

2023 LEO CUSSEN FIRST YEAR GUIDE

PRESENTED BY :

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY LAW
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.



Griffith Law Student's Association would like to thank those involved in the creation of this guide.

We give a further special thanks to Leo Cussen for sponsoring the publication of the First Years Guide and for continuing to provide valuable learning and employment opportunities to our students.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Griffith LSA respectfully acknowledges the Kombumerri people of the Yugambeh nation, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our office and University campus today sits and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sovereignty has never been ceded. It always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Griffith LSA is committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination. We welcome all people regardless of gender, race, sexuality, disability, age, ethnic background, marital status, pregnancy status, socio-economic status, religious and political beliefs.

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



First of all, congratulations on beginning your journey into the legal profession. Getting into Law School is no small feat, so I hope amongst all the chaos you have been able to celebrate this achievement. Welcome to our 2023 First Year Guide, our hope for this publication is to act as an all encompassing resource to help you find your feet in the stressful first trimester.

In case you don't know what we do, the Griffith University Law Students' Association Inc (GULSA) is the peak representative body for law students studying at Griffith Law School on the Gold Coast campus. We are a not-for-profit student association that seeks to advance our students' academic and professional skills as well as their social lives in meaningful ways. This is my second term as GULSA president and I can honestly say it has been the most rewarding experience of my degree.

Through our service offerings, we strive to provide our students with innovative ways to meaningfully connect with the legal profession, industry opportunities and their peers. My main goal heading into a second term is to produce initiatives to tangibly support students navigate law school.

If I could offer you any advice, it would be to not wait. Take every chance and get involved in university life now! As a student who started in 2020 (just before COVID) and missed a lot of in person engagement – your time at university will fly, don't waste a second. I didn't expect to find such a strong passion here at the LSA, but the work I've done and connections I've made will be something I truly treasure forever.

Casey Feltham
*President of the Griffith University
Law Students' Association*



SPONSOR MESSAGE



Who are we?

Leo Cussen Centre for Law provides high quality education, training and professional development to strengthen and support the administration of justice and the legal system.

Leo Cussen Centre for Law's reputation for excellence in practical legal training and continuing professional development is founded on the quality of the people who work here.

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As Australia's leading Practical Legal Training provider, Leo Cussen wants to give you the opportunity to experience different areas of legal practice before you become a lawyer.

We've partnered with Forage to build three Virtual Internship Programs designed to provide students with valuable insight into what it's like to solve real issues in legal practice.



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ADD TO YOUR CV

You can complete the following Virtual Internships:

- Human Rights Law
- Criminal Law
- Family Law



Sign up to a Virtual Internship today and
get a taste of what it's like to work as a lawyer.



STUDENT SERVICES

OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY

Enrolment or Timetabling

Student Connect

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/student-connect>

Visit: G33 (across from the library)

Call: 1800 154 055

Financial Support

Griffith Financial Support Services

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/scholarships/student-financial-support/student-financial-support-request>

Email: welfare@griffith.edu.au

Careers & Employment Services

Griffith Careers and Employment Service

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/careeremployment/students-and-graduates>

Health & Medical Services

Griffith Mental Wellbeing Support Line

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/student-support/counselling>

Call: 1300 785 442

Text: 0488 884 146

Medical Support

Call: (07) 5552 873

Visit: G33 (Across from library)

STUDENT SERVICES

OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY

Library or Printing Services

Speak to someone at the Library front desk

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/library>

Lost?

Download: Griffith App to find a campus map

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/aboutgriffith/campuses-facilities/gold-coast>

IT services

Griffith Tech Assist

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/digital-solutions/tech-assist>
follow

Visit: Gold Coast Library (G10, Level 2, 2.39).

Disabilities or Accessibility Services

Student Support Services

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/student-support/studentequity-outreach/disability>

Call: (07) 3735 7470

Email: disabilitygc@griffith.edu.au.

Don't be afraid to ask for help!

PRODUCTIVITY TIPS!



Welcome to Law School! I am Diahann Pasquill, the Vice President of Diversity and Wellbeing at the Law Students' Association. I can't wait to get to know as many of you as possible and I sincerely hope that the work our team does this year makes your transition into university as smooth as possible.

When putting this guide together, it has been the LSA's intention to give our students the foundations and offer them places to come back to when this new adventure and all of this new information becomes overwhelming. In order to maximise this support, I have compiled a list of tips and tricks for you to add to your law school toolbox.

I won't downplay it, finding a strong work/life balance is hard, but the process is well worth it. It doesn't matter how much we love the work, it's important that we value our emotional well-being just as much (if not more) as we value our GPA. The most useful way I have been able to prioritise my well-being through university is through what I call my 'non-negotiables'- a list of habits I use to make sure I have balance happening from week to week. I've provided my own personal list for reference:

- Google Calendar time blocking
- Sunday afternoon food prep
- Carrying a water bottle with me everywhere
- Working through my content at university where possible, rather than at home (to avoid distractions)
- Pomodoro Method – 25 minutes studying/5 minute break
- Meditation and breathwork apps on my phone
- Reaching out to study buddies on really unfocused days



Find people that you don't have to compete with or, that when you do step into a competitive space, can approach competitiveness graciously and professionally. Plus, let's be honest, the people around you will one day be the people who make up the very industry you strive to be a part of, so, by building each other up, we are going to be able to create another strong network of legal professionals.

Further, find people that support you and be a person that supports your peers. You are here for a minimum of 4 years, and you'll definitely need one another. Seek out people who encourage you to succeed inside and outside the university. Find people that you don't have to compete with or, that when you do step into a competitive space, can approach competitiveness graciously and professionally. Plus, let's be honest, the people around you will one day be the people who make up the very industry you strive to be a part of, so, by building each other up, we are going to be able to create another strong network of legal professionals.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for help. When stepping into the university space, we often have the impulse to prove that we can do everything independently, but trust me when I say that lecturers, course conveners, the LSA, and a number of other university services (many already outlined in this guide) are all very willing and happy to be of service to you. We have all been exactly where you are and understand how intimidating the learning process can be in that first year. Trust me, we're more than keen to share what we've learned over the years.

I hope that this brief advice will assist in making university life less stressful for you. These are things that have worked for me over the years, however, what works for you may look completely different, and that's okay too! but I hope these tips and tricks serve as a reminder to prioritise and seek out balance where possible. If you ever have questions or would like to talk to me further do not hesitate to contact the LSA. Good luck! You've got this!

P.S. Cutting through G01 and G06 to get from one end to the other of the university has been a lifesaver.... seriously. It took me far too long (and getting lost A LOT) to figure that one out.



MOOTING

Mooting is the most challenging and prestigious of our competitions. You and your teammate must research and prepare a memorandum which details your arguments. Then you and your co-counsel will then advocate for your client in a mock trial setting against another team

CLIENT INTERVIEW

Client interviewing requires you and a teammate to participate in an interview with a potential client, build rapport, understand their stories, and provide sound advice.

NEGOTIATION

What's your dispute style: Competitive, collaborative, or conciliatory? Take part in a mock alternative dispute resolution style negotiation. Use your time wisely to arrive at the best outcome for your client—this competition heavily relies on effective team work and strategic communication

Together we are change navigators

We are a truly global law firm who offer the opportunity to experience what life as a Graduate would truly entail through our clerkship program. To find out more about our global credentials, please scan the QR code.



The constant only
change. is

We're embracing the new challenges facing your organisation – from globalisation to emerging industries, from changes in society to advances in technology and innovation. We anticipate shifting dynamics and see the possibilities.

It's how we're able to solve your most complex problems. We don't simply adapt to change. We thrive on it.

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 **NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT**

EVENTS

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS YEAR

Women In Law Breakfast

A Celebration of Intersectionality in the Legal Profession

Held at the Voco Hotel this year, our Women in Law Breakfast brings people of all genders together to network and gives students the valuable opportunity to listen to a number of successful and inspiring industry professionals. Tickets for this stunning event are on sale now so head on over to our website and get your tickets before it's too late!

Wellbeing Events

year we have a number of these events in the works. Our well-being events bring students together to have important discussions, to hear student and industry experiences, and learn all about balancing the grind with our own personal mental and physical well-being.

Annual LSA Law Ball

The most popular and major event for our law school is the LSA Law Ball. This event offers students a chance to let their hair down for a night and reward themselves for all that their hard work over the past year. Food, drinks, speeches, and dancing is on the night's agenda as our law school gets together for one final celebration in 2023.

Careers & Networking

Additionally, an assortment of careers and networking events will also be available throughout the year- keep an eye out on campus and on our socials as we continue to update students about upcoming events.

FROM US TO YOU: WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW IN OUR FIRST YEAR



CASEY FELTHAM

The main thing I wish I knew in my first year is to slow down. I started university thinking I'd finish my 5-year degree in 4 years. Now I've realised it's okay to take your time and enjoy the process and get involved as soon as possible. Due to Covid, I didn't get that on-campus life for my first years, so take your time and get on campus! The only way university life is going to get back to normal is if you come to class every day and engage in what the uni has to offer!

SARAH ALWAN

I really wish that I utilised the consult hours that were available for my subjects in my first year. I cannot stress enough how meeting with course convenors/tutors during their consult hours to discuss assignments or ask questions on topics you are struggling to grasp will help your overall understanding of the subject and put your mind at ease. Consult hours have been a lifesaver for me throughout my degree so far and I would definitely recommend other students to make use of that opportunity!



MIA RANSOM

When I started uni 2 years ago, I wish I knew that I needed to put myself out there more by making friends and connections. I started law when covid began, so this was made difficult for me, but today, first-year students should try and interact with other students in any way possible! Go to law events, study together, and go to law ball! You will make life-long friends!

MADISON BRINKMAN

My advice to first-year students would be to try their best to enjoy the experience. The end of your degree will come by quicker than you expect. While it is important to study hard and do your best, it is also important that you do not stress yourself too much and you enjoy the journey. You will need to be resilient and determined, but you should also get involved with your peers and enjoy this phase of your life. You will learn so much about yourself during your University years and you should be proud of not only your grades but also your resilience and determination when things get hard. If I could improve my experience, I would try not to worry over the little things too much and try to get more involved with my classes, the LSA, and law school events to enrich my experience.





MITCHELL HARDIE

Advice from us to you as someone who moved to Griffith from interstate I was intimidated and scared in my first year. I used the first two years of my degree to “settle in” which, in hindsight, was something that I regret. Now that I am in my third year and have involved myself in as much as possible I really feel like I am experiencing the Griffith Law School experience at its absolute best. My best piece of advice would be to ensure that you make the most of club sign-on days and get involved in the groups and societies that you are interested in. This is one of the best ways to build lifelong friendships with like minded people and provides you with a chance to start building your network which will prove absolutely indispensable in the future. I know it may seem daunting but, in the wise words of Shia LaBeouf, JUST DO IT.

LACHLAN EVANS

Extensions exist for a reason. If you are struggling to complete your assessment by the due date, you should talk to your course convenor and explore your options. The teaching staff is here to help you on your learning journey. Don't be afraid to ask for help



DANIEL RADULESCU



First year of law school may seem like a daunting event, Here are some tips to lessen the freak out phase:

Enjoy the process – It may seem like a harder version of high school, but University is far different, in the best way possible. Uni allows the highest freedom of learning, while also encouraging fun and engaging activities to participate. The LSA puts together social events and competitions that everyone can take part.

Don't stress the marks – Your GPA isn't the end all or be all, so don't pull your hair out stressing over the little things.

Participate – Uni isn't strictly about learning your degree. Joining clubs and doing volunteer work can be some of the most rewarding experiences.

KALANI SWEENEY

I wish I wasn't scared to make new friends! Don't be scared of starting up a conversation with someone that you don't know! Everyone in your classes are in the same position as you; nervous energy. It only takes one of you to start up a conversation! You never know who you'll meet; law school friends are forever. Sharing law school experiences will really bring you together and create friendships for life. I'm the biggest advocate for this as I can tell you honestly that I have found my group that I'm so incredibly connected to and know that these friendships will last long after my last exam. Don't be scared, just do it! Trust me, you won't regret it!





WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE LSA?

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

10am – 2pm

Find us at G36 3.85 (Level 3)



facebook.com/GriffithLawStudentsAssociation



[@GriffithLSA](https://www.instagram.com/GriffithLSA)



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