



Brennan Justice and Leadership Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
2021

General questions about the Brennan Justice and Leadership Program

Q. What is the Brennan Program?

A. The Brennan Program is a volunteer program for UTS Law students which provides opportunities for you to engage in justice issues and to volunteer in the not for profit community in a legal or non-legal capacity.

If you complete all components of the program during your law degree, you receive the Brennan Award. The Award will appear on your academic transcript and Australian Higher Education Graduation (AHEG) Statement. There is no other Award of this nature at any other Australian law school.

Q. What are the components of the program?

A. The Program has two core elements: **Reflections on Justice (ROJ)** and **Leadership Through Service (LTS)**.

The ROJ component is where you engage with themes of justice and its social contexts. We host a range of activities including: seminars, films screenings, discussion groups, a book program, a photography competition and short film competition for you to reflect on these themes in a variety of ways. Each activity has a point value, and you require 100 ROJ points to complete this component.

The LTS component is where you contribute service (both legal and non-legal in nature) by volunteering your time at a non-profit organisation. These activities develop your capacity for initiative and leadership. LTS requirements are based upon the length of your degree.

Degree length	LTS hours required
5 year Degree	200 hours
4 year Degree	160 hours
3 year Degree	120 hours
Minimum	120 hours

Q. How do I register? Is it free?

A. To register for the Program, log into Career Hub at <https://careerhub.uts.edu.au>. Click on "Dashboard"; as a current law student, you should be able to see the 'Brennan Justice and Leadership Program' on the left-hand side of your screen. Fill out the registration form and you will gain access to the program.

It is free to join, and registering also signs you up to our regular email, full of volunteering opportunities and events!

Q. Who is the Program named after?

A. The Program and Award are named for Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia and UTS Chancellor. His life and career exemplify the qualities of professional leadership, service and excellence that the Program seeks to nurture.



Q. Does registration for the Program involve any commitment to proceed to the Brennan Justice and Leadership Award?



A. No.

We recognise that much will depend upon your other commitments and that these will vary from session to session. Feel free to continually vary your level of activity, participation in and engagement with the Program and accumulate points as you are able.



Q. Do I have to re-register for the Program and the Brennan Program Canvas noticeboard each session or each year?

A. No. Registration continues while you are enrolled in a law program at UTS.

Q. I am registered for the Program but have been unable to attend any of the events and activities lately. Should I withdraw from the Program for now and re-register at a later date?

A. No, feel free to stay in the program as it is offered each session. Your enrolment automatically continues until you graduate, at which point you will be de-registered. Attend what and when you can and accrue points and hours when you are able to do so.

Q. Where do I find out more about what is involved in the Program and what I can do?

A.

- A thorough outline of the Program is available in the Brennan Program Handbook published on the [Brennan Program webpage](#).
- You can keep up to date by reading the Brennan Program newsletter (this automatically gets sent to your UTS email account after you register for the Program),
- Follow us on [Facebook](#),
- Read about upcoming events and initiatives on the [UTS Law website](#).
- Log onto Canvas to access The Brennan Program noticeboard.
- We also hold Information Sessions twice a year for new and continuing students.

Q. If I have a question about the Program, or a problem, who do I contact?

A. Contact the Program Administrator at brennanprogram@uts.edu.au

Q. How do I record ROJ points?

A. Via [Career Hub](#)! Simply look under the relevant heading and follow the instructions.

Q. How do I record LTS hours?

Also on Career Hub. Please make sure that you and your supervisor have completed the [Confirmation of Service Form](#) before you fill out the online form on Career Hub.

If you need help, contact the Program Administrator for assistance.



Q. Can I complete my ROJ points and LTS hours in one year?

A. No.

You cannot accrue 100 ROJ points in one year, and you can only accrue 75% of your LTS hours in one year as it is encouraged that you develop your insights and experiences throughout the progression of your degree.



Reflections on Justice

Q. What must I do to satisfy the reflections component to qualify for the Brennan Justice and Leadership Award?

A. To be eligible for the Award, you must complete 100 points of reflective activities from the indicative list contained in the Program Handbook.

Different points apply to each form of activity and all are optional.

Q. I want to attend a lecture or conference on a justice topic offered outside UTS. Will it accrue points towards the Brennan Award?

A. Yes, if it meets the criteria for external lectures in the Handbook. Generally, if there is a justice dimension to the lecture, you may assume that it will be credited towards the program. If in doubt, please contact the Program Administrator for approval. Many external lectures that have been approved will be promoted via the Brennan newsletter, Facebook page or on Canvas.

Q. I have attended an event organised by the Brennan Program. Do I need to log this in my ROJ blog?

A. You must RSVP for any Brennan Program events in the Career Hub “Brennan Program Events” section. Click on the “Book into ‘Brennan Events’ link and you will be taken to a screen where you can see the current events available.

Attendance at each event accrues a standard five (5) points under the Program, however, you must make sure that your name is marked off at the event in order to claim the points.

Discussion Groups

Q. What do discussion groups do in their meetings?

A. Discussion groups can focus on any aspect of justice, including issues that are topical or in the public domain. One meeting of the discussion group will be dedicated to the current book in the Brennan Book Program. [The Book Program](#) invites all students and staff to read the same book in order to come to the Brennan Program with something in common. For [2021](#), we’ve chosen a variety of non-fiction and fiction options which you are welcome to choose from. NOTE: Within one year there is a cap of two book reflections.

Q. How do I join a discussion group?

A. We send a call out to students at the beginning of the session via our newsletter, Canvas Brennan Program noticeboard, and social media channels advertising discussion group participation and openings for group leaders. You will be allocated a group, or if you have a group of friends who would like to form a group you can contact the LSS Brennan Director at brennan.program@uts.lss.com.



Q. When is my discussion group supposed to meet?

A: This is at the discretion of each group. So long as your group logs five meetings by the end of Week 11 of the session, you are free to schedule your meetings at your group's convenience.

Q. What happens if someone in our group cannot make a meeting?



A. If there is a legitimate excuse for someone missing a group meeting, this should be noted in your Meeting minutes, and in that week's reflection on Career Hub.



Q. What do we do if someone in our group isn't responding to emails, or isn't participating in our group?

A. The onus to participate in the Brennan Program is on each individual. It is not your responsibility to carry those students who are not taking the initiative to engage with this component of the Program. If a member, or members, of your group, are not actively participating to the extent that it is hindering your group's progress, please notify the Program Administrator at brennanprogram@uts.edu.au.

Similarly, if you feel that your group's successful completion of this component of the Program can only be achieved if you push forward without a member who isn't actively participating, please contact the Program Administrator once every reasonable effort to contact that person has been made.

Q. What happens if my entire group is unresponsive, and I want to switch groups?

A. Contact the Program Administrator with a request to switch groups ONLY if you have made a reasonable attempt to communicate with the members of your original group.

Leadership Through Service

Q. What voluntary work qualifies under the Program? What are the criteria for credit towards the Award?

A. In brief, the service must be voluntary and, ordinarily, for a non-profit organisation; it should not attract academic credit or financial reward.

Q. Does the service be for a legal organisation?

A. No.

Q. Can the service be with more than one organisation?

A. Yes.

In most cases, it will be with several organisations, across your time at law school, with different time commitments for each. You will create a portfolio of work, a network of engagement with different experiences and community groups.

Q. What is the leadership element of service? What must I do?

A. The Program aims to assist students to develop their capacity for social leadership and personal responsibility. Students are encouraged to seek out opportunities to demonstrate these qualities. For example, a student might develop a fundraising initiative, lead an awareness-raising campaign, take on higher organisational responsibility, or advocate for the needs of their host organisation.



Q. What are some examples of service that counts under the Brennan Program?

A.

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- Work in agencies that have a service provision function or ethic of care, advocacy and social concern (for example, providing services for homeless people, working with Indigenous organisations, as a teacher of English literacy to child refugees, and advocacy and advice for disadvantaged groups)
 - Volunteering as an intern or research assistant at a Faculty Centre (Anti-Slavery Australia, or the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII))
 - Volunteering or interning with legal clinics, community legal centres and other agencies that have a justice, public interest or service dimension to their work (e.g. Refugee Advice and Casework Service RACS)
 - Exercising leadership in student and university activities, for example, as an executive member of a UTS student club or society or a peer networker with the UTS Student Services Unit
 - Community service that involves the exercise of initiative and the development of leadership capacity, such as a facilitator/organiser of a community sports program.

Q. I don't know where to start for my leadership through service hours. Where can I learn about opportunities available to me?

A: The Brennan Program frequently advertises opportunities via our newsletter, social media channels and the Brennan Program Canvas noticeboard.

If you go to websites like govolunteer.com.au or volunteering.nsw.gov.au you can search for opportunities with a range of not-for-profit organisations. You can also search for volunteer opportunities via Career Hub. Voluntary work in these projects and roles will normally satisfy the service criteria for the Program – if in any doubt, please contact the Program Administrator.

Q. I'm in the Beyond UTS International Leadership Development (BUiLD) and/or the Social Leadership at UTS (SOUL) program. Can activity for BUiLD or SOUL that also meets the Brennan criteria be counted for all programs?

A. Most definitely, both the BUiLD and SOUL programs are valuable and complementary.