

Melbourne Law School Legal Leadership Program



Many mid-level and senior legal practitioners have two core roles: they are [1] specialist legal advisors and service providers, and [2] leaders in their employer organisations. Legal education at university and CLE is primarily focused on the first of these roles. Melbourne Law School, in partnership with Melbourne Business School, is now considering launching three new courses focused on the latter role.

The three new courses are the **Specialist Certificate in Legal Leadership**, the **Graduate Diploma in Legal Leadership** and the **Master of Legal Leadership**.

The subjects offered in these Legal Leadership courses include:

- Legal Leadership Essentials
- Legal Processes and Practice Economics
- Leading Legal Teams and Lawyers
- Digital Literacy for Lawyers
- Influence, Trust and Relationships
- Communicating Legal Risk and Value
- Crafting and Implementing Strategy
- Innovation, Change and Growth.

These subjects are shorter – 2.5 days or 50% of the workload of standard University of Melbourne subjects and worth 6.25 points - to encourage access and flexibility.

The Specialist Certificate would be awarded after completing any four of the eight subjects above. The Graduate Diploma would require eight subjects. The Masters would involve the Graduate Diploma subjects and four additional (standard length, 12.5 points) subjects offered as electives on the Melbourne MBA program.

Three learning themes that will be addressed across all subjects include:

- The ethical legal leader
- The mindful and resilient legal leader
- The adaptive legal leader.

The learning approach will most likely be based on a 'flipped classroom' with online learning and reading at home followed by two-day intensive interactive workshop. An online offering will be available when social distancing prevents classroom activities.

Each subject will be assessed usually in the form of a critical analysis of a leadership-related case study within a legal organisation.

The subject presenters will be drawn from leadership and management experts that work extensively in the legal sector. The Masters electives will be taught by Melbourne Business School professors.

We envisage a subject fee of approximately \$3,000 in 2021, increasing by around 4% per annum.

The courses will be focused mainly on mid-career lawyers that work in law firms, in-house legal teams and in advisory roles in government. We would anticipate that most students would NOT be in formal leadership roles now, but likely to be promoted to such roles in the medium- to long-term. Students will typically be drawn from Australia and the Asia-Pacific.