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Riana Cermak | Law Foundation of South Australia Fellowship Report

Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford

I have now graduated from the Bachelor of Civil Law ('BCL') at the University of Oxford, which was enabled by the Law Foundation of South Australia Fellowship. It was an extremely rewarding experience which I could not have otherwise undertaken without the support of the Law Foundation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Law Foundation for their support and provide a brief report on my studies.

Studies at Oxford

On the BCL, my topics included: (a) Criminal Justice, Security, and Human Rights; (b) Principles of Financial Regulation; (c) Environmental Law; and (d) a research dissertation, focusing on the interaction between the *Modern Slavery Act* (Cth) and liability under the *Criminal Code Act* (Cth) for corporate culture. I found my topics very interesting, and I particularly enjoyed the class discussions with other students from around the world. My study at Oxford also gave me a valuable opportunity to research and learn more about European models of regulation and the unique EU approach in some of these areas.

Outside of the BCL

(a) At Oxford

Having played soccer during my school years for South Australia, I was excited to get back into it once I arrived in Oxford. I joined my college team, the St Cross Foxes, and after braving the cold weather for the semester, we managed to win the league! We also won the indoor league, which was much nicer to play out of the cold.



One thing I particularly enjoyed at Oxford was the broad range of additional lectures, seminars, extra-credit courses, and visitors from around the world. I experienced a very diverse range of interesting topics, ranging from a short course at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights on Strategising Business and Human Rights, the launch of the Oxford Drone and Autonomous Vehicle Society, and speeches from politicians, international lawyers, judges, and economists.

(b) Outside of Oxford

While studying the BCL, I also interned for the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights ('GBI'), where I stayed on full time as a Manager after graduation. GBI is a global cross-industry business organisation which includes companies such as Intel, Coca-Cola, Hilton Hotels, and Volkswagen, which work together to develop best practices in corporate respect for human rights. While at Oxford in this role, I had the opportunity to attend the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva where I met different leading human rights lawyers and policymakers, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.



Next Steps

My current work in business and human rights builds on my studies at both Flinders University and Oxford, and I am excited to have the opportunity to learn and contribute in these areas. While I am currently based in London, much of my work now also relates to Australian human rights-related legislation and improving business practices in the surrounding region.

Work and study in these areas has been extremely rewarding and is something I would have been unable to discover without the generosity of the Law Foundation and support from the SA legal community. I would especially like to thank the Law Foundation Committee and my Honours Supervisor, Sulette Lombard, who helped me initially to explore these topics during my undergraduate corporate law topics and Honours dissertation. In the future, I am looking forward to similarly helping South Australian law students and contributing to the work of the Law Foundation in the legal profession and broader community.