

## LAWS70372 Freedom of Information

<b>Credit Points:</b>	12.50
<b>Level:</b>	7 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
<b>Dates &amp; Locations:</b>	2012, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: September, Parkville - Taught on campus.
<b>Time Commitment:</b>	Contact Hours: The total class time is between 24 and 26 hours. Total Time Commitment: Not available
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None.
<b>Corequisites:</b>	None.
<b>Recommended Background Knowledge:</b>	Applicants without legal qualifications should note that subjects are offered in the discipline of law at an advanced graduate level. While every effort will be made to meet the needs of students trained in other fields, concessions will not be made in the general level of instruction or assessment. Most subjects assume the knowledge usually acquired in a degree in law (LLB, JD or equivalent). Applicants should note that admission to some subjects in the Melbourne Law Masters will be dependent upon the individual applicant's educational background and professional experience.
<b>Non Allowed Subjects:</b>	None.
<b>Core Participation Requirements:</b>	The Melbourne Law Masters welcomes applications from students with disabilities. The inherent academic requirements for study in the Melbourne Law Masters are: The ability to attend a minimum of 75% of classes and actively engage in the analysis of complex materials and debate; The ability to read, analyse and comprehend complex written legal materials and complex interdisciplinary materials; The ability to clearly and independently communicate in writing a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and critically evaluate these; The ability to clearly and independently communicate orally a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and critically evaluate these; The ability to work independently and as a part of a group; The ability to present orally and in writing legal analysis to a professional standard. Students who feel their disability will inhibit them from meeting these inherent academic requirements are encouraged to contact the Disability Liaison Unit: <a href="http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/">www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	For more information, contact the Melbourne Law Masters office. Email <a href="mailto:law-masters@unimelb.edu.au">law-masters@unimelb.edu.au</a> ( <a href="mailto:law-masters@unimelb.edu.au">mailto:law-masters@unimelb.edu.au</a> ) or phone +61 3 8344 6190. Alternatively, visit our website: <a href="http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters">www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters</a> ( <a href="http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters">http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters</a> )
<b>Subject Overview:</b>	Freedom of Information (FOI) laws have been introduced in over 90 countries around the world to date, with most of these being introduced in recent years. The right to information is increasingly recognised at both domestic constitutional level and by international human rights tribunals. At the same time, FOI is experiencing considerable challenges in terms of the balancing of access rights against other important societal values, such as the protection of privacy, law enforcement and the protection of national security. Here in Australia, the FOI landscape has undergone significant change in recent years. This subject explores the way in which the tension between access and other interests is being negotiated in the new Australian FOI regime. It offers insights from other jurisdictions, both domestic and international. The lecturer brings to this subject a wealth of experience of writing, lecturing and advising on FOI matters in various parts of the world.  Principal topics will include: # Background to the development of access legislation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Access to information: The theoretical framework</li> <li># The human rights dimension of access to public information</li> <li># Reuse of government information</li> <li># National regimes on access</li> <li># Comparative approaches</li> <li># Defining the 'public interest'.</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<p>A student who has successfully completed this subject should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Have a firm grasp of major developments in access to information regimes nationally and internationally</li> <li># Be able to apply general principles on access to particular circumstances</li> <li># Be aware of genuine claims for secrecy and confidentiality</li> <li># Be able to balance openness and privacy</li> <li># Be able to assess relevance of exemptions to specific information</li> <li># Be able to assess how the public interest operates to override exemptions.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment:</b>	10,000 word research paper (100%) (6 December) on a topic approved by the subject coordinator
<b>Prescribed Texts:</b>	Core subject materials will be provided free of charge to all students. Some subjects require further texts to be purchased. Visit the Melbourne Law Masters website for more information about this subject.
<b>Breadth Options:</b>	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
<b>Fees Information:</b>	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>
<b>Links to further information:</b>	<a href="http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters/courses-and-subjects/subject-details/sid/5186">http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/masters/courses-and-subjects/subject-details/sid/5186</a>