

# ELIZABETH HARRIS

## LAW/ARTS (ART HISTORY AND FRENCH)

### AUSTRALIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

#### Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, Mathematics: Pre-General, French, Religion/CEPD, History: People and Power Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English, French, Psychology, Religion, Classical Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement
- Year 12: English, French, History: Revolutions, Global Politics, Australian Politics

**Why did you choose these subjects?** None of the degrees I was considering had prerequisites other than English, so I was free to choose subjects that I wanted to study. All of my subjects were ones that I had a deep interest in, but some I thought of as necessary, for example French, as I think that studying a LOTE subject is important in terms of employability and giving you more options at university (I will always be glad I did not have to start French at university). Studying a language also involves a different way of thinking and studying compared to other subjects, so I was grateful to have French to keep me motivated.

I have always loved history, and planned to study it at university, and was particularly interested in the American and Russian revolutions, so Revolutions was a perfect subject; studying a subject at school that you think you may study at university also allows you to obtain the skills you need to study that subject. I studied three subjects by distance education while at CCW (History 1-2, Classical Studies 3-4, Global Politics 3-4). I was particularly interested in these subjects, but also thought that studying by distance would be good preparation for university, where independent study skills are truly essential

**What resources did you use to choose subjects?** I discussed my subject selections with my parents and my Learning Mentor; they were my sounding board for subject choices throughout senior school. I spoke to my English teachers regarding my choice of which English subject to do for the VCE (Core English or Literature) and they were really helpful in terms of balancing up the different factors at play in subject selection (for example, scaling – although I don't think that this should ever be a primary concern – and the different ways that students have to deal with the material).

I also read through the study guides for the 3-4 subjects I was considering, which gave me a more explicit idea of what studying the subject would really mean (for example, is the subject analytic, what areas of the subject are dealt with in the course).

**What is your course like?** Law is very reading intense, but as you progress your degree you learn that the most important things you will learn at law school are the skills to practice as a lawyer. However, studying law is great not only if you want to practice as a barrister or solicitor, but will be a valued degree in many sectors. The exciting thing about law is that even if you are studying a discreet area, such as Corporations Law, you are also learning skills which will serve you in good stead in any career.

Art History is a very different kind of study to law. I like to think of it as being like studying English, but looking at artwork rather than reading. It allows me to express myself creatively, and I think in any degree it's a good idea to have some balance in the types of thinking you cultivate in yourself.

French at the ANU is broken into four types of classes/lectures: Writing, Culture/Oral, Literature and Grammar. I had three equally fantastic lecturers in French, which for LOTE, where your level of competency can differ between the areas of learning, is great, as it means you have multiple people with different specialisations whom you can ask for help.

**How your senior subjects prepare you for your university course?** Having started university I am so thankful that I chose the subjects that I did.

- **French 3-4** in particular was helpful; it involved a detailed study, which is reflective of the way that you learn LOTE at university.
- **English:** At the time, it was painful learning how to précis my work for English SACs, but I'm so glad I learned how to write more succinctly, which is an asset at university where word limits are very strict.
- **Australian Politics** involved researching current political affairs outside of class, and I'm grateful for this because studying at university requires going beyond what is said in lectures to find out things for yourself – studying politics or any other civic education subject (like legal studies) is wonderful because you also learn about the way society works, which I think is integral to successful study whether or not you intend to study these subjects at university

**Course information:** Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Arts (Art History and French), Australia National University, <http://bit.ly/2959Xu0>