of the law papers in one year.

JOHN DELANEY

LLB Law Clerk with Harris Tate, Tauranga

I’ve always worked in and around the law, as a trade union official, mediator and restorative justice facilitator. As a mature student I was unsure if I was cut out to do another degree so the diploma gave me a chance to dip my toe into academic life without having to commit to a full degree. Studying for the Diploma in Law meant I could stay in Tauranga and continue to work to support my family. If you’re motivated, there are plenty of opportunities for students to get practical experience - in competitions and through internships. I did an internship at the Disputes Tribunal and received sponsorship to attend the AMINZ mediation conference. Though it may sound geeky to do mooting or negotiation competitions (that’s what I first thought anyway) they’re actually a great way to develop skills, socialise with other students and make some useful contacts.

Te Piringa - Faculty of Law is a welcoming place, whether you’re studying for the diploma in Tauranga or continuing your degree study in Hamilton. The use of practitioners as tutors in Tauranga was great and the lecturers in Hamilton were always approachable. The Diploma in Law turned out to be the absolute ideal for me, leading on to the LLB - it was such a good decision.
Diploma in Law

Enhance your present career or explore opportunities for a new career direction with the Diploma in Law programme

Our commitment to you
Te Piringa - Faculty of Law is dedicated to supporting its students to develop skills that will help advance their careers. Completing the Diploma in Law programme will assist you to:

• Develop critical awareness of the cultural, national and global context of law. Students learn the law and understand its implications.
• Develop 'transferable' skills, such as analytical, research, problem-solving and legal interpretation skills.
• Understand the language of law, the regulatory frameworks and how policy is made. Learn to create legal documents and construct legal arguments and opinions.
• Develop your capacity to manage your own learning with our expert guidance provided through practical workshops and tutorials. Our online library, which holds statutes, case law, books, serials and online databases, provides a resource-rich learning environment for developing your legal research skills.

Programme Delivery
The programme is offered through a combination of video lectures and face-to-face tutorials.

Lectures offered on the Hamilton campus are recorded in real time and made available online shortly after. The video recordings of these lectures can be viewed online by Diploma of Law students at their convenience.

Tutorials and/or workshops are held in Hamilton and Tauranga. Tauranga tutorials and workshops are scheduled in the evenings at 6pm. Attendance at tutorials and workshops is compulsory.

Students need to purchase course reading materials (and cases, articles, etc), and will have access to a range of Web-based legal research databases.

Credit towards the Bachelor of Laws degree
Students who successfully complete the Diploma in Law are invited to apply for entry into the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. The LLB degree is only offered at the Hamilton campus. If students pass and complete their Diploma in Law papers they will have guaranteed entry into the LLB degree. All the Diploma in Law papers will be credited towards the first and second years of the LLB programme at Waikato.

Entry requirements & process
All applications for the Diploma in Law will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Faculty of Law Admissions Committee, giving consideration to an applicant’s academic preparedness to undertake this programme of study.

With your application please provide:
• a written statement (letter of application) of up to 200 words outlining your work experience (paid or unpaid) and/or community involvement, your previous study and reasons for wishing to undertake the diploma programme
• verified copies of academic records (transcripts) of any previous studies
• a verified copy of your birth certificate or current passport.

Diploma in Law Papers

*LAW101-1 (TGA), (HAM)
An introduction to the sources and institutions of law in Aotearoa/New Zealand, with particular reference to statute, custom as illustrated by Māori customary law and the common law, and the distinctive position of the Treaty of Waitangi. The paper will survey the institutions of law and their roles in the making and enforcement of laws in their social and historical contexts.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*LAW108-1 (TGA), (HAM)
This paper examines principles of constitutionalism and the framework of the New Zealand system of government, including the structure, processes and functions of key public institutions, such as the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary, and their interrelationships. It also covers the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, and the Human Rights Act, their impact on the public sector, and their impact on the relationship between citizen and state.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*LAW201-1 (TGA)
Public Law A (20 points)
This paper examines principles of constitutionalism and the framework of the New Zealand system of government, including the structure, processes and functions of key public institutions, such as the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary, and their interrelationships. It also covers the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, and the Human Rights Act, their impact on the public sector, and their impact on the relationship between citizen and state.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*LAW202-1 (TGA)
Public Law B (20 points)
This paper examines the exercise and control of executive power in New Zealand and the relationship between the state, its agencies, and the individual. The institutions and processes of review and redress, both non-judicial and judicial are examined. Particular attention is paid to the role of the courts in regulating the administrative process through the medium of judicial review.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*LAW204-Y (TGA) & Y (HAM)
Contracts (20 points)
An introduction to the theory of contract; the general principles relating to the operation, formation and discharge of contract; the general principles of agency.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*LAW207-Y (TGA) & Y (HAM)
Torts (20 points)
An analysis of the general principles of civil liability; interests protected by the law of torts; negligence; specific torts such as nuisance and defamation; and the law relating to compensation for personal injury by accident in New Zealand.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 7:13

**LAWS203-Y (TGA) & Y (HAM)
Jurisprudence (20 points)
An analysis of theories of law, especially modern approaches to law and legal ideology which emphasise the variety of ways of thinking and the relationship between theory and practice, illustrated by concepts such as sovereignty, liability, ownership, justice, rights and personality.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 1:1

**LAWS206-Y (TGA) & Y (HAM)
Administrative Law (20 points)
An examination of the exercise and control of executive power in New Zealand and the relationship between the state, its agencies, and the individual. The institutions and processes of review and redress, both non-judicial and judicial are examined. Particular attention is paid to the role of the courts in regulating the administrative process through the medium of judicial review.

Internal assessment/examination ratio: 2:3

*A LAW101 Public Law A paper will count as Laws107 towards the LLB degree.

**These papers are optional papers for the Diploma in Law. Please refer to Programme Structure overleaf.

waikato.ac.nz/law
waikato.ac.nz/study/enrol