

LLB Law

UCAS code: M100

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group: Law
Faculty: Economics and Social Sciences
For students entering Part 1 in October 2002
Programme Director: Head of School of Law (Professor CF Stychin)
Programme Advisor: Director of Teaching, School of Law (J A James)
Board of Studies: Law (LLB/LLM)
Accreditation: The Law Society; General Council of the Bar; individual modules may be acceptable for accreditation by other professional bodies

Please note that while the School of Law intends that the LLB will be a qualifying law degree (QLD) for all students entering in October 2002 and in subsequent years, all other aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Summary of Programme Aims

In addition to the imparting of legal knowledge this degree programme encourages the ability to delineate and evaluate issues, select relevant materials and produce arguments encompassing policy, existing practice and knowledge; solving practical problems and predicting how these solutions might change is the essence of a law degree.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop their skills relating to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, problem solving, team working and use of information technology.

In addition, students are encouraged to act independently in planning tasks and use feedback to reflect on their performance and re-assess the appropriateness of current levels of knowledge and skill. A law graduate will be used to presenting arguments (both technical and general) orally and in writing and should be able to present such arguments clearly and concisely. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology, group-working, such numeracy as is appropriate for law students and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines and time management.

Programme content

Students are required to take 120 credits in each part of the degree programme. In all Parts there are compulsory and optional modules.

Part 1 (three terms)

The following Part 1 modules are open to students registered for Part 1 of the LLB (Law) degree. All compulsory Part 1 modules consist of subjects which must be studied and passed to obtain a qualifying law degree. A student who does not take Criminal Law at Part 1 must take and pass the Advanced Criminal Law option in Part 3 in order to obtain a qualifying law degree. All Part 1 modules (compulsory and optional) offered by the School of Law are at level HE1 (Certificate - C) level.

Compulsory modules:		Credits
LW1A04	Law of Tort	30
LW1A01	Law of Contract	30
LW1A03	General Principles of Law (including English Legal System)	20

Optional modules:

Students must take **EITHER**

LW1A71	Writing Credit L1	10
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and

LW1A02	Criminal Law	30
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OR

Modules totalling 40 credits from a range of modules offered at Part 1 by other Schools and Departments of the University.

Progression requirements

In order to proceed from Part 1 to Part 2 of the LLB (Law) degree a student must:

- (a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all law modules;
- (b) achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination; and
- (c) achieve not less than 30% in any non-law module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits in a non-law module may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

A student achieving this standard but not successfully completing Part 2 of the LLB (Law) degree is entitled to a Certificate in Law. A student who does not achieve this standard but obtains a mark of at least 30% in all modules is entitled to a Certificate of Higher Education.

Part 2 (three terms)

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) degree. All compulsory Part 2 modules consist of subjects which must be studied and passed to obtain a qualifying law degree. All compulsory Part 2 modules offered by the School of Law are at HE2 (Intermediate - I) level.

Compulsory modules		Credits
LW2A10	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30
LW2A11	Equity and Trusts	30
LW2A12	Land Law	30
LW2A72	Writing Credit L2	10

Optional module

In addition students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law) must take:

Law Option	20
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The options which may be taught by the School are set out in the requirements for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree programme. Only a limited range of options will be open to Part 2 students in any academic year. While the options open to Part 2 students will vary from year to year, European Law will always be offered. The School provides information on the options open to Part 2 students during the summer term of Part 1. Options offered to Part 2 students will be at HE3 (H) level.

Progression requirements

In order to proceed from Part 2 to Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree a student must obtain at least 40% in all modules taken in Part 2. A student achieving this standard but not successfully completing Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree is entitled to a Diploma in Law. A student who fails to achieve this standard but obtains a mark of at least 30% in all modules is entitled to a Diploma in Higher Education.

Part 3 (three terms)

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) degree. The compulsory Part 3 module and all optional modules offered by the School of Law are at HE3 (Honours - H) level.

Compulsory module	Credits
LW3A73 Writing Credit L3	20

Optional modules

In addition students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law) must take:

Law Options	100
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Part 3 Options

The list of options available at Part 3 level will vary from year to year. Applicants seeking advice on the current options open at Part 3 level may consult the prospectus, our web page or an admissions tutor. Students will receive information about options from the School before Part 3 commences. All optional modules offered by the School of Law in Part 3 are at HE3 (Honours) level and are 20 credits except for a Dissertation which is 40 credits.

Modules offered by the School of Law generally include:

Advanced Criminal Law
 Child Law
 Company Law
 Computer Law
 Construction Law
 Criminal Justice
 Criminology
 Dissertation (40 credits)
 Environmental Law
 EU Law
 Evidence
 Family Law
 French Law
 Human Rights Law
 International Law
 Jurisprudence
 Landlord and Tenant
 Law and Gender
 Medical Law
 Practical Legal Studies
 Revenue Law
 Modules comprising 20 credits from elsewhere in the University

A student who is undertaking a dissertation may, with the permission of the Head of School, substitute a Law Option for Writing Credit L3.

Career management skills, equivalent to 5 credits, are taught pervasively within the 360 credits in Parts 1,2 and 3.

Students should note that in order to obtain a qualifying law degree one option studied and passed in either Part 2 or Part 3 must be the module in European law.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will be by means of lectures, tutorials and seminars.

All modules, other than Writing Credit and Practical Legal Studies, will be assessed by means of a timed, unseen examination. Some modules may require assessed written work or other forms of assessed work (for example an oral presentation) in addition to an examination. Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 50% and 50%.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

UCAS points: 300 points from any 3 A or A/S level examinations or 320 points from any 4 A or A/S level examinations (not in either case including General Studies). A subject cannot be counted at A and A/S level.

Scottish Highers: ABBBB

Irish Highers: AABBB

International Baccalaureate: 33 points

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Mature applicants. Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course (at least 12 credits at level 3 and 4 at level 4 are usually required), but each case is assessed on its individual merits. We recommend you contact an admissions tutor as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

International applicants. Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or the international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications. IELTS Band 7 (or equivalent) will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Applicants wishing to make any inquiries should contact the Admissions Secretary who will pass your query to an appropriate Admissions Tutor. The current Admissions Secretary is Mrs J. Jones who can be contacted by:

Telephone – 0118 931 8018 (44 118 931 8018 for callers from outside the UK) or

Email – j.jones@rdg.ac.uk

as well as by post.

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which maintains several hundred computers across the university, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a degree programme and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students Union.

Within the School of Law, personal and academic tutors will provide help and guidance on academic, and where appropriate, other matters. A member of the academic staff of the School acts a Careers Advisor and the School has a Director of Studies/Senior Tutor to provide student support. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

Careers prospects

While very many law graduates take professional exams in law and go on to practise law either in the UK or abroad, many others pursue alternative careers. A law degree does not disqualify you from any career open to non-specialist graduates and the skills it engenders are in great demand from non-legal employers! Those interested in alternative professions may choose to pursue training as, for example, an accountant, a patent agent or company secretary. Recent graduates have become commodity traders, stockbrokers and bankers (including joining the Bank of England) as well as entering general management. We have graduates working in computing and publishing, running their own businesses (including one fashion designer) and journalism. The civil service and other branches of public service attract others. Lawyers believe they can do anything and frequently they are right.

Opportunities for study abroad

Applicants who are interested in studying law in another EU country for one year in addition to the normal LLB programme should, normally, apply for Law with Legal Studies in Europe (4 years) or Law with French Law (4 years). However, transfer to a four-year degree programme is possible before entering onto Part 2 of the three year LLB degree. For details of the four-year degree programmes see the information specific to those programmes. We have links with universities in most EU countries. In the last two years we have had students spend a year at the Universities of Paris X (Nanterre), Barcelona, Trier (Germany), Geneva, Maastricht (Holland) and Uppsala (Sweden). The last two universities teach law in English and are particularly popular. We have received visitors from all these universities and the Universities of Salamanca (Spain), Trento (Italy) and Poitiers (France).

Educational Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of this course is to provide a programme of legal study which affords a conceptual framework for the study of law which will facilitate the recognition and appreciation by students of the overall mosaic of public and private law and permits detailed study of some aspects of law. The degree aims to provide coverage of the core areas of English law while also providing a range of options which allows students to bias their studies in particular directions.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and Understanding of:

1. The core areas of English law necessary for professional accreditation;
2. A range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law;
3. Selected areas of law in depth;
4. European and International law where it has had an impact upon English law.
5. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies

The basic knowledge in all compulsory modules is provided by lectures and tutorials. Optional modules may be taught by lectures and tutorials or seminars. All tutorials and seminars allow a student to gauge his/her progress in that module and may require significant student input into the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The critical input into learning is provided by a student's own reading and preparation for group discussions (particularly engagement with primary sources). All compulsory modules use formative assessed work.

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through end of year formal examinations (in all compulsory modules). Optional modules adopt a variety of assessment methods but an end of year unseen, timed exam is a component in almost all modules.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. Think logically;
2. Analyse and problems and issues;
3. Discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material;
4. Understand technical material;
5. Apply relevant knowledge effectively; and
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies

Logic, analytical skill and the ability to apply relevant knowledge is inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in tutorials, seminars and formative assessed work.

Assessment

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. Solve practical legal problems;
2. Discover and use legal and contextual materials from a variety of sources; and
3. Evaluate legal and contextual material both individually and a part of a team;
4. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies:

All the practical skills are present in each part of the degree and are developed through tutorials and seminars as well as formative essays. The essence of legal study is to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts and used appropriate law to provide a solution. The encouragement of these faculties is inherent in all parts of the degree. All modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgement.

Assessment

1 and 4 (other than oral arguments) are directly assessed through formal examinations (examinations indirectly assess 2 and 3). Writing Credit requires elements of 2-4 and may require a solution to a practical legal problem. Some modules assess (formatively or summatively) teamworking and oral communication.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. Work independently and hard;
2. Solve practical problems;
3. Work individually or as part of a team;
4. Use different types of information sources/
5. Communicate technical material, which in some modules will include numerical information, effectively both orally and in writing; and
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
7. Reflect critically on one's own learning.
8. Consider career development.

Teaching and learning methods and strategies

Law is a subject of considerable complexity; some material is difficult and not all of it is of over-powering interest – a student must work hard to engage with such material. Many subjects require a student to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts and used appropriate law, which may involve directed or undirected research, to provide a solution. Having sought a solution, which may involve group work as well as individual effort, a student must be able to defend his or her conclusions and communicate it in appropriate language to an audience. Tutorials and seminars, formative essay work, presentations and teamwork encourage and develop these skills during the degree programme.

Assessment

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills (oral skills are assessed only in some units) other than 7. Tutorial meetings encourage student to reflect on his or her own learning.

***Please note:* This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each modules can be found in module and programme handbooks.**