

LLM International Legal Studies Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-legal-studies/>

Academic Year:	2025/26
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ, QAA 2014)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Laws in International Legal Studies [LLM, FHEQ Level 7]
Interim/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma [PGD, FHEQ Level 7] Postgraduate Certificate [PGC, FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admission:	September, January
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start) 15 months full-time (January start)

Please note: Information about this programme and its modules 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.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2023: Added 6 new options, changes for LAW7042-B, LAW7033-B, LAW7029-R (now LAW6029-Z).
2. April 2024: Annual changes for 2024/25 academic year.
3. July 2025: Annual changes for 2025/26 academic year, including changes to academic regulations.
4. September 2025: Specification reformatted and made accessible for publication.

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 can 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 and Social Sciences 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 FHEQ Level 7 Certificate award, 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 FHEQ Level 7 Diploma award, 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 FHEQ Level 7 Degree award, 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

This section shows the students pathway through the LLM International Legal Studies. The LLM 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. Although there are possible exit points once the student has completed 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 (usually September or January), 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. 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. Modules run according to availability and demand and the list of modules available in any one year will be notified to the student at the beginning of the programme.

Table A: LLM International Legal Studies Core Taught Modules (both routes)

Study in	Code	Module Title	Credit	Level
Induction	LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills	0	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	LAW7030-B	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society	20	FHEQ 7
Semester 2	LAW7035-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice	20	FHEQ 7

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 rationals 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.

LLM International Legal Studies optional modules (all 20 credits and FHEQ Level 7)

Students select 80 credits - two module choices from each column - from the following options. September entry students will study the "Semester 1" group first, January entry "Semester 2" first.

Table B: LLM International Legal Studies Optional Taught Modules (both routes)

Semester 1 Optional Module Code and Title	Semester 2 Optional Module Code and Title
LAW7081-B Data Protection and Privacy Law	LAW7041-B Business, Human Rights and Environment
LAW7037-B International Banking and Finance Law	LAW7040-B Climate Change Law and Policy
LAW7031-B International Commercial Contracts and E-commerce	LAW7039-B Cyberlaw
LAW7082-B International Company and Corporate Governance Law	*LAW7074-B Emerging Issues in Law [Summer School]
LAW7007-B International Competition Law	LAW7014-B Employment Law
LAW7093-B International Energy Law and Just Transition	LAW7023-B Immigration and Refugee Law
LAW7021-B International Environmental Law	LAW7047-B International Commercial Dispute Resolution
LAW7043-B International Human Rights Law	LAW7046-B International Criminal Law
LAW7019-B International Humanitarian Law	LAW7083-B International Insolvency Law
LAW7008-B International Intellectual Property Law	LAW7073-B International Law of Taxation
LAW7033-B International Petroleum Law	LAW7034-B International Water Resources Law
LAW7045-B International Trade and Investment Law	LAW7038-B Law and Gender
LAW7080-B Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	LAW7084-B Legal Technology
LAW7085-B Law of Financial Crime	LAW7095-B Mining and Critical Minerals Law and Policy
LAW7044-B Public International Law	LAW7076-B Regulation of Capital Markets and Securities
	LAW7078-B Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets
	LAW7091-B Waste Management Law and the circular economy

Please note: Module LAW7074-B starts later than other modules and is taught/studied between June and July. The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme review and modification processes.

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.

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.

LLM Dissertation

The taught 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.

Table C: LLM International Legal Studies Dissertation (both routes)

Occurrence	Study period	Code	Module Title	Credit	Level
BDA	NS Academic Year	LAW7032-E	Dissertation [September entry]	60	FHEQ 7
BDB	NS Academic Year	LAW7032-E	Dissertation [January entry]	60	FHEQ 7

Attainable Awards

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

Assessment Strategy

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied. The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, thereby and 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, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website (<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/media-v8/ageo/regulations/Regulation-9-Postgraduate-Taught-Assessment-Continuation-and-Award-1.0b.pdf>) for postgraduate courses (Regulation 9).

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:

- Students will usually have an undergraduate degree in a social science discipline (which may or may not be in law) at Lower Second Class (2:2) 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.

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.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-legal-studies/>

The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. View our Student Contract for further details:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/student-contract/>