

YourCareer



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Perth-based masters student **Cameron Roper** discusses his experiences in the Melbourne Law Masters program at Melbourne Law School. The Senior Associate at King & Wood Mallesons will soon complete a Master of Banking and Finance Law.

What has been your career pathway since obtaining your law degree?

My work in banking and finance involves the application of problem-solving skills, a high level of commerciality and interesting legal issues. Over the course of my career, I've worked on a wide variety of resources projects, from oil and gas to gold to iron ore, in Western Australia and in jurisdictions such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Ghana, Mauritania and Mongolia. Given the diversity of the work and the global demand for resources, I expect to continue on the same path for some time. After working as a lawyer for a few years, I decided that a graduate degree in law would be the ideal complement to the practical legal training I was receiving as part of my employment.

What were the deciding factors when you were researching postgraduate study options?

To start with, I knew that Melbourne Law School had an excellent reputation, and I had heard great reports about the LLM course from my colleagues in Perth and Melbourne. However, the factor that really cemented my decision was the relevance of the specialised Master of Banking and Finance Law to my career – I knew that I wouldn't get the same experience anywhere else in Australia. It also helped a lot that most of the LLM units are offered by Melbourne Law School on an intensive basis, meaning that I could fit in part-time study in Melbourne with full-time work in Perth. Regardless of the subject matter,

studying at Melbourne Law School has linked me with world class experts, exposed me to the different perspectives of my classmates and given me the opportunity to develop the legal skills I use every day in my job as a banking and finance lawyer.

Are there any disadvantages of not being based in the city in which you are studying?

Other than having to arrange flights and accommodation, I haven't encountered any difficulties in being an interstate-based student studying at Melbourne Law School. This is because Melbourne Law School offers the majority of its LLM subject as intensive units, with assessments that can be completed back at home and submitted electronically. Students are also provided with all of the key materials before the start of each course, so there's no disadvantage from being unable to access the physical library in Melbourne. My studies have already made me a better lawyer, in both a technical and practical sense, and I have no doubt that the benefits to my career will continue long after I finish my degree.

Describe your fellow students. Are many others also based interstate?

The diversity of backgrounds of people studying at Melbourne Law School is one of the key draw cards – it's fantastic to get exposure to perspectives from people from all around Australia and the rest of the world, learn new things about different jurisdictions and, of course,

make new friends. About one third of the student body is based interstate and I have met students from every state and territory. I have met people working for renewable energy companies in Tasmania or government departments based in Darwin or more remote areas, and discovering what their work involves has been fascinating.

What should students look for when researching further study options?

I have no regrets in selecting an interstate university for my further study. In my view, other factors (such as the quality of teaching staff and resources, relevance and variety of subjects, and support for students) are all much more important than geographical location. While studying interstate does involve a little extra travel time, you get to explore a new city and meet new people. All in all, studying at Melbourne Law School while living in Perth has been a fantastic experience and I have no hesitation in recommending it to others who are thinking about studying interstate. •

For more information, visit www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters.

Questions? Contact the Melbourne Law Masters team at law-masters@unimelb.edu.au

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