

29 February 2008

Dear Conflict Resolution Student,

As we have had considerable changes in the Conflict Resolution area due to staff movement and the future discontinuation of postgraduate study in this area at La Trobe University, we wanted to make sure that you were clear about your potential choices for 2008. Please note that some of the information below is different from that contained in the e-mail of 18 December 2007.

Due to earlier communications, some students may have got the impression that the only way to complete their course at La Trobe is by undertaking a research project. Taking this unit is only one of several options, as you will see from the information provided below. Basically, you can choose to enrol in the La Trobe units mentioned below, take units at another institution via cross-institutional enrolment (subject to the conditions mentioned below), or transfer to another university altogether.

## **Units offered at La Trobe University**

### **LAW5SCR Seminar in Conflict Resolution**

This unit is a fortnightly seminar examining a range of readings on topics including

- conflict and negotiation theory,
- conciliation, ombudsmanship and multi-party facilitation,
- organisational disputes, system design and evaluation,
- fairness, ethics and social justice
- conflict theory and culture
- the self of the third party

The format is a conversation about the weekly readings and later presentations of students' essay presentation.

Time: 5:30 to 8:30pm

Dates: 3, 17 and 31 March

14 and 28 April

12 and 26 May

Room FS2.30, City Campus, 215 Franklin Street, Melbourne

Coordinator: Clare Coburn

### **LAW5DRE Dispute Resolution**

In this unit students will be introduced to theoretical and practical aspects of dispute resolution. The processes of arbitration, conciliation, negotiation and mediation are described and evaluated, though there is a heavy emphasis on the last. Issues including rights-based vs. interest-based approaches, power imbalances between

disputants, and 'bargaining in the shadow of the law', and the regulation of third-party facilitators are addressed.

Dates: 23-29 July 2008

Room FS221, City Campus, 215 Franklin Street, Melbourne

Coordinator: Alikki Vernon

Co-presenter: David Moore

**LAW5ADS Advanced Skills** (subject to staff availability and student demand)

*Self awareness and self development in conflict practice*

In this unit students will be introduced to higher level skills in resolving disputes.

The particular focus will be who we are as conflict practitioners and creative ways to explore and develop:

- self-development
- self-awareness
- reflective practice
- communication and listening skills

Coordinators: Di Bretherton and Clare Coburn

This unit will be offered as a workshop style format 3-5 September and 8 November.

**LAW5IAL Introduction to Australian Law** (subject to approval)

In this unit students who are not graduates in Australian law are introduced to Australia's fundamental legal institutions, the basic methods of Australian lawyers, and the central substantive principles of Australian law. Students will examine Australia's legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, federalism, the Australian legal profession, and selected principles of Australian public, private and procedural law. Students will also practise basic legal skills in reading case law, interpreting statutes, answering legal problems, and researching and citing the law.

25-26 July, 1-2 August and 8 August 2008

Coordinator: Kerry Petersen

**LAW5CRP Conflict Resolution Research Project**

In this unit students will undertake a supervised project in an agreed area of study related to conflict resolution and will submit a 7,000 word project report, literature review or research essay. In each case students work with a supervisor in deciding upon a topic, planning the project and carrying it out.

It is also possible for some students with proven research skills to undertake a larger conflict resolution research project worth 40 credit points.

You will need to apply to Tom Fisher to have your project approved and you need to have received at least one A (80-100) on a research essay for a previous unit in your degree studies to be eligible for this unit.

In addition for eligible students:

**LAW4/5CRW Work placement**

**LAW4/5FMP Family Mediation work placement (for those in the Family Law mediation stream)**

Coordinator: Tom Fisher

You will need to contact Tom to enquire about the availability of work placement.

## Cross-institutional study

Please be aware that you are also able to complete your degree at La Trobe University by undertaking units at other institutions subject to the approval of Tom Fisher and fulfilment of the requirements for the teaching institution for the cross-institutional unit.

Further information on policy and procedure is available at <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/law/courses/2006-Crossinstitutional-policy.rtf>

You may complete **up to two-thirds** of your total credit points as cross-institutional study.

Institutions which may offer units which would be of interest include:

- University of Queensland, ACPACS, Melbourne campus
- RMIT
- University of South Australia, which may offer block units
- as well as other universities offering postgraduate coursework units in conflict, human resources management, cultural studies, peace studies

## Additional queries

Please contact us if you have any queries about your future study.  
For academic advice, please contact Tom Fisher, 9479 2423, [t.fisher@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:t.fisher@latrobe.edu.au).

For administrative advice, please contact Jennifer Mahon, 9479 1755, [j.mahon@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.mahon@latrobe.edu.au).

Yours sincerely,

Tom Fisher, PhD  
Coordinator, Post-Graduate Programs in Conflict Resolution and Family Law  
Mediation