

Faculty of Management and Law - School of Law

Programme title: LLM International Legal Studies

Academic Year:	2017/18
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] LLM Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	
Programme duration:	1 Year Full Time
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	
Date of Senate Approval:	July 2013
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	January 2017

Introduction

The LLM International Legal Studies is designed to provide a challenging and stimulating programme of study which considers law in its international social, economic and political contexts. The four core modules studied provide you with a detailed understanding of key global issues in law and focus on developing your skills to research; analyse and discuss important issues in international law, in human rights and in legal theory. They also prepare you for the final part of the Master's programme which is your dissertation through which you have the opportunity to study a particular topic of your choice in detail. The optional modules offered allow you to follow a particular interest with a focus on global legal issues.

The programme is taught by research active staff at Bradford University School of Law who have a particular interest and expertise in the issues you will study and you will therefore have access to cutting edge research and thinking. The LLM International Legal Studies is not aimed at preparing you for a particular professional path, instead it seeks to develop your critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help you succeed in your chosen field. Therefore, the programme is of interest to anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of law in a global context and graduates are likely to go on to pursue a variety of paths including careers in; business, legal practice, teaching and academia.

If you have not previously studied law, you will be required to complete and pass an introduction to law programme before the start of the LLM modules to ensure that

you are familiar with the basic legal institutions and sources and are able to participate in the LLM programme from the start. This programme is delivered online only. We welcome graduates from non-law backgrounds who want to gain an understanding of legal issues in their global context as well as law graduates who want to deepen that understanding and develop their knowledge further.

Programme Aims

The taught element of the programme (PG Certificate and PG Diploma Stage) is intended to:

- A1. provide you with detailed knowledge about law in its international context which enables you to evaluate research and advanced scholarship in specific aspects of legal study in its international context. This includes the capacity to evaluate existing theories and methodologies and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses
- A2. develop your ability to work with your knowledge of legal principles and apply them to new situations in order to arrive at imaginative and innovative solutions and interpretations
- A3. Develop excellent communication skills including writing skills commensurate with LLM level study and advanced scholarship

In addition the Master's level stage is intended to:

- A4. develop your advanced legal research skills, help you to gain a comprehensive understanding of research techniques available, together with the ability to employ suitable research methods and to appreciate factors relevant to research design in order to facilitate the completion of a substantial research project in your chosen area of law in an international context

Programme Learning Outcomes

When you have completed the taught elements of the programme (i.e. the Postgraduate Certificate stage (60 Credits) or Postgraduate Diploma stage (120 credits)) you will be able to:

- LO1 demonstrate a detailed understanding, at a practical and theoretical level, of the international context in which law operates;
- LO2 appreciate the conceptual relationship between legal provisions in any given area and their underlying theoretical and/or policy frameworks which are context specific;
- LO3 analyse complex problems, both factual and theoretical, and show an ability to synthesise and critically assess the relevance of the law to a considered solution;
- LO4 carry out research using primary and secondary legal and other relevant material and data;
- LO5 evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts in order to formulate judgements and identify a range of solutions to a given problem;
- LO6 evaluate arguments and assumptions and abstract concepts in order to use that analysis to support your own hypotheses and suggestions;

- LO7 demonstrate the capacity to work independently and reflect on your own learning in order to identify your strengths and weaknesses and identify opportunities for lifelong learning;
- LO8 write to professional standards for an academic audience and be able to prepare a variety of different outputs suitable for a variety of audiences.

In addition, when you have completed the full Master's Programme (180 credits including a dissertation) you will also be able to:

- LO9 demonstrate an understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are extended through academic research which requires an in depth critical exposition in an agreed area, based on the examination of primary and/or secondary data;
- LO10 demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research and advanced scholarship and use a range of research methods and research design in order to complete a substantial research project.

Curriculum

The LLM International Legal Studies is made up of two distinct parts. First, you will study six taught modules which cover Semesters 1 and 2. You will subsequently undertake a research project which culminates in the writing of your dissertation. However, there are several exit points should you decide that studying for the full LLM is no longer possible. Although there are possible exit points once you have studied 60 credits (Postgraduate Certificate) or 120 credits (Postgraduate Diploma) most students enroll on the programme with the intention of completing the entire LLM.

You will study four core modules and two optional modules. The core modules are: Global Questions in Legal Theory, Human Rights Law in a Global Context and Advanced International Law, all studied in Semester 1; and Advanced Legal Research, studied in Semester 2. Global Questions in Legal Theory acts as a context module providing the knowledge and skills you will need to be able to think about legal problems, legal principles and legal theories in a global context and to evaluate the impact of geography, history and culture on our understanding of law and concepts such as justice. Human Rights Law in a Global Context considers different Human Rights instruments and their application in different contexts as well as the theoretical debates about them and grapples with the question of what Human Rights are and whether there is a globally accepted definition of such rights. Advanced International Law considers both Public and Private International Law issues, the institutions and actors involved in making, administering and implementing international law and addresses questions about the place of international law in domestic legal systems and whether international law itself is biased towards powerful western nations to the detriment of others. The Research Methods module Advanced Legal Research focuses on paper based research using primary and secondary sources of law and related materials. It also introduces you to a variety of empirical material and the methods used to gather empirical data. While you are not expected to carry out empirical research to underpin your dissertation, you are expected to be able to understand and evaluate empirical work undertaken by others. As such, a working knowledge of issues in social research and issues in research methodology is important.

You should then pick two of the optional modules offered on this programme, to study a total of 120 credits. Please note that not all optional modules will run every year, but this will be dependent on staff availability and student numbers. The modules available to you will be notified to you during Semester 1. The modules studied provide you with detailed subject knowledge and the skills you will need to successfully complete the final part of the LLM programme which is your dissertation. You will complete the dissertation in Semester 2b which begins in April and runs through the summer. The Research Methods module in particular will help you prepare for the dissertation. The tables below show your pathway through the LLM International Legal Studies.

In addition to the September intake each year, a January intake is introduced from 2018. The January has been designed to run alongside the current structure – students will undertake modules in a different order to the September intake. The January intake will commence the programme studying Semester 2 modules and complete the programme alongside the September cohort.

Postgraduate Certificate

Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Level	Study period
LAW7002-B	Global Questions in Legal Theory	Core	20	7	Semester 1
LAW7003-B	Human Rights Law in a Global Context	Core	20	7	Semester 1
LAW7004-B	Advanced International Law	Core	20	7	Semester 1

Postgraduate Diploma

Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Level	Study period
LAW7005-B	Advanced Legal Research	Core	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7009-B	Global Health Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7010-B	European Union Social Law and Policy	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7006-B	International Trade Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7011-B	Global Finance Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7019-B	International Humanitarian Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7020-B	International Law of Sustainable Development	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7021-B	International Environmental Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7022-B	Advanced International Criminal Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2
LAW7023-B	International Refugee Law	Option	20	7	Semester 2

LLM

Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credits	Level	Study period
LAW7012-E	Dissertation	Core	60	7	Semester 2b

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help you build your knowledge incrementally over the year of study and to develop your research, critical thinking and writing skills. All taught modules therefore have a two hour teaching slot available every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught. In the early part of the programme, most of these slots will be used as class time with lecturer input, individual and group work activities. However, as your confidence with the material and research skills increase, you will be expected to work more independently and will not be required to meet weekly for each of your modules. Instead, you will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) or meet with your tutors to discuss a particular task or your progress generally. You are expected to take responsibility for your own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. You must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop your skills and knowledge.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and the LLM International Legal Studies employs a variety of assessment methods. The assessments are all structured in such a way as to help you demonstrate that you meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. There are no timed, closed book examinations for this programme and instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test your research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. You might therefore be asked to write a traditional academic essay, to create a portfolio of activities, to write a book review or develop a research plan. The type of assessment for each module will be specified in the module descriptor with more detail being available in the module handbook.

The LLM International Legal Studies aims to support your learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled class time, and we expect you to attend all scheduled classes. Classes all contain a variety of activities from traditional lecture style input by the tutor to explain often complex ideas and principles, to individual and group tasks to allow you to practice the skills and knowledge you have been developing. In addition, all module leaders provide a detailed module handbook which includes a list of relevant reading material. The programme team also uses Blackboard, the VLE, in order to make additional material available to you, host discussions and provide programme related information and links. We therefore cater for a variety of learning styles and preferences and aim to create an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where you can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to you. However, we also want you to push yourself out of your comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope you will engage in as many of the activities as possible.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/agpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

For the LLM International Legal Studies you will usually have an undergraduate degree in a social science discipline (which may or may not be in law) at Lower Second Class or above. If your first language is not English, you will be subject to the University's language requirements for entry.

If you have not studied law before, you will be required to complete and pass a 2 week introductory programme on the institutions and sources of law before the start of the programme.

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1	New programme specification approved by the LTC to reflect the change of module offering	May 2016
2	New module codes added, one module title modified and January intake added	January 2017