

## LLM International Legal Studies Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2024/25
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]  Master of Laws LL.M  Postgraduate Diploma  Postgraduate Certificate
Programme duration:	1 Year Full Time (September intake)  15 months Full time (January intake)  2 years Part time
Date last approved by Faculty Board	June 2022

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

### 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 two core modules studied provide the student with a detailed understanding of key global issues in law and focus on developing their skills to research; analyse and discuss important issues in international law, in the context of sustainable development and regulatory theory and practice. Students also prepare for the final part of the Masters programme which is a dissertation through which they have the opportunity to study a particular topic of their choice in detail. The optional modules offered allow students to follow a particular interest with a focus on global legal issues.

The programme is taught by research active staff at the University of Bradford School of Law who have a particular interest and expertise in the issues students will study, and they will therefore have access to cutting edge research and thinking. The LLM International Legal Studies is not aimed at preparing students for a particular professional path, instead it seeks to develop their critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help them succeed in their 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.

## **Programme Aims**

The programme is intended to:

- provide students with detailed knowledge about law in its international context which enables them 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.
- develop their ability to work with their knowledge of legal principles and apply them to new situations in order to arrive at imaginative and innovative solutions and interpretations.
- Develop excellent communication skills including writing skills commensurate with LLM level study and advanced scholarship.
- develop their advanced legal research skills, help them 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 their chosen area of law in an international context.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a detailed understanding, at a practical and theoretical level, of the international context in which law operates;
2. appreciate the conceptual relationship between legal provisions in any given area and their underlying theoretical and/or policy frameworks which are context specific;
3. 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;
4. carry out research using primary and secondary legal and other relevant material and data;
5. evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts in order to formulate judgements and identify a range of solutions to a given problem;

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

6. evaluate arguments and assumptions and abstract concepts in order to use that analysis to support their own hypotheses and suggestions;

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

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

9. 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;
10. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their 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, students will study six taught modules which cover Semesters 1 and 2. They will subsequently undertake a research project which culminates in the writing of their dissertation. However, there are several exit points should they decide that studying for the full LLM is no longer possible. Although there are possible exit points once the student has studied 60 credits (Postgraduate Certificate) or 120 credits (Postgraduate Diploma) most students enrol on the programme with the intention of completing the entire LLM.

At the beginning of the course, students will be required to complete a compulsory non-credit bearing module Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the LLM. Students will study two 20 credits of core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These are Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society (20 credits) and Regulatory Theory and Practice (20 credits). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development. Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society explores the principle of sustainable development and its implementation, including the impacts and responsibilities of businesses in the modern context and their impacts on society and human rights. The Regulatory Theory and Practice module will introduce the student to a critical examination of the underlying theories and rational for regulation and a critical discussion of the various approaches to and forms of regulation, with a focus on the business dimensions of this practice and the implications for human rights.

In addition to the core modules, the student will also study four optional 20 credits modules. This will bring the total of the taught modules the student has studied to 120 credits. The list of modules available in any one year will be notified to the student at the beginning of the programme. The modules studied provide the student with detailed subject knowledge and the skills they will need to successfully complete the final part of the LLM programme which is their dissertation. The student will complete the dissertation or an advanced report following an internship. The taught component (8 hours) of the dissertation module will start in Semester 2 and will build on the introductory material in

the non-credit bearing Foundation of law and Skills, focusing on a variety of empirical material and the methods used to gather empirical data. The tables below show the students pathway through the LLM International Legal Studies.

There will be two enrolments each academic year in September and January. The September programme will run for 12 months whilst the January programme will run for 16 months. The latter programme will allow the student the opportunity to undertake relevant internships, work placements or career booster programmes. A 24-month part time route is also available.

## Semester 1 Modules

FHEQ Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period
6	LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills	C	0	1
7	LAW7030-B	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society	C	20	1
7	LAW7031-B	International commercial contracts and e-commerce	O	20	1
7	LAW7021-B	International Environmental Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7043-B	International Human Rights Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7019-B	International Humanitarian Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7008-B	International Intellectual Property Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7033-B	International Petroleum Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7045-B	International Trade and Investment Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7044-B	Public International Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7080-B	Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	O	20	1
7	LAW7007-B	International Competition Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7037-B	International Banking and Finance Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7081-B	Data Protection and Privacy Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7082-B	International Company and Corporate Governance Law	O	20	1
7	LAW7085-B	Law of Financial Crime	O	20	1
7	LAW7093-B	International Energy Law and Just Transition	O	20	1

C= Core, O= Optional, E=Elective. The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme review and modification processes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate in International Legal Studies if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma in International Legal Studies if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Semester 2 modules

FHEQ Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period
7	LAW7029-R	Foundations of Law and Skills	C	0	Start
7	LAW7035-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice	C	20	2
7	LAW7034-B	International Water Resources Law	O	20	2
7	LAW7041-B	Business, Human Rights and Environment	O	20	2
7	LAW7040-B	Climate Change Law and Policy	O	20	2
7	LAW7039-B	Cyberlaw	O	20	2
7	LAW7014-B	Employment Law	O	20	2
7	LAW7023-B	Immigration and Refugee Law	O	20	2
7	LAW7047-B	International Commercial Dispute Resolution	O	20	2
7	LAW7046-B	International Criminal Law	O	20	2
7	LAW7038-B	Law and Gender	O	20	2
7	LAW7073-B	International Law of Taxation	O	20	2
7	LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets	O	20	2
7	LAW7076-B	Regulation of Capital Markets and Securities	O	20	2
7	LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets	O	20	2
7	LAW7083-B	International Insolvency Law	O	20	2
7	LAW7084-B	Legal Technology	O	20	2
7	LAW7091-B	Waste Management Law and the circular economy	O	20	2
7	LAW7095-B	Mining and Critical Minerals Law and Policy	O	20	2

C= Core, O= Optional, E=Elective. The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme review and modification processes.

## Semester 3 modules

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period	Sept Intake	Jan Intake
7	LAW7074-B	Emerging issues in Law	O	20	3	Jun-Jul 2022	Jun-Jul 2022

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate in International Legal Studies if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma in International Legal Studies if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Degree of Master

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period	Sept Intake	Jan Intake
7	LAW7032-E	Dissertation	C	60	NSYR	(BDA)	(BDB)

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master of Laws in International Legal Studies if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, the student will have access to a number of skills-based career booster courses as part of the Faculty career booster programme. As well as other non-assessed courses available to students on programmes delivered in Bradford. These students also have the opportunity to attend sessions on study and presentation skills in order to assist with the preparation of their personal development portfolio. A range of beginner, intermediate and advanced level language courses (currently French, German, Spanish and Japanese, or Business English in the case of non-UK students.) are also available to Bradford students.

## Learning and Teaching Strategy

This LLM programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the subject. To this end, the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help them build their knowledge incrementally over the year of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. Teaching on the programme will typically involve a combination of formal workshop styled seminars, group discussions, directed reading and personal research. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor led contact hours in class as well as engagement via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent study. Case study analysis and discussion is used to contextualise learning and the application of techniques. Students also work in small groups which encourage participative learning, provide experience of working with people from different cultures and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot 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. A module manual is provided with each module to provide clear instructions, guidance and details of the preparatory work required. Additional support materials – cases, video clips, audio recording, lecture notes/slides, etc. are also provided via the School's VLE. As their confidence with the material and research skills increase, the student will be expected to work more independently and lead sessions either alone or within a group. The student will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the VLE or meet with their tutors to discuss a particular task or their progress generally.

The student is expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. The student must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge.

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied.

## **Assessment Strategy**

The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, thereby aiming to be inclusive, and giving students the opportunity to play to their strengths while also developing areas of weakness. Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and the LLM International Legal Studies employs a variety of assessment methods- both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help the student demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. There are no timed, closed book examinations for this programme. Instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test their research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. The student 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.

There is a balance of formative and summative assessments, including feedback during individual and group task to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment. Formative assessment is built into specific modules but not all, the expectation being that the student develops as independent learners, they will need to rely less on this form of support and can transfer the skills learned from one module to another.

The LLM International Legal Studies aims to support their learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled class time, and we expect the student 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 the student to practice the skills and knowledge they 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 the VLE, in order to make additional material available, 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 the student can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to them. However, we also want the student to push themselves out of their comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope they will engage in as many of the activities as possible to give the best possible chance of achieving the learning outcomes and demonstrating this through various assessments.

## **Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/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 students 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 their first language is not English, the student will be subject to the University's language requirements for entry which is currently:

- IELTS requirements of 6.5 overall, with a minimum of 5.5 in each sub-test.
- TOEFL requirement of 94 overall, with sub-tests of at least 18 in Reading, 17 in Writing, 17 in Listening and 20 in Speaking.

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

To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme, at the beginning of their programme of study students should attend a series of pre-recorded online lectures as part of the introductory module, Foundations of Skills and Law. This module provides an introduction to legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills.

## **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
6	Specification reformatted and made accessible	December 2020
7	5 new Law optional modules were added, LAW7007-B and LAW7034-B were reintroduced, LAW7037-B was moved to semester 1 from 2	June 2021
8	Annual changes for 2021 academic year	June 2021
9	Annual changes for 2022 academic year	June 2022
10	6 new law modules were added, module name changes for LAW7042-B and LAW7033-B; level change for LAW6029-Z	June 2023
11	Annual changes for 2024 academic year	April 2024