For information relating to Remote Professional Practice please click on FAQ's [Remote Professional Practice](#)

LAW5050 Professional Practice (JD) Unit information

Description of Clinic

Monash Law Clinics (MLC) is situated at two locations - Clayton (MLCC) and Melbourne CBD. **LAW5050 Professional Practice (JD) operates out of Monash Law Clinics – Melbourne (MCLM) situated on level 11, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (in the same building as Monash University Law Chambers).**

MLC is a community legal centre (CLC) operated by the Monash University's Faculty of Law as both a CLC and a teaching clinic. As a CLC, Monash Law Clinics provides members of the community with legal service. MLCM is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. It is a professional and functioning community legal centre. Other clinics are also co-located at the centre. As a teaching clinic, MLCM provides students with practical skills and experiential learning. It is an opportunity for students to gain first - hand experience in dealing with real life legal matters through interviewing real clients and drafting of relevant legal documents. The nature of clinical practice is such that no two days are ever the same. Students learn to expect the unexpected. In this way, they are preparing for lifelong learning, knowing that each day they will learn something new.

The Clinical Period and Value

The clinical period runs for 14 weeks (including 2 week changeover period). Please note that the dates of the clinical period are different to those of normal teaching periods. While University holidays are observed, attendance at the CLC is continuous. The unit is worth 12 points i.e. two units and is classified as Law Research Elective Unit. For details regarding the dates of each clinical period please see: https://www.monash.edu/law/home/cle under the heading "Clinical Legal Education Units" then the "Juris Doctor students" drop-down tab.

Format of Unit

In the week prior to the commencement of the clinical period, students are required to attend a **compulsory** full day Orientation Session via zoom. For the dates of the Orientation Session for each clinical period please see: https://www.monash.edu/law/home/cle under the heading "Clinical Legal Education Units" then the "Juris Doctor students" drop-down tab.

The workload requirements for this unit are two days per week consisting of a **legal service session day**, when you will interview clients and undertake follow up work, a **priority day,** when you will work on your client matters and meet with your supervisor to discuss your matters **and a compulsory 2 hour weekly online seminar on zoom on Thursdays (subject to change).** Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, at present the session day is onsite at MLCM, the priority day is online.

From time to time, students may have the opportunity to attend and support clients at court or instruct barristers at court hearings. These events may take place on a different day to your required attendance.

Changeover Period (compulsory)

In all clinical periods, in the first two weeks, there will be a two-week changeover with the outgoing JD students.

During the first week the new students will shadow the outgoing students during the client interview session. During the second week of changeover, the new students will take the lead interviewing clients with the assistance of the outgoing students.

Regular attendance is essential at the CLC, from the taking-over of clients' files at the beginning of the unit to the handover at the end. The `change-over' weeks are the final two weeks at the end of each clinical period and overlaps with the first two weeks of the next clinical period. Reliability and punctuality are essential.

There is no formal examination in this unit

Assessment Consists of:

Performance of Responsibilities at Clinic (70%)

- Legal research and application of legal research - 20%
- Casework, ethics and professional responsibility - 30%
- Project management and file management skills - 20%

Community Engagement Project (15%)

Reflective Piece - 15%

Half way through the clinical period there is an informal 'mid-clinical period' review when the supervisor discusses strengths and weaknesses with each student.

If a student fails the unit, the opportunity to repeat it will depend on the decision of the Director of Clinical Units as to the availability of a place in a subsequent unit.

For further details regarding this unit students are referred to: http://www.monash.edu/pubs/handbooks/units/LAW5050.html

How Do I Apply and What Happens Next?

You will need to apply for this unit through the online InPlace system. For detailed instructions on how to use this system please see https://www.monash.edu/law/home/cle/law4328-llb-professional-practice 'Application and Enrolment'

Shortly after the closing date for applications, the Director of the Clinical Units will assess your application and Student Services will advise you:

- whether you have been offered a place for that clinical period or
- whether you have been guaranteed a place in a forthcoming clinical period

For details regarding the selection process and the factors that are taken into account please see: https://www.monash.edu/law/home/cle/law5050-jd-professional-practice under the heading 'Selection Process'.

The Director of Clinical Units makes the ultimate decision of whether a student is offered a place in the program.

Note: that while we use our best endeavours it is not always possible to allocate you to a particular Legal Service stream which suits you and it may be necessary for you to adjust your other weekly commitments in order to work on the session allocated.

Prescribed Material
- Hyams et al, Practical Legal Skills 4th Edition, (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Recommended Reading
- The Law Handbook, Fitzroy Legal Service
- Lawyers Practice Manual (Vic) published by SMLS and Thomson (can be accessed at the legal services in hard copy or through the law library database)