

# SCHOOL OF LAW

Raising The Bar With All-Round Excellence



SMU

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY



# DEAN'S MESSAGE

We now live in the early stages of the fourth industrial revolution, which is characterised by the exponential explosion of technologies that fundamentally change the ways we live, work and interact. Revolutionary technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and autonomous vehicles bring to the fore legal issues that lawyers have never encountered in the past. The use of legal technology in the legal industry, whether to perform some of the more routine work or to assist in decision-making, would eventually reshape the role of human lawyers. Despite the many uncertainties, we at SMU School of Law see only opportunities.

In consultation with our Advisory Council on Law and Technology, we have taken steps to update our legal curriculum to meet the impending challenges, specifically by addressing new technological advancements in the teaching of traditional law courses and introducing new courses to directly tackle these hot topics. In the midst of such initiatives, the launch of our Centre for AI and Data Governance in June last year, which is made possible by a government grant of \$4.5 million, could not have come at a better time. We have great expectations for the production of groundbreaking research on the area of law and technology, which will help shape our direction in legal education.



Associate Professor Goh Yihan  
Dean, SMU School of Law

New initiatives aside, we remain confident that our holistic approach to legal education sufficiently prepares our students for the new world. Our small class seminars encourage independent thinking and knowledge creation. We emphasise presentation skills so that our students graduate both articulate and confident. Clinical work and industrial collaboration help bridge the gaps between law in the books and law in practice. We continue to view law as a noble calling, and through mandatory community service, inculcate in our students the value of giving back to society. We firmly believe that this comprehensive skill set, along with a heart to serve, would provide our students with a clear edge in the era of artificial intelligence and prepare them to meet any challenges that the future would throw in their ways.

This is why our graduates are highly sought after, well placed, and competitively remunerated. Year after year our graduates are significantly represented on the prestigious Justices' Law Clerks programme. Within a short span of eleven years and with only seven cohorts of working graduates, many have gone on to make their mark in the profession, industry and academia. Quite a few have even struck out on their own to set up their own private practice and legal-tech start-ups. With an alumni network numbering more than a thousand and growing steadily, current students could expect to benefit from networking and job opportunities.

Our vision is that of a better world attained by the study and practice of law. We aspire to build bridges not only between theory and reality and across disciplines, but also between the past and the future. As a young law school, we are energetic and look forward to embracing the future. If you are resolutely determined to make a lawyer of yourself, and excited about what the future beholds, we welcome you to join us.

# WHY SMU SCHOOL OF LAW?

## EXPERT FACULTY



Our faculty members are highly qualified and accomplished, having obtained postgraduate degrees from world renowned universities, and bring with them a wealth of practical experience from past employment in varying leadership roles.



## FORWARD-LOOKING EDUCATION



Through our carefully designed curriculum and unique seminar-style teaching, we prepare our students not just to be experts in the law but also to be highly adaptable individuals with the necessary practical and soft skills to meet the demands of the modern legal and business world.



## GLOBAL EXPOSURE



Our partnerships with law schools and various organisations worldwide allow our students to spend meaningful time abroad to gain comparative insights into how the law works across borders.



## PROMISING CAREER PATHWAYS



Our students are competitive at the global stage, having achieved notable successes at prestigious mooting competitions and having gone on to pursue postgraduate degrees in world-renowned institutions. This means that our graduates are highly sought after, having close to full employment soon after graduation, with higher average starting salaries than their peers from other universities, and many recruited for top positions.

## VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE



Our strategic proximity to the courts, the Parliament and the central business district allows our students many opportunities to experience first-hand how laws are created, how legal disputes are adjudicated, and how laws affect businesses, and to learn experientially through internships with top city law firms. More than just work, our state-of-the-art building, and dynamic city campus, makes for a vibrant student life outside of studies as well.



# EXPERT FACULTY



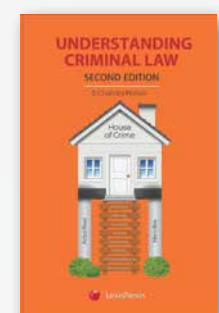
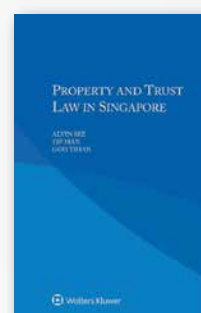
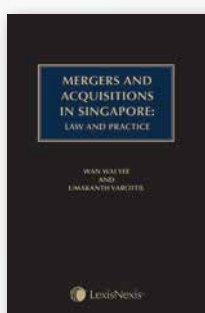
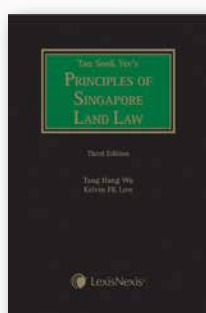
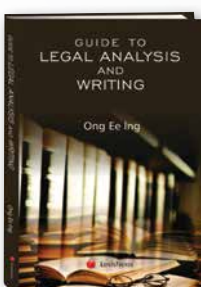
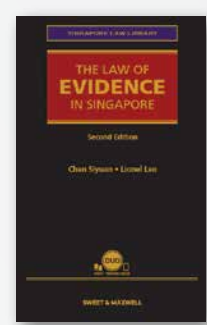
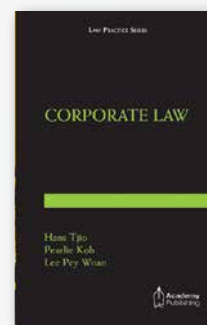
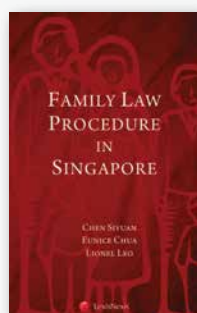
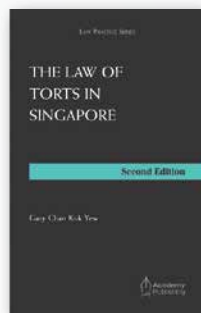
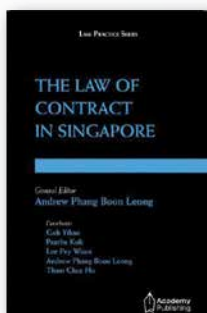
Our faculty comprises thought leaders who hail from world-renowned universities. All our faculty have postgraduate degrees from world renowned universities, such as the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, Harvard University and Yale University; about one third have PhD qualifications.

In both research and teaching, we draw on our diverse backgrounds and experience. Some of our faculty members are practising lawyers and legal consultants. Others are appointed to leadership roles in institutions such as the Singapore Institute of Legal Education and the Singapore Judicial College. A number of us have contributed towards the development of law by appearing before the courts in leading cases, in Singapore and abroad, as counsel; amici curiae ('friends of the court'); or expert witnesses. This diverse array of practical experience will benefit you as a student.

Our faculty have written many of the leading Singapore law textbooks. Not only do they help students navigate the complexities of the law, these books are also regarded by practising lawyers and the courts alike as leading authorities in their fields. As a student, you will learn from those who have helped shape the very law they teach.

We are also known for exchanging ideas with leading scholars worldwide at prestigious conferences and conducting seminars that share cutting-edge legal knowledge with the legal community. As a student, you will be exposed to this process through research papers, the Directed Research elective, and opportunities to be engaged as Research Assistants.

## LEADING TEXTBOOKS WHICH OUR FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE WRITTEN OR CONTRIBUTED TO INCLUDE



# FORWARD-LOOKING EDUCATION

## UNIQUE TEACHING STYLE

Our holistic pedagogy ensures our students graduate as dynamic, articulate, and analytically agile individuals ready to thrive in legal practice. As a student, you will be taught in an interactive style, where a single instructor leads a class of around 40 students. This departure from the traditional lecture-and-tutorial mode of learning will allow you to acquire knowledge and problem-solve at the same time.

Apart from conventional examinations, assessment will be based on participation in vibrant class discussions, group presentations and written assignments. For a number of skills-based courses, the focus is on hands-on work and closely supervised assignments. In SMU-X courses, experiential learning is taken up the next level as students engage in projects that require interdisciplinary knowledge and active mentoring.

As Singapore develops its digital economy, a trusted ecosystem is key, where industries can benefit from innovations in technology. To better prepare for emerging technological disruptions, we have incorporated elements of law and technology in various courses, exploring how traditional laws cope, and how they might need to evolve, to remain relevant.

In 2018, we have introduced new courses dedicated to exploring the intersection between law and technology, such as Introduction to Law and Technology, Law and Digital Commerce, and Privacy and Data Protection Law. Within the university, we have partnered with the School of Information Systems in launching the new Bachelor of Science in Computing and Law programme, aimed at grooming IT and legal professionals who are adept at bridging law and technology.

Externally, the School of Law has also partnered with the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) in the Future Law Innovation Programme (FLIP). This programme seeks to groom a new breed of professionals known as "legal technologists" as part of efforts to modernise the delivery of legal services in Singapore.

Under FLIP, our students will have the opportunity to participate in consulting courses, internships and benefit from mentorship in related programmes; in addition to networking opportunities. Two lead student projects, including a project relating to the collation of legal industry problem statements, have commenced since January 2018. These initiatives are in conjunction with the launch of the School of Law's Centre for AI and Data Governance, which will involve students in cutting-edge research projects on AI and Society, AI and Industry, and AI and Commercialisation.



## EXTENSIVE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships are critical in exposing students to the practical workings of the legal system in a wide range of environments. Our students are required to complete at least 10 weeks of internships before graduation. They may choose to intern with the wide variety of law firms, legal departments, and government bodies we have partnered with. Our vast network even makes it possible for students to intern overseas.

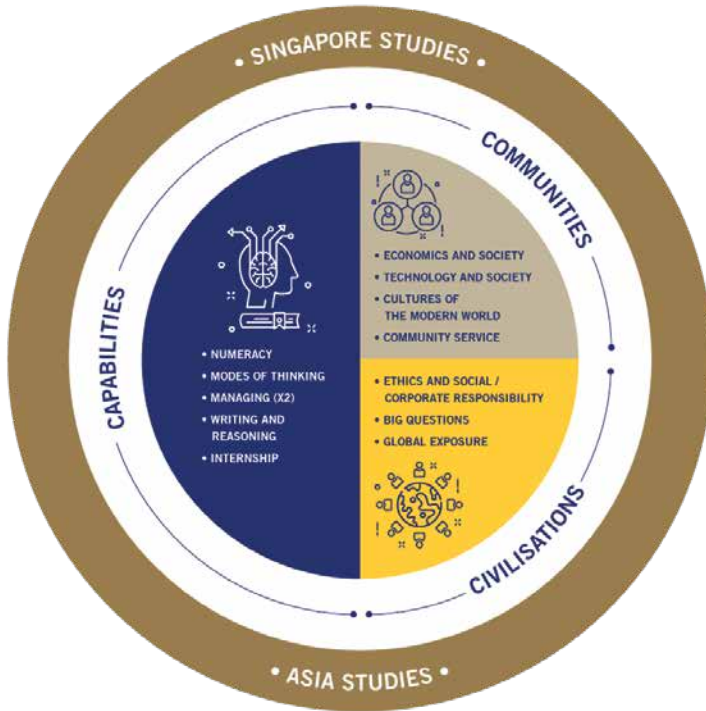
## CONSCIENTIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO WORK

Ultimately, we believe that law is more than a practice, but a calling. As a student, you will learn the importance of law as a noble calling through giving back to society. Our students are required to complete at least 80 hours of community service before graduation, of which 20 hours constitute pro bono work. Under the guidance of expert faculty members, our students contribute to the ideal of equal access to justice for all parts of society through the campus legal clinics run by our Pro Bono Centre. Our students also assist practising lawyers through pro bono projects in conjunction with institutions such as the Law Society and the State Courts Community Justice Centre, exercising a strong sense of social responsibility while developing practical professional skills.



# CURRICULUM

The SMU Core Curriculum is a menu of six carefully selected course units (CUs) to initiate undergraduates into their journey to become holistic SMU graduates. The Core Curriculum also serves as a means for students across all disciplines to bond through a common intellectual experience. It stands on three pillars of learning, or inter-related paths of development: Capabilities, Communities and Civilisations.



School of Law students will fulfill the following requirements of the SMU Core Curriculum:

Capabilities: • Managing • Modes of Thinking • Internship (non-credit bearing);

Communities: • Cultures of the Modern World • Technology and Society • Community Service (non-credit bearing);

Civilisations: • Big Questions • Ethics and Social Responsibility • Global Exposure (non-credit bearing).

In addition, all SMU students will fulfill requirements in Singapore Studies and Asia Studies, through a range of pre-identified courses and activities that also count towards the Core Curriculum, disciplinary curriculum, or co-curricular activities.

## Capabilities



Students will also complete an internship, either locally or overseas.

Develop specific competencies and skills that are necessary to dexterously operate in an increasingly complex, digitised and data-driven working environment.

## Communities



Students will also complete a community service project, either locally or overseas.

Promote understanding of the economic, technological, and cultural systems that structure our interactions with our communities.

## Civilisations



Students will complete a Global Exposure Experience.

Engage in critical dialogue and problem solving through immersion into fundamental and perennial debates that cut across time and space:

- Happiness & Suffering
- Wealth & Poverty
- War & Peace
- Global & Local

## AN OVERVIEW OF A TYPICAL BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB) STUDY PLAN

Study plans may vary for individual students, depending on their choice of elective modules and/or secondary majors/degrees

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
<b>TERM 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract Law 1</li> <li>• Criminal Law</li> <li>• Legal Research Writing 1</li> <li>• The Singapore Legal System</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law of Business Organisations</li> <li>• Law or Property</li> <li>• Comparative Legal Systems</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law-related Elective</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives</li> </ul>
<b>VACATION</b>	Pro Bono / Community Service ^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship
<b>TERM 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract Law 2</li> <li>• Law of Torts</li> <li>• Legal Research Writing 2</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional &amp; Administrative Law</li> <li>• Corporate Law</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law-related Elective</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives</li> </ul>
<b>VACATION</b>	Pro Bono / Community Service ^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship

CORE COURSES (PRE-ASSIGNED)

LAW ELECTIVES

LAW-RELATED ELECTIVES

SMU CORE CURRICULUM

# BACHELOR OF LAWS CURRICULUM

University Core  
6 Course Units



Law Core  
17.5 Course Units



Law Major Electives  
8.5 Course Units



Law-related Electives  
2 Course Units



Free Electives  
Up to 2 Course Units

## Law Major Electives\*\*

\*\*These electives are offered in the current academic year and may vary from year to year.

### Commercial

- Corporate Insolvency Law
- Drafting in Corporate Practice
- Financial & Securities Regulation
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property Law

- International Commercialisation of Intellectual Property Rights
- International Construction Law
- Launching an Online Financial Business - the Lawyer's Role
- Law of International Trade
- Law of Mergers & Acquisitions
- Legal and Commercial Principles in Project Financing Transactions
- Shipping and Admiralty Law
- Trade and Investment Law

### Dispute Resolution

- Deal-making and Dispute Resolution: Negotiation in an Age of Disruption
- Dispute Resolution: The Role of Experts
- Evidence, Litigation and the Criminal Process
- International Mediation Law and Practice
- International Moots 1
- International Moots 2
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Pre-trial Practice in Civil Litigation
- Professional Mediation Skills

### Interdisciplinary

- Chinese Contract Law
- Comparative Corporate Governance
- Intellectual Assets and the Law in Asian Economies

### International & Comparative

- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- International and Comparative Insolvency Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- Introduction to Chinese History, Culture, Economy, Politics and Law

- Law and Psychology
- Law Study Mission to Asia
- Transnational Business & Human Rights
- WTO: Law and Policy

### Law & Technology

- Introduction to Law and Technology
- Law and Digital Commerce
- Privacy & Data Protection Law

### Public/Regulatory

- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Compliance and Risk Management for Lawyers
- Family Law
- Intellectual Property Law and Competition Law at Interplay
- Introduction to Civil Procedure
- Law & Regulation
- Medical Law and Health Policy
- Public International Law
- Topics in Financial Crime

### Theory

- Economic Analysis of Law
- Jurisprudence: Modern and Critical Theories of Law

## Law-related Electives

Students are required to read 2 law-related electives out of a basket of 4.

- Finance for Law
- Financial Accounting for Law
- Economics & Society
- Introductory Statistics

	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Theory &amp; Philosophy</li> <li>• Law of Evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 X Law Electives</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 X Law Electives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>	
^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship ^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship ^
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law Of Equity &amp; Trusts</li> <li>• Ethics &amp; Social Responsibility</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 X Law Electives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 X Law Electives</li> </ul>
#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMU Core Curriculum Course and/or Free Electives #</li> </ul>
^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship ^	Pro Bono / Community Service / Law Internship ^

# Students are required to complete 6 Course Units of SMU Core Curriculum Courses and 2 Units of Free Electives. These courses may be taken at any term throughout the programme, subject to an individual student's workload and time-table.

^ SMU students are required to complete 80 hours of community service, of which a minimum of 20 hours of SILE-approved pro bono work is compulsory for Law students.

# GLOBAL EXPOSURE

As a student, you can expect to experience some aspect of global exposure, be it as an exchange student, an overseas intern, as part of a law study mission, or a competitor in an overseas competition.

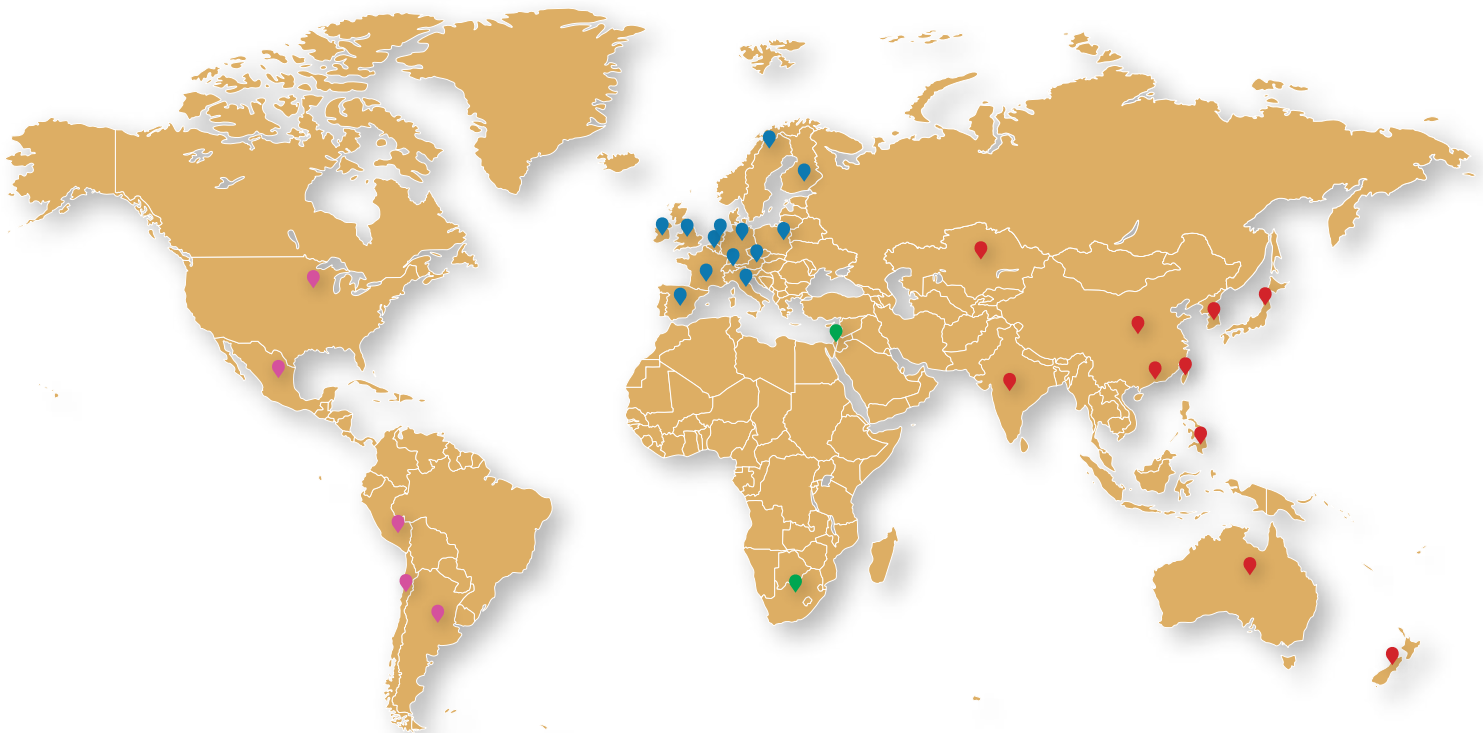
## EXCHANGE

We partner with over 80 universities across the globe in direct law-to-law and university wide exchange programmes and are continually expanding our international exchange programme offering. We are the only Asian university in the THEMIS network of top European universities.



Number of exchange partners **>80 and growing**

Percentage of law students who went on exchange **>55%**



### THE AMERICAS

Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru and United States of America

### MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Israel and South Africa

### EUROPE

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom

### ASIA-PACIFIC AND CENTRAL ASIA

Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Taiwan



## INTERNSHIPS

Students may intern overseas with reputable law firms and related organisations. Our partnership with the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) further provides our students with the opportunity to intern with firms in New York.

## LAW STUDY MISSION

Our Law Study Mission course allows students to gain a better understanding of the legal system, business and culture of selected jurisdictions. Students will visit the selected jurisdiction and engage in participant activities at law firms, legal institutions, governmental agencies and businesses.

## INTERNATIONAL MOOT AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMPETITIONS

As a student, you will also have the opportunity to participate in our leading programme on international moots. Mooting is a simulation of the resolution of a dispute before a tribunal. Although our International Moots Programme was only launched in 2010, our students have regularly placed in the top 3 worldwide in the most prestigious international moot competitions (known as "grand slam moots") listed below. In International Alternative Dispute Resolution competitions, our students are also beginning to leave their mark, having placed third in the 2018 CDRC Vienna and second in the 2018 Advocate Maximus competitions.

### 2013 / 2014

Philip C Jessup  
(Washington DC)  
Public International Law  
SMU has also won 5 of the last 6 national rounds.

### 2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018

Willem C Vis East  
(Hong Kong)  
International Commercial Arbitration

### 2010 / 2012 / 2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018

Price (Oxford)  
International Human Rights

### 2015 / 2016

Willem C Vis (Vienna)  
International Commercial Arbitration

### 2015 / 2017

(Frankfurt)  
International Investment Arbitration

### 2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018

International Criminal Court (The Hague)  
International Humanitarian Law



# VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE

More than work, our location between Fort Canning Park, Orchard Road and the Central Business District provide our students ready access to plenty of good food, fun and opportunities for experiential learning.

New students begin this exciting journey by participating in Law Camp, an orientation camp for first-year law students before the academic term. To help ease students in their transition to law school, all first-year students are assigned to members of the faculty, whom they may reach out to for academic advice. There is also a buddy system where first-year students are paired with second-year students.

At law school, our students may choose to join a number of student-run law clubs. The SMU Law Society, fondly known as The Bar, is the representative body for students and organises a variety of events. There are also nine sub-clubs, each of which provides the opportunity to engage in more specific areas of interests.



Launched in 2017, SMU Lexicon is a student-run law blog which publishes articles, case commentaries, and write-ups on current legal affairs. In collaboration with the Supreme Court, SMU Lexicon provides an opportunity for students to write case briefs on selected Court of Appeal judgments, highlighting the significant and pertinent points set out in the judgments. These case briefs are distributed to the Law Society and other selected stakeholders, and on the Supreme Court's website (under SMU Case Briefs: <https://www.supremecourt.gov.sg/publications/smu-case-briefs/>).

The newest sub-club, the Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT) Society, seeks to foster awareness of how the law interacts with emerging technology.

Recognising that our students are important stakeholders, we strongly believe in the importance of engaging them and listening to what they have to say. The Dean conducts a townhall session with students every term.



# ALUMNI RELATIONS



Even after our students graduate, we continue to regard them as part of our family and do our best to stay connected. The Dean conducts a townhall session with our alumni on a regular basis. Each year, we hold a mass call party to celebrate our alumni being called to the bar.

Although we are only 11 years old, we have an extensive and supportive alumni network that spans across various industries. Our alumni have also gone on to pursue graduate studies in renowned institutions such as Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and Columbia.

Despite hectic schedules, many of our alumni readily return to volunteer in school events, such as our open house, panels to share with our students, and admissions interviews. In addition, more than 200 alumni regularly help out with our International Moots Programme through judging, coaching, and vetting written work. This way, knowledge is passed down the generations, giving our students an edge in competitions.



# PROMISING CAREER PATHWAYS

Our graduates are highly sought after, having close to full employment soon after graduation, with higher average starting salaries than their peers from other universities. Based on the 2017 Graduate Employment Survey published by the Ministry of Education, our graduates enjoyed an overall employment rate of 97.6%, drawing a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,941. This is a testament to the quality of our graduates and shows that our education approach fits market demands.

Many of our graduates have gone on to make their mark in the profession, industry and academia. Our top graduates have consistently been appointed to serve as Justices' Law Clerks of the Supreme Court. For the past 5 years, the majority of Justices' Law Clerks selected from local law schools have hailed from SMU.

In addition, despite having only seven cohorts of working graduates, a number of our graduates have already struck out on their own to establish their own private practices (such as BlackOak LLC and Breakpoint LLC) and legal-tech start-ups (such as Intelllex and tesseract.io). With an alumni network numbering more than a thousand and growing steadily, current students truly benefit from networking and job opportunities.





SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY

## A Different U

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