

## The Rosie Smith Law Scholarship

A partnership between Riwunna Centre for Aboriginal Education UTAS, Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) and the Faculty of Law, UTAS

The Rosie Smith Law Scholarship aims to encourage and support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students to graduate and pursue careers in the law. The scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander first year law student annually commencing in 2022.

### The scholarship provides:

- financial support through the Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) facilitated through Riwunna and the Scholarships Office
- internships and clinical placements at Tasmania Legal Aid and
- support and supervision by Faculty of Law staff, over the four years of the law degree.

In addition to receiving \$2500 per semester to cover their education costs, scholarship recipients will gain valuable work experience across diverse areas of legal practice at Tasmania Legal Aid. This will build their practice knowledge and understanding of the legal system and introduce them to the Tasmanian legal profession, helping to create employment pathways.

The Rosie Smith Law Scholarship is subject to the same conditions of eligibility as the [takamuna scholarships for Indigenous students](#). Recipients are required to achieve a minimum Pass result in all units studied each semester to retain the scholarship.



### Rosie Smith

Rosie Smith is a highly respected and important Aboriginal leader, activist, poet, writer, and proud mum, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is one of the first Aboriginal people to be admitted as a Solicitor/Barrister in Tasmania.

Rosie's educational journey started at Adult Education classes at her local Neighbourhood House, before enrolling in Welfare Studies at TAFE. She then worked at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre as a

Family Support Worker and Legal Aid Field Officer and facilitated Social and Emotional Wellbeing Programs. It was at that time, Rosie decided to enrol in a law/arts degree.

During her final year of study in 1994, Rosie was awarded the State NAIDOC Aboriginal Scholar of the Year award and the National NAIDOC Aboriginal Scholar of the Year.

Rosie played a key role in the establishment of the Koori Courts of Victoria, holding senior positions from 2003 to 2016. She completed a Master of Public Health in 2005, while working at the Koori Courts. Rosie returned to nipaluna in 2016 to a position in the Medical School at the University of Tasmania as the Aboriginal Health Careers Promotion Officer until her retirement in 2021.

Her career and achievements make Rosie an outstanding role model and inspiration for all Aboriginal law students.

## **Riawunna Centre for Aboriginal Education, UTAS**

Riawunna will provide the Rosie Smith Law Scholarship recipient with:

- continuous support from the Aboriginal Student Adviser for the College of Arts, Law and Education to:
  - ensure a strong sense of belonging with Riawunna, Law School and the University of Tasmania
  - develop targeted initiatives to support success and monitor students' progress working in collaboration the Student Retention and Success team and the Law School
  - explore best practice and options of support in the Higher Education Sector
  - deliver consistent information
- extra academic support from the Riawunna Tutoring Program
- connection with Riawunna's Health and Wellbeing Counsellor
- opportunity to participate in Aboriginal cultural events and activities
- connection with:
  - an Aboriginal Elder or Community member to give guidance and strength to support their cultural wellbeing
  - student community, under the University's Community model.

## **Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA)**

In Years One and Two, the Rosie Smith Law Scholarship recipient will have supervised placements at TLA. These placements will introduce the student to a variety of legal practice areas and services across the organisation, including criminal law, civil law, and family law, legal advice, family violence, mental health tribunal, elder abuse, NDIS appeals, grants and reception. Successful completion of the placements in Years One and Two is a requirement for the clinical placements in Years Three and Four.

In Years Three and Four, the recipient will have a place at TLA as part of the UTAS Law Clinical Placement Units LAW344 Legal Practice and Lawyering and LAW 345 Legal Professional Experience. These placements will be developed with the student and supervised and assessed by the Law faculty and TLA. The student will observe legal clinics, assist with legal tasks, and undertake project-based work, including working with clients, policy and research and community legal education and information. All aspects of the student's engagement will be compliant with TLA's client confidentiality policy.

## **Faculty of Law, College of Arts, Law and Education, UTAS**

The Faculty of Law staff will work with TLA and Riawunna to provide support and supervision for the Rosie Smith Law Scholarship recipient to fulfill their placements through the course of their degree. Through the UTAS Law Clinical Legal Education electives, the scholarship recipient will have the opportunity to learn practical legal skills, reflect on the meaning and value of being a lawyer, and work on 'real world' legal problems with academic and professional supervision.

## Placement Program

### **Year One: Completion of 5 days per semester (minimum) of supervised placement at TLA.**

The timing will be negotiated with the student and TLA supervisor at the start of each semester.

The placement includes observation and work experience in a range of practice areas.

Assessment: regular meetings with TLA supervisor; end of semester meeting and reflections with the Aboriginal Student Advisor, and TLA and Faculty of Law supervisors.

### **Year Two: Completion of 5 days per semester (minimum) of supervised placement at TLA.**

The timing will be negotiated with the student and TLA supervisor at the start of each semester.

Completion of a small project in a chosen practice area/s developed by the student and TLA and Faculty of Law supervisors.

Assessment: regular meetings with TLA supervisor; a 500 – 1,000 word project report; and meeting and reflections with the Aboriginal Student Advisor, and TLA and Faculty of Law supervisors at the end of semester.

### **Year Three: LAW344 LEGAL PRACTICE AND LAWYERING**

This unit provides UTAS Law students with the necessary educational foundation to effectively engage in clinical legal practice within the law degree and the student volunteers in social justice and community law activities.

Completion of two hours per week 10 weeks clinical placement in the TLA Advice and Legal Services (ALS) Clinic supervised by a TLA lawyer. This will include observation and work tasks.

Assessment: Faculty of Law in consultation with TLA supervisor.

### **Year Four: LAW 345 LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

This unit provides UTAS Law students with professional skills in legal practice.

Completion of at least 70–80 hours (approx. 10–12 days) of clinic work experience at TLA.

Project-based – working with clients, research, policy, advocacy or community legal education and information.

Assessment: Faculty of Law in consultation with TLA supervisor.