

The **School of Law** is inviting applicants to apply for research topics in their key areas as outlined below. Skills in qualitative or quantitative social science methods (e.g. interviews and surveys), and skills in the analysis of legal and policy document (e.g. reports, cases and statutes) are desirable but not essential as long as candidates commit to learning these on the job. High-level skills in reading complex documents and writing in English are essential. Full supervisor details can be viewed in the [Business and Law Postgraduate Prospectus](#).

RURAL SOCIO-LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Droughts and bushfires across Australia have re-focused attention on the rural sphere. Citizens in some remote rural communities are amongst the most disadvantaged people in Australia and around the world. Rural areas comprise the vast bulk of the world's inhabitable land but increasing urbanization concentrates power, personnel, and finance in metropolitan centres. That means a lot of land to be cared for, and a lot of food, fibre and energy products to be produced by a shrinking rural population, with proportionally fewer resources to do it. And yet, the opportunities from the demand for high quality rural products with credible environmental, animal welfare, and social credentials are set to explode.

Available supervisors – Michael Adams, Paul Martin, Mark Perry, Guy Charlton, Ottavio Quirico, Skye Saunders, Andrew Lawson, Tanya Howard, and Patrick Graham.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Field & strengths - The nexus of governance and responsibility strategies of the corporations are evolving. In the aftermath of some corporate scandals, and with the rise of civil society campaigns against the negative impact of corporate operations particularly on the environment, business corporations are under pressure to effectively perform in socio-environmental responsibility issues. The corporate law researchers in the School of Law are known for their research on the devolution in the traditional corporate governance practice and the legal strategies for raising corporate social responsibility performance. The School is well-connected with the leading national and international corporate societies, corporate law practitioners and the guilds active for ensuring ethics and responsibilities in corporate operations. It is ideally situated to research in corporate governance and sustainability regulation, with particular focus on (a) the regulation of hybrid corporations, (b) regulation of technologies for corporate decision making, (c) meta-regulation approach for raising corporate accountability and (c) the legal regulation of corporate social responsibility.

Available supervisors – Michael Adams, Ottavio Quirico, Mia Rahim, Kip Werren, Sharl Marimuthu, Ying Chen and Same Varayudej are well-known and highly experienced corporate law research supervisors in the School, and available for supervising higher degree research projects.

NATURAL RESOURCE AND SUSTAINABILITY REGULATION

Fields and strengths – 'Be the change you want to see in the world' by researching with UNE's Law School on the most profound challenge of our age – the preservation and sustainable use of the finite and delicate natural resources of the world. Climate change, species loss, land and marine degradation, combined with overuse, over-consumption and over-extraction are all problems of natural resource governance and regulation. The burden of environmental trade-offs and compromises can fall heavily on the most disadvantaged members of the community. Thus, legal research has an expansive agenda – not merely to understand and govern these issues, but to do so effectively in ways consistent with principles of fairness, justice, transparency and accountability.

Available supervisors – Paul Martin, Mark Perry, Cameron Moore, Ottavio Quirico, Sharl Marimuthu, Andrew Lawson, Tanya Howard, and Mark Shephard.