

# YourCareer



PHOTO CLAYTON UTZ

Masters student **Lyndal Buik** discusses her experiences as a student in the Melbourne Law Masters program at the University of Melbourne. The senior associate at Clayton Utz is currently undertaking a graduate diploma in government law.

## Why did you choose to undertake postgraduate study?

I developed a personal interest in a particular field – climate change law – which I had never actually practised in and wanted to further my knowledge. I also wanted to broaden my knowledge generally in all aspects of public/government law, the area in which I currently practise.

## Why did you choose the Melbourne Law Masters?

I chose Melbourne Law School for its excellent reputation and the broad range of subjects it offers. I was also attracted by the course structures – the “intensive” format has meant I had only a small amount of time away from the office, giving me the flexibility to combine work and study easily.

## What have been the highlights of your postgraduate study?

My highlights so far have been the fantastic people I have met, both those teaching the courses and those participating in the courses. My lecturers have been world-class experts in their field

with a real ability to engage and excite students in the subject matter they teach.

I also met, in the intensive classes, a group of fascinating students from a range of areas, a Chinese diplomat, an Australian negotiator at Copenhagen, a marketing manager for an energy company, a former representative of Greenpeace who was at the Kyoto negotiations, a property consultant for Aldi supermarkets and a lawyer from a rural practice. This mix of people was truly fantastic. It led to vibrant, engaging class discussions and a real think tank atmosphere in the classroom.

## Where do you think your degree will take you?

At this stage I intend to convert my graduate diploma to a master of public and international law. I intend to concentrate on government subjects and use my knowledge to further my career in the area of Commonwealth government law. I would also like to use the knowledge I gained in studying climate change law to make a difference in this vital area.

## What advice do you have for others considering postgraduate study?

I would say go for it – especially to people who are practising law who have not studied since their undergraduate days. The day to day practice of commercial law for a number of years can numb the senses somewhat and make you forget about those academic aspects of the law that excited you as an undergraduate student. My experience with studying again has been that it really revitalises your academic interest in the law. •

In today’s increasingly global and competitive legal market, postgraduate study is becoming even more important for lawyers to help gain a career advantage. In addition to being highly regarded by employers, postgraduate study builds on practical experience and adds another dimension to your existing legal education.

The Melbourne Law Masters program offers a vast range of specialist legal areas, with subjects taught by leading experts.

## Specialist legal areas include:

- Asian law
- Banking and finance law
- Commercial law
- Communications law
- Competition law
- Construction law
- Corporations and securities law
- Dispute resolution
- Employment and labour relations law
- Environment, energy and resources law
- Government law
- Health and medical law
- Human rights law
- Intellectual property law
- International economic law
- Law and development
- Private law
- Public and international law
- Sports law
- Tax and international tax

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL  
Australia's first, Australia's global

For more information,  
visit [www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters).

Questions? Contact the Melbourne Law  
Masters team at [law-masters@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-masters@unimelb.edu.au)