

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	LLM Qualifying Law Degree (QLD)				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMLLAWSS_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Department of Law				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert (60 Credits) and PG Dip (120 Credits)				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	2 years Full Time ; 3 years Part Time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	<p>The LLM is accredited by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (http://www.sra.org.uk/home/home.page) and students awarded the degree will be entitled to receive a Certificate of Completion of the Academic Stage of Legal Education for solicitors. It is also recognised by the Bar Standards Board (http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/), as a Qualifying Law Degree for the purposes of completing the Academic Stage of Training for the Bar.</p> <p>In addition, the LLM QLD will give students a firm grounding in the 7 foundations of legal knowledge which now also form the basis for qualification as a Solicitor via the SQE (Single qualifying exam route) and as a barrister as reforms to Bar qualifications are undertaken to match reforms made by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority.</p>				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	Law				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Main Aims:</p> <p>Generally, the School aims, through its postgraduate QLD programme to provide students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a two year full-time or three year part-time educational programme leading to an LLM; • with a degree programme which satisfies the requirements of the University of London and is comparable in standard to other masters level law degrees from other Colleges of the University; • with a degree programme which satisfies the requirements for a qualifying law degree laid down by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board and

gives them the option to progress to the Legal Practice Course or Bar Professional Training Course.

More specifically, the School of Law at Birkbeck aims to:

- provide postgraduate degree programmes which give a comprehensive grounding in foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas;
- provide students with a deep understanding of major legal concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system, legislation and case law;
- provide a broad appreciation of the range of possible approaches to legal scholarship;
- promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law at masters level, which enables students to make use of theoretical frameworks developed in law, the humanities and social sciences;
- place the study of law within its historical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context;
- provide students with knowledge of a representative range of contemporary debates in law informed by an awareness of how the law has developed over time;
- bridge the gap between students' understanding of the theory and practice of law;
- enable students to identify, locate and appraise legal materials
- provide students with a range of subject specific and transferable skills which develop their capacity to learn, meet the needs of the wider society and prepare students for employment or further studies. These include IT literacy and the ability to work independently and in a group.

Distinctive Features:

The LLM QLD course has two distinctive features.

The first feature is that it is a qualifying law degree at postgraduate level. The conventional qualifying law degree programme in the UK is an LLB, which is at undergraduate level. Another route to qualification is the GDL, a one-year conversion course that teaches postgraduates students the basic rules of law in preparation for the courses and examinations set out by the relevant regulatory bodies. Our LLM QLD programme both gives students a rigorous theoretical understanding of law, deeper than a GDL course would, while preparing them to enter into the legal profession as practitioners.

The second feature is its structure of teaching is designed for students who need to balance study with paid work, family or other commitments but desire to study in an environment led by academic staff with extensive research expertise and publications in the field of study. Specific features include:

- All compulsory classes are taught between 6pm and 9pm, Monday –Thursday
- Flexible pathways of study, enabling completion within a minimum of two and a maximum of three years.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to optional modules in the fields of human rights, criminal justice, commercial and legal practice as well as to a range of distinctive optional subjects relating to the research of academic staff.
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15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants should have at least a 2:2 or equivalent in their first degree. Admission is at the discretion of the admissions tutor. • Applicants will need to complete a written exercise in reasoning and analysis and attend an admissions event. • Applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet the College’s English language requirements. • Credit for previous equivalent law studies may allow transfer into Year 2 at the discretion of the admissions tutor.
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16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Upon successful completion of this programme of study, students will be able to:</p> <p>General law related skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, explain and critically assess the main characteristics of the legal system, including general familiarity with its institutions and procedures; • Present a sound and accurate understanding of the detail of the law and its context in relation to most areas of law studied; • Identify and demonstrate depth of knowledge of some of the political, economic, commercial, social and cultural factors that inform and underlie legal theory and doctrine; • Understand complex aspects of the problems, tensions and contradictions within certain legal theories and doctrines; • Identify and critically analyse contemporary legal debates. <p>Subject specific skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of a wide range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English law and an ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of particular areas, • Accurately state the law in key areas of foundational subjects, including but not limited to: Constitutional and Administrative Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Tort Law, Property Law, Equity Law, and Law of the European Union • Demonstrate the ability to critically discuss contemporary public and scholarly debates which are relevant to law in the UK <p>Transferrable skills</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate research and writing skills in the context of writing a postgraduate Research Project • Demonstrate self-direction in formulating an original research question and independent learning ability suitable for writing a postgraduate Research Project
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>The School of Law employs a variety of teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved. In particular we promote student learning through lectures; seminars; virtual learning environments including a telephone tuition line; student led study groups facilitated by the school; private tutorials; web based independent skills tutorials; weekend and pre-sessional skills workshops; public lectures and research seminars. We employ a diversity of assessment tools including independent research essays, seen and unseen exams, group work, oral presentations, reflective journals and creative and critical thinking exercises.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>Full Time - The first year provides an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of legal study and the classification of the common law. The second year builds on the knowledge gained in the first year and allows students to engage in in-depth study of the core subjects that comprise the qualifying law degree. We allow students to apply to be assessed by 'alternative assessment' for one module.</p> <p>Part Time - The first year of compulsory subjects provide an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of legal study and the classification of the common law. The following two years build on the knowledge gained in the first year and allow students to engage in in-depth study of the core subjects that comprise the qualifying law degree. We allow students to apply to be assessed by 'alternative assessment' for one module.</p> <p>Exit Awards</p> <p>If a student fails to successfully complete the LLM QLD degree, a lesser award (PG Cert 60 Credits and PG Dip 120 Credits) can be awarded as an alternative, assuming that the student has achieved the requisite amount of credits in the relevant modules they have successfully completed. For the awards of postgraduate diploma, postgraduate certificate, graduate diploma and graduate certificate, no distinction should be made between core and optional modules. Rather, the award will be calculated on the modules passed. Graduate Certificate (Grad Cert) in Law To qualify for the award of graduate certificate in law, a student must have passed modules to the value of 60 credits at Credit Level 6 or above. Graduate Diploma (Grad Dip) in Law To qualify for the award of a graduate diploma in law, a student must have passed modules to the value of 90 credits at level 6 or above. Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) in Law To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate in law, a student must have passed modules to the value of 60 credits at Credit Level 7. Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) in Law To qualify for the award of a postgraduate diploma in law, a student must have passed modules</p>
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	to the value of 120 credits at Credit Level 6 or above of which no more than 30 credits may be from Credit Level 6
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19	Programme Structure			
Full-time Programme -2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALA158S6	Legal Systems and Methods (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
6	LADD060S6	Constitutional and Administrative Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
6	LADD058S6	Contract Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
7	LADD062S7	Criminal Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD063S7	Tort Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
7	LALW098H7	Foundations of Property (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW099H7	Land Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW100H7	Trusts Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW067H7	Law of the European Union (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	Various	Option Module	15	Option
7	Various	Option Module	15	Option
7	LALA167S7	Research Project	30	Compulsory
Part-time programme – 3 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALA158S6	Legal Systems and Methods (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
6	LADD060S6	Constitutional and Administrative Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
6	LADD058S6	Contract Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LADD063S7	Tort Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
7	LADD062S7	Criminal Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory
	LALW098H7	Foundations of Property (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW099H7	Land Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	LALW067H7	Law of the European Union (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALW100H7	Trusts Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory
7	LALA167S7	Research Project	30	Compulsory
7	Various	Option Module	15	Option
7	Various	Option Module	15	Option

List of indicative optional modules				
7	LALW068H7	Adult Relations (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW069H7	Banking and Monetary Law (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW070H7	Child Law (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW077H7	Evidence (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW071H7	Immigration Pt 1: Fundamentals of UK Law (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW072H7	Immigration Pt 2: Advanced Concepts in Asylum Law (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW073H7	Private International Law (Senior Status)	15	Optional
7	LALW074H7	Public International Law and the Use of Force (Senior Status)	15	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Additional Programme Information
	Credit for previous equivalent law studies may allow transfer into Year 2 at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

21	Programme Director	Professor Michelle Everson
22	Start Date (term/year)	Spring 2013
23	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2012
24	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2012
25	Date(s) updated/amended	1 July 2021