



Finding a Path Forward: Lorenzo's Journey Through the Indigenous Pre-Law Program



FOR Lorenzo Nimmet, studying law was something he'd only ever quietly considered, unsure if it would lead to anything. But

through the Indigenous Pre-Law Program at UNSW Law & Justice, that ambition became a clear and achievable goal.

Lorenzo is currently in his first year of a combined Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice degree at UNSW.

"Pre-programs made uni feel less scary," Lorenzo shared. "You walk in on your first day of class already knowing what to expect, you're not starting from zero."

That sense of preparedness is one of the program's most immediate impacts. Designed to introduce Indigenous students to law in a culturally safe and supportive setting, the program offers more than academic skills; it fosters confidence, community, and clarity.

From workshops with leading law firms to excursions that bring legal concepts to life, the program immerses students in the real-world practice of law. One standout experience for Lorenzo was the Gilbert + Tobin excursion.

"It gave me a real insight into what working in law actually looks like day-to-day," he said. "It helped



Law student, Lorenzo Nimmet.

me understand the kind of skills that are needed, and where I might fit into the profession."

That insight was transformative. For many participants, the program is their first experience seeing themselves reflected in the legal world—not just as students, but as future professionals. It marks a shift from merely imagining a career in law to actively planning for one.

"The program made my goals feel real," Lorenzo explained. "Before, they were just ideas I kept to myself. Now, they feel achievable. I know there's a path forward."

That path is paved not only

with academic guidance but also with deep emotional and cultural support. Lorenzo spoke warmly of the staff, especially Charmaine Mumbulla, UNSW Law & Justice's Director of Indigenous Legal Education, whose presence was a grounding force throughout the experience.

"Law staff like Charmaine really understood us. When things felt overwhelming, they kept us grounded. You never felt like you had to go through it on your own."

Charmaine, who leads the Indigenous Legal Education team at UNSW Law & Justice, believes the program is a key step that helps show students how they can turn their dreams into reality.

"The Pre-Law program is not just about study, it's about building confidence and connection. We've seen many Indigenous students come through this program and go on to do great things — in courtrooms, communities and across the world. This is where their journey begins."

It's this supportive approach that distinguishes the Indigenous Pre-Law Program. Students aren't just prepared for university; they're embraced by a community that understands their journey and supports them every step of the way.

"I really liked how we were all learning together," Lorenzo said. "There was a strong sense of community, and even the excursions, like going to court, made the experience more real and connected to what studying law is actually like."

The community within the Pre-Law Program is genuinely powerful. Students find peers who share their experiences, mentors who understand their challenges, and a space where their identity is not just respected but celebrated.

"The support was honestly next level," Lorenzo reflected. "It wasn't just academic support—it was emotional support too. You're never alone in the program."

For future students thinking about the program, Lorenzo has a simple message: take the leap.

"I'd tell future students to not overthink it—just do it," he urged. "Talk to Charmaine, ask questions, and take that step. Even if you're unsure, just give it a go. You can always decide afterwards, but don't miss the opportunity."

As UNSW Law & Justice continues to invest in Indigenous education and leadership, programs like this are essential. They don't just open doors—they create pathways. And for students like Lorenzo, those pathways lead to a future where they are not only studying law but also shaping it.

Applications for the Indigenous Pre-Law Program close on Monday 6 October 2025.

To find out more about the program reach out to Charmaine Mumbulla, Director of Indigenous Legal Education at c.mumbulla@unsw.edu.au



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