

First year tips

PART ONE



STEPHANIE ROBSON (WINNER)

- 1 Be in the know! You don't want to miss out on important information that could affect your assessment, and, consequently, your results!
- 2 Make the most of your lectures.
- 3 Organise your materials - do this by creating electronic folders and by utilising colour on your paper copies!
- 4 Practice, Practice, Practice - do as many tutorial questions as you can.
- 5 Don't be afraid to ask for help
- 6 Make use of free study support resources
- 7 Plan your study time - try to set regular time aside each day and before you start, make sure you. set some goals.
- 8 Prioritize topics.
- 9 And most importantly - try to maintain some balance!



ANASTASIA SLATER

1 Participating and paying attention during class is important, as lecturer's cover important material regarding assessments.

2 Do the readings after the lecture as you will have a better understanding of the material and content from the textbook/readings afterwards.

3 Attend social and networking events, e.g. the monthly Law Breakfast, kick off drinks etc.

4 Join the USQ Law Society and other clubs relevant to your interest. The USQLS provides great information and organises events and competitions. This is also a great opportunity to meet new friends as well as legal professionals from the community.

5 Most importantly enjoy the experience of starting university and making it this far

SIAN GENRICH

Compile all of your notes for the subject into one word document, then during an online exam, use ctrl-f to find a word to quickly locate your notes on the exam question topic.



First year tips

MATTHEW ENDO

1 Remember that law school is like a marathon, not a sprint. Pace yourself throughout the semester, year, and law school. Take breaks, enjoy time off, and be present in the moment.

2 Law school is like life or work. Sometimes you won't get the best examiner (or the best boss/supervisor/co-worker) but you can develop adaptability, to suit the situation.

3 There is a lot of reading. Get used to it, because it only gets better as you progress. Just like law practice, you will have to read through a lot of material to discover hidden gems.

4 Network early and network often. Not just with fellow students, but with examiners, alumni, and working lawyers. Join professional law societies and meet students from other universities or recent graduate lawyers as well as lawyers further in their careers.

5 Get a law mentor to help you along the way. This can be arranged through law societies or association.

Bonus Tip: As you progress, courses get harder. But along the way, you get smarter. You'll look back at previous semesters/years and think it was easy.

6 Be open-minded and explore areas of law that you might have never thought you would be interested in. Talk to practising lawyers and ask what kind of law they enjoy doing. They may give you ideas on what elective courses to try out

7 Develop resilience. Learn how to bounce back from the disappointments a bad assessment or less than expected marks in a course. Remember, as one course examiner said, your grades do not define you.

8 Use reflection as a tool to get better at studying, learning, and to understand your strengths and limitations.

9 Reflect on law as a whole. Not just the module for the week and how it fits in the course, but also how that course sits in the greater scheme of 'the law'. Learn to see how things connect and are related.

10 Believe in yourself. You have earned your place at law school, so have confidence in your abilities. Surround yourself with people who believe in you and can encourage you.

BETTY APPLEBY

Get a pack of multi-coloured highlighters (I got pastel ones from Officeworks) and assign a 'topic' to each colour.

Then, during an exam or quick reference, you can easily identify the law or the cases as you've made them bright and bold in colour. You can bring this over into modules, Powerpoints, textbooks (if you can bear to highlight them). A good idea is to also put sticky notes (small one) in your textbook with the case names and where they are. Then you can put a piece of paper between each chapter to act as a divider. This 'sorts to book' into module chunks, and makes it easy and quick reference.

Another study tip is to put dot points under each case, with keywords you remember. This will save your life during an exam because not only will you remember the case, but you can easily refer to it as well. Personally, I think that mind maps are the way to go when it comes to cases! The case name, the facts, the ruling, and what it meant/did. Colours and arrows - make it eye-catching and easy to remember.