



# business law

## The Rules of Business

YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD



The law governs every aspect of our personal and business lives. Whether we realise it or not, everyone engages in activities on a daily basis that have legal implications. Whether you're purchasing groceries in a supermarket or entering into multi-million dollar contracts, it is the law that governs these transactions. Whether setting up a small business or engaging in the takeover of a large corporation, there are fundamental legal issues involved. To engage in such transactions without a basic knowledge of the law is to invite disaster.

Know your rights, and know your legal obligations – study Business Law at Otago.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Otago**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
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## Why study Business Law?

All relationships between individuals and businesses are governed by the law. If you have no knowledge of basic legal principles, it is very easy to blunder into situations where you, your employer, or both will be legally liable, or worse, will be punished for breaching your legal obligations.

To avoid this possibility, you don't need to be a lawyer; but you do need enough knowledge to recognise a potential legal problem and if necessary get appropriate professional advice that will allow you to avoid disaster. Without that basic knowledge, you will not be equipped to recognise a potential legal problem until it is too late!

There are additional benefits to studying Business Law. Firstly, the focus of all law studies is on words and their meaning. The study of Business Law will improve your use of language, and therefore your oral and written skills. The ability to communicate concisely and effectively both orally and in writing is a skill that most potential employers value highly in graduates.

Secondly, the application of the law to everyday fact situations, involves the development of basic legal analysis skills. These analytical skills will prove extremely useful in all situations, both in business and personal life.

## Background required

You don't need to have studied any law before you begin your Business Law studies. A good grasp of English, and a logical mind would however be useful. To study Business Law at 200 and 300-level there will be specific pre-requisites for each paper. For up-to-date information on pre-requisites for these papers please visit: [www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/acty](http://www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/acty)

## Student exchange

The University of Otago has exchange agreements with more than 70 institutions in over 30 countries. If your marks average B or better you may qualify to attend one of these institutions for one semester or for a full year. You pay only your New Zealand fees and complete your qualification within the same timeframe as if you've never been away. Business students are also encouraged to participate in one of the more than 40 business specific exchanges the School of Business offers.

## Business Law at Otago

The School of Business provides a number of options for students who recognise the importance of possessing a basic knowledge of the law. You can incorporate Business Law into your degree as interest only papers, as part of the Chartered Accountants requirements, or as a minor option. By completing a Business Law minor you gain a valuable marketing tool for inclusion in your CV.

**Note:** The New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants requires all accounting students who wish to become Chartered Accountants to take three specified Business Law papers. It only takes two additional papers to be able to add a Business Law minor to your degree!

### PAPERS INCLUDE:

#### 100-level

##### **BLAW 101 Introduction to Business Law**

This introductory paper covers a wide range of legal topics that any person or businesses are likely to encounter.

#### 200-level

These papers provide a more in depth view of the legal system, property law, contract law, and the law of business organisations.

##### **BLAW 201 Legal Environment of Business**

Provides knowledge of the sources and nature of New Zealand law, the role played by government and its agencies, and familiarity with some basic applications of law.

##### **BLAW 202 Law of Obligations in Business**

Aims to relate notions of contract to common mercantile transactions, as well as teaching students to become familiar with those aspects of common law and statute law which regulate the market place.

##### **BLAW 203 Law of Business Organisations**

Familiarises students with the main structures available for carrying on a business enterprise and the relevance of each – with special emphasis on the limited liability company.

#### 300-level

##### **BLAW Advanced Commercial Law**

Focuses on selected legal topics at a more advanced level.

## Business Law Minor

Those students who wish to strengthen their degree in a practical way and gain a corresponding endorsement on their academic record can complete a minor in Business Law. This requires 90 points chosen from ACTB 101, LAWS 101, ACTB 201, ACTB 202, ACTB 203, ACTB 301 and ACCT 304. Fifty-four points must be above 100 level, including 18 points at 300-level.

## Teaching style

Business Law is taught using a combination of lectures and tutorials. Lectures provide an understanding of key legal principles, and tutorials provide an opportunity to apply these principles to real-life situations.

For questions about Business Law  
Tel 0800 80 80 98  
Email [university@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university@otago.ac.nz)

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# profile

## DANIEL CURRIER

BSc, BCom, ASc(Hons)  
Graduate – Delta Utilities

An apprenticeship, international travel, and a couple of Otago degrees have kept Daniel Currier pretty busy over the years.

Daniel started his career as an Electrical Apprentice with DCC Electricity (now part of DELTA Utilities), and later moved to Los Angeles where he gained quality assurance/engineering experience. After many years abroad he decided to return to Otago as a 'mature' student.

"A degree at Uni had always been one of my dreams and four years later I graduated with a double degree, BSc - Information Science, BCom – Accounting."

Business Law papers are a prerequisite to becoming a Chartered Accountant, but Daniel soon realised their greater value, completing a Business Law minor in the process.

"Initially, I failed to see Business Law as a separate discipline. My view quickly changed as I realised the practical, real-world uses of what I was learning. These papers gave me insights into the law-making process, as well as providing me with the tools of how and where to look if I needed to research the law."

Now back at DELTA Utilities as a Systems Advisor, Daniel provides business analysis and policy advice, administers the ISO 9001 Quality System and is working towards implementing an Environmental Management System.

"At work there have been occasions where knowledge of the Law has been very beneficial. Recently I even lent my old Business Law textbook to a Senior Manager who wanted a good overview on the Law of Contract."

"If you're looking for Business papers that are interesting, well taught and useful beyond your time at Uni, you would be hard pressed to go beyond Business Law at Otago."



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