Objectives:
• Examine the role of plain English in legal writing, with particular emphasis on contract drafting, property documents, statutes, and advice-writing.
• Analyse the reasons for the "traditional" style of legal writing, the research into the advantages and disadvantages of plain English, and the techniques for writing law in plain English.

Content:
• The assumptions behind using plain English in law.
• The problems with terms of art and judicially-defined words and phrases.
• The causes of ambiguities in legal documents, and aspects of document design.

Timetable:
Sydney Law School in Europe
Robinson College, Cambridge, UK
24-25 & 27-28 May 2010

Assessment:
1 x 4,000 Word Research Assignment (40%) + 1 x 4,000 Word Substantial Drafting Exercise (40%) + Class Participation (20%)

Assumed Knowledge:
Undergraduate law degree, completed legal studies as part of a business or commerce degree or LAWS6252 - Legal Reasoning & the Common Law System.

Legal Professional Development (LPD)
You can enrol in this unit on an LPD basis. Continuing Legal Education is a requirement of the Law Society of New South Wales. Practising solicitors are required to obtain 10 units of MCLE annually in order to maintain registration as a legal practitioner. Continuing Professional Development is also a requirement of the New South Wales Bar Association. Barristers are required to accrue 10 points each practising certificate year. Seminars, courses and units of study offered under Sydney Law School’s LPD Program meet the necessary requirements of both the Law Society of New South Wales and the New South Wales Bar Association in relation to their individual members.

Single Unit Enrolment
You can enrol in this subject on a single unit or non-award basis if you do not wish to commit to a Masters or Graduate Diploma. You can continue to add units via this method and, provided you meet the relevant requirements, you can also qualify for a Graduate Diploma or Masters if you so wish.

Cross-Institutional Study/Reciprocal Arrangements
Candidates in other faculties at the University of Sydney or at other universities can enrol in this unit, subject to approval by the Associate Dean (Postgraduate Coursework) and their home institution.

Accommodation
At term time, there is no student accommodation available but Cambridge has a wide range of Bed and Breakfast accommodation available. Commuting from London is another option.

Tuition Fee:
$3,630