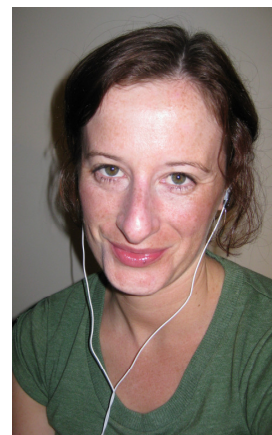


# Lucy Sargeson

Lawyer – Office of International Law

HSC Year: 1996 ATAR: 93.95



## **Training (eg TAFE, University etc)**

- Certificate IV Office Administration – Tighes Hill TAFE – Newcastle (1997)
- Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) (Hons) / Bachelor of Laws – Australian National University (1998-2004)
- Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice with Merit – Australian National University (2005)
- Admitted as a legal practitioner of ACT Supreme Court - 2005

## **Jobs (at university and afterwards)**

- Office Administrator, Department of Corrective Services – Probation and Parole Services, Newcastle, 1997
- English Tutor, Migrant Resource Centre, Canberra, 1998-1999
- Retail Assistant, ABC Shop Canberra, 1999-2005
- Legal Associate to the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Faulks, Family Court of Australia – 2005–2007
- Senior Legal Associate to the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Faulks, Family Court of Australia –2007–2008
- Legal Officer, Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department, 2008
- Providing pro bono legal assistance at the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre, Canberra, 2008-2010
- Senior Legal Officer, Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department, 2008–2010
- Principal Research Officer, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Department of the Senate, 2010–2011

## **What are you doing now?**

I am currently an acting Principal Legal Officer in the International Law and Human Rights Division of the Attorney-General’s Department (Office of International Law). The International Law and Human Rights Division provides international law advice to the Australian Government on issues involving public international law and conducts international litigation involving public international law. The Division also develops and implements international law projects within the Attorney-General’s responsibilities and conducts treaty negotiations. I work in a small team of five lawyers and love my work and putting my studies into practice.

## **Relevant Experiences since leaving school (eg special achievements)**

- In 2010, I was a member of a team which received an Attorney-General’s Department’s Deputy Secretary’s Recognition Award for our progression of the federal courts restructure and the Government’s response to the High Court’s decision in *Lane v Morrison* (which struck down the Australian Military Court which was found to be unconstitutional)

# Lucy Sargeson

## Lawyer – Office of International Law

HSC Year: 1996 ATAR: 93.95

---

- In 2009, I was a member of a team that received an Australia Day achievement award for dedication and outstanding work in developing policy directed at achieving a more effective federal court system and excellence in working with stakeholders, as part of the team working on the review of the delivery by the federal courts of family law services

### **Tips for our students**

- Whilst completing HSC (eg how to gain the desired UAI): set yourself a goal (like a UAI or a course you want to get into – wherever it may be – at uni or TAFE) and do not give up! I identified the UAI I needed to achieve to get into Asian Studies/Law at the Australian National University and put it up on my wall and thought about how badly I wanted to get that UAI and it motivated me to put in a couple of extra hours here and there. Do a couple of additional hours study (or practice if you are doing something more hands-on) at night and over the weekend. Have fun and don't stress yourself out about it! Keep reminding yourself about your goal and how much it means to you.
- Going to University (eg living away from home tips, university life): there is no right time to go to university. If you want to take a year off – do it! People tell you that you won't go back and study once you've had time off but you may be very enthusiastic about going back and studying after you've done something else that you find a lot less interesting.

You are generally going to have to move away from the Manning Valley to study at uni or at a bigger TAFE campus. Save some money up so that you can afford rent and give yourself some time to find a job when you start. I largely supported myself through uni with part-time jobs and it is possible. Apply for study assistance if you are eligible before you leave home. Enjoy the experience! Universities are massive places where you feel a bit like you did when you were coming out of Year 6 and starting in Year 7 – a small fish in a very big pond! There's heaps to do socially so get involved.

- Getting a job (during and after university): apply, apply, apply – persistence pays off! Think about where you want to go and the best types of jobs to get there. If you just need to pay your way through uni, get whatever job you can and upsize as you go. Look out for opportunities, make sure your resume is up to date and pound the pavement (you can do that in advance of moving as long as you are clear about when you can start) (you can use teachers as referees if you need to and they are willing if you haven't otherwise worked).
- Other Tips: Listen to your teachers to assist in managing your expectations about what is possible and maximising your marks – but take subjects you enjoy as well. If you want something enough – you can usually get there. For example, I did Modern History by distance education because I really wanted to take the subject and it wasn't offered otherwise. Ask for help and additional support from your teachers and family and work hard! It will pay off if you want it to, you put in the work and your expectations are achievable.