The School of Law at the University of Reading is a transformative and international learning environment with a world-wide reputation for research. We welcome students from across the globe into our diverse, inclusive, supportive and highly ambitious community. We pride ourselves on achieving excellence in our teaching, learning and research. Our students develop as independent thinkers and learn about a variety of laws in relevant social, economic, cultural, political and global contexts. You will be taught by innovative, passionate teachers, who work on cutting-edge research, contribute to leading publications, receive international awards and grants for their research, and have a direct effect on policy and practice. The School of Law is very proud of its strong relationship with alumni and employers. We look forward to welcoming you on an exciting journey that will provide opportunities for you to thrive, in a department that is passionate about the development and impact of law at a global level.

“\nThe end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom.\n”

John Locke

Professor James Devenney
Head of School and Professor of Transnational Commercial Law

www.reading.ac.uk/law
As an aspiring postgraduate law student at Oxford University, Dr Ruvi Ziegler’s MPhil thesis focused on electoral participation of convicts from an international and comparative law perspective. He queried the potentially adverse effects of exclusion of convicts as members of their political communities and on protection of their rights.

Continuing his intellectual journey, Ruvi’s doctorate appraised the unique political predicament of refugees, who are, in the main, in political limbo for an indeterminate period.

Since completing his doctorate, Ruvi has become an authority in matters pertaining to International Refugee Law, recognised as a Senior Research Associate of the Refugee Law Initiative and Editor-in-Chief of its working paper series. Ruvi has also established himself as a global expert on questions of political membership and participation, contributing to the work of the International Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the GLOBALCIT observatory at the European University Institute and the European Union.

From law student to change agent and social reformer, Ruvi has been able to make a real impact on policy and practice. Recently, much of his academic work, as well as public advocacy, has focused on the effects of the 2016 EU referendum on citizens’ rights on both sides of the channel.

Speaking at the Liberal Democrat 2018 Autumn conference, Ruvi argued that citizens of other EU countries who are long-term residents in the UK should be granted full voting rights to foster their inclusion. The Conference adopted a policy motion supporting this radical legislative change. Last year, Ruvi co-authored a letter to the Israeli Attorney General, signed by 50 leading academics, imploring him not to authorise plans to forcibly deport Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers from Israel. The controversial policy was averted with Israel’s announcement of cancellation of deportation orders and the subsequent renewal of permits.

As an academic who is regularly involved in presenting contemporary issues in government forums and the media, Ruvi’s teaching and seminar discussions link theory with burning political issues. Whether referring to the Israeli-Palestine conflict, international human rights law, or referring to the electoral rights of non-resident British citizens in his teaching of UK Public Law, Ruvi encourages energetic debate in class and an active contribution from his students.

The challenge was to look at where the law stands and how it needs to be developed. The sense of accomplishment is in being able to set out ideas, engage with scholars, advocate ideas in relevant forums and pursue them until you achieve the desired long term impact.
In what ways can law support efforts of preventing, mitigating and preparing for disaster losses around the world? What role does law play in the governing of humanitarian aid? To what extent can law ensure the existence of clear legal mandates to conduct risk assessments and issue timely warnings? These are just some of the questions Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier, Programme Director for the LLM/MSc in Global Crisis, Conflict and Disaster Management addresses in her teaching.

The number, intensity, and impact of diverse forms of crises, emergencies, conflicts and disasters are increasing. During the past ten years alone, more than a billion people have been affected by some form of disaster, complex or conflict-related event. Marie undertakes the key task of examining the role of global law and policy in preventing and mitigating disaster risk and losses. Her work reflects current and changing global initiatives and priorities including the relationship between different legal regimes; the role law does and should have in responding to crises, conflicts, or disasters; and how law can be informed by, and inform non-legal disciplines. As the Programme Director, she is enthusiastic about the LLM/MSc Global Crisis, Conflict, and Disaster Management offered by the School of Law. “This is a world first and it is a very timely programme, driven by urgent global priorities. ‘Disaster Law’ is becoming an area of study in its own right.”

Marie finds her students are attracted to the programme for a variety of reasons. Some are more interested in focusing on displaced persons and refugees, while others are more focused on the delivery of humanitarian aid in disasters or conflicts. While some students are interested in the subject in a more conceptual way and are interested in continuing onto a PhD – some are simply drawn to the programme because the subject matter excites them. “In general, I have found that our students are driven by a sense of wanting to do good, and a desire to help address these gigantic global challenges. This creates a really interesting atmosphere in the classroom.”

Highlighting the importance of getting students involved in research projects, she explains that the programme allows students to benefit from embedded mentoring, employability and practical training delivered by practitioners. “They see us in action, and are able to participate in a really practical way. It’s also helpful in order to be able to give students the opportunity for internships and to send them out in the world. For example: one student went to Greece and Calais to work with refugees last year while another went to Haiti and the UN headquarters in New York. Some of our graduates also did placements with NGOs operating in the sphere of disaster assistance and humanitarian aid.”

Throughout the programme, students are constantly reminded of the importance not only to engage with a broad range of legal regimes, but also to improve interdisciplinary communication. In addition to the possibility for students to take some modules from other Schools, the core modules of the programme benefit from the input of experts from across the University. This has, for example, included Hannah Cloke, Professor in Hydrology in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, who’s research has been crucial in helping to develop a system that will assist with more accurate flood forecasting almost anywhere in the world.

This globally unique programme thoughtfully combines both theoretical perspectives and real world scenarios to prepare lawyers and non-lawyers alike. The LLM and MSc Global Crisis, Conflict, and Disaster Management are positioned to pursue academic excellence in the foundation of governance and law, and to provide a solid grounding in the practitioner skills required at strategic and operational levels. The overarching aim is to equip students with many of the substantive, professional, practical, and personal skills and knowledge required to operate safely and effectively in the multidisciplinary arena of crisis, conflict and disaster prevention and management. “Rather than focusing on isolated legal regimes, we are looking at the contemporary challenges and thinking what can be done about them across scales and across disciplines. This is what I think really sets this programme apart and it makes it so interesting for our research projects.”
Based at the stunning Grade II listed Foxhill House, you will be taught by leading academics in the field of law.

Their expertise and commitment to their subject and students cultivates a stimulating learning environment that will encourage you to excel.

Our team of experienced academics are passionate about their subject and are recognised as experts in specialist areas such as medical, environmental, international and commercial law. As a law student at the University of Reading, you will benefit from teaching supported by applied research led by our academics who contribute regularly to global and UK policy development and law reforms through their work with governments and regulatory agencies. They are regularly invited to speak at conferences and to provide their expert opinion in the media. Some of our tutors are advisers to government and policy-making bodies like the Law Commission and the United Nations, whilst others have been involved with, or cited in, cases before courts, including the European Court of Justice and UK Supreme Court.

All of our programmes are supported by networking, conference and work experience opportunities for our students, which result directly from the strong industry links that our staff have developed in their disciplines in both academia and practice. Our academics are not only research experts in their specialist fields, many have applied and developed their knowledge and research interests through a career in legal practice.

Joining our School of Law will give you the opportunity to flourish in a dynamic and collaborative teaching environment and immerse yourself in legal debate and developments alongside academics, who are at the forefront of changes to global legal systems.

"The LLM undoubtedly makes me more employable. The academic experience within the School of Law is second to none, and the modular nature of the course allowed flexibility of learning. I would thoroughly recommend this course to anyone seeking to develop skills and knowledge in international law to an advanced level."

Nicholas Hilton
LLM International Law graduate
The School of Law at Reading is a hub for high-quality research and teaching with impact.

In the Research Excellence Framework 2014, we were ranked 10th in the UK for research intensity, and 100% of our research was judged world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised. Our academics are established legal scholars who feed their acknowledged expertise into teaching, thus enriching the learning experience for our students.

Our academics undertake a wide variety of individual and collaborative research, much of which has made a discernible impact beyond the school. Aside from challenging the preconceptions of law, much of our academic research subjects the process of legal decision-making to strict analysis, often igniting debate and challenging governments and policy-makers to redress the balance from a legal perspective.

From court decisions and public policy made by central and local government and international organisations, to the activities of NGOs and charities, we aim to create positive change. Our subject experts undertake a wide variety of research, around themes such as Global Law; Justice, Rights and Legal Theory; Family, Gender and Sexuality; Public Policy; Legal History; Property, Transactions and Markets; Commercial Law and Financial Regulation.

Our recent research projects include: The changing legitimacy of health and safety, 1960–2015; the international legal regulation of detention in armed conflict; public attitudes towards – and justifications of – retention of the death penalty; and Civil partnership dissolution – expectations and experiences.

As a University of Reading law student, you will benefit directly from this and further research projects, as our academics encourage lively debate around their findings and invite their students to join them in thinking beyond existing laws and policies, to create positive change at a national and global level.

"Challenging the preconceptions of law, subjecting the process of legal decision-making to strict analysis and igniting debate with government policy-makers to redress the balance from a legal perspective."
OUT IN THE FIELD

Aside from first class research and learning from experts, one of our School of Law’s distinctive features is the direct involvement we have in supporting our students’ chosen career paths.

Our focus on commercial awareness, access to well-established industry connections and breadth of placement opportunities are all designed for you to expand your knowledge and experience in the legal field.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We provide you with a comprehensive range of opportunities to maximise your employability. We have excellent links with industry and support our students with several prestigious work experience opportunities in renowned commercial enterprises, law firms and research centres, allowing successful candidates to gain hands-on experience on topics related to their studies. The School has a dedicated senior member of academic staff overseeing careers guidance and placements in conjunction with the University’s Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre.

All of our master’s programmes offer networking opportunities supported by guest lectures, conferences, research seminars and workshops. We also have a calendar full of career-orientated events built into our degree portfolio including careers fairs, employer-run workshops, CV advice clinics and mock interview sessions.

You will be exposed to a wide range of pro bono opportunities during your time with us, presenting you with the chance to put your legal skills to use in real-life situations. This experience is not only a valuable addition to your CV when it comes to applying for training contracts and placements, but also provides the opportunity to provide valuable services to the community.

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

According to recent data, 89% of our taught postgraduates are in graduate-level work and/or further study within six months of graduating.*

Past students from our International Commercial Law programmes have gone on to work for a range of national and international law firms, as lawyers and as in-house legal counsels for large multinational companies in the UK and abroad, in addition to international organisations and NGOs.

Graduates from our Global Law programmes have gone on to work in different professional environments, including international organisations, such as European Union institutions, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. Others have engaged in work leading to careers in foreign and diplomatic affairs.

*DLHE survey, 2016/17 leavers

Having completed my LLM at the University of Reading, I am now practicing as an Associate Attorney in a top ranked Commercial Law firm in Beijing. Dealing with matters in the field of capital market, I appreciate the wonderful experience in the School of Law, since it delivers practical skills which most universities do not provide. By virtue of what I learnt from the School, I felt that I had stepped into the business ahead of many rivals. These particular commercial law programmes can be highly recommended to anyone willing to get a better understanding of commercial and financial law, especially to those students from non-common law jurisdictions and those who wish to be an international commercial lawyer. Studying with excellent lecturers and competitive classmates, I enjoyed an inspiring year.  

Wenxiao Liu
LLM International Commercial Law graduate

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OUT IN THE FIELD
The University of Reading School of Law has harnessed its world-class expertise in the areas of Public International Law and Human Rights. We provide specialised LLM programmes that underpin the relationship between legal systems and the legal regulation of human rights, war, refugee movements, trans border migration, interstate trade and other areas of global governance.

All of our LLM courses are associated with research clusters led by expert academics. The modules on offer enable you to take advantage of the School's research strengths in the fields of EU law, international law and human rights.

**GLOBAL LAW AT READING (GLAR)**

The Global Law at Reading (GLAR) group is the hub at the University of Reading School of Law for research and teaching in the fields of public international law, EU law and human rights. The School has more full-time academics working in these areas than any other University in the UK, as well as a thriving postgraduate community. GLAR has a standing seminar series (the Ghandhi Research Seminar Series), which attracts internationally-renowned external speakers from around the world. Students on our global law programmes benefit from significant networking, conference and work experience opportunities offered by the hub. GLAR has an international reputation for world-leading research and offers numerous specialised modules at the LLM level.

**LLM ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES**

The LLM Advanced Legal Studies promotes a critical awareness of the methodology of the common law and further develops students’ knowledge of substantive subject areas within the English Legal System, with the opportunity to also explore international and human rights law. All students will be required to undertake the compulsory module in research methods and a dissertation together with optional modules including some commercial law options.

**LLM HUMAN RIGHTS**

LLM Human Rights is a dedicated programme concentrating on the study of human rights law and policy in its social, political and philosophical context. Modules on offer cover a broad range of different human rights subjects, covering both traditional and emerging areas of concern, including international human rights law and human rights issues in natural resources, as well as allied subjects, such as international humanitarian law. All students will be required to undertake a compulsory module in Research Methods and a dissertation, together with optional modules.

"The module arrangements at the School of Law were beyond my expectations and gave me a far deeper understanding of issues related to human rights and the role of regional and international treaties. Not only did the topics covered enhance my legal knowledge, they also equipped me to evaluate ideas and concepts in ways that challenged me to think critically."

Nattapapim Phattranurukkl
LLM International Law
LLM INTERNATIONAL LAW

LLM International Law is a specialised programme concentrating on the in-depth study of international legal doctrine. It offers a combination of compulsory and optional modules, enabling you to further your own interests and ambitions. Modules on offer cover a broad range of different international law subjects, including international dispute settlement, the laws of war, and international law and terrorism.

As well as specific knowledge of international law, this programme will develop your ability to think both analytically and critically and to produce reasoned arguments encompassing policy, existing practice and knowledge at an advanced level. It will also develop your practical transferable skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, both online and offline; time management, verbal and written communication, presenting and planning. Students must take the compulsory module in Research Methods and a dissertation.

You can choose to follow a specific pathway alongside your LLM, focusing on an area of law that interests you. Our pathway in Conflict offers cutting-edge, contemporary appraisal of protection challenges while our pathway in Development provides you with an in-depth understanding of international legal responses to contemporary global challenges. With our pathway in Transnational Law you can gain an understanding of issues that arise in the interrelations between domestic, regional, and international legal frameworks.

LLM/MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Global Crisis, Conflict and Disaster Management

This globally unique multidisciplinary course examines global crisis, complex emergencies, conflict and disaster management issues through the lenses of global law and policy. The programme aims to analyse the relationship between different legal regimes; the role of law in responding to crises, conflicts and disasters; as well as the relationship between law and non-legal disciplines such as sustainability, resilience, DRR and disaster management. Modules offered cover topics related to Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice; International Law and the Regulation of Armed Conflict; Disaster Management; Hazards, Risk, Vulnerability and Resilience; and International Refugee Law. There is also the possibility to take optional modules from a number of other participating schools including Agriculture, Policy and Development; Politics, Economics and International Relations; Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science. A variety of teaching, learning and assessment methods, together with the opportunity for professional mentoring and placements, are used to develop core employability skills.
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW

Studying on our International Commercial Law programmes will provide an invaluable opportunity to acquire a unique legal and multidisciplinary perspective of commercial law issues.

Offered in conjunction with the the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Centre of Henley Business School, our programmes allow you to tailor your studies with a number of pathways to help you develop your commercial law expertise and specialise in an area of interest. This is a unique aspect of our programmes, which unlike other universities offers students the opportunity to develop a multidisciplinary perspective by studying business-related modules directly from a business school.

CENTRE FOR COMMERCIAL LAW AND FINANCIAL REGULATION (CCLFR)
The School of Law and the ICMA Centre have established the CCLFR as a forum for conducting research and disseminating knowledge on international commercial law and financial regulation. CCLFR focuses on advancing legal scholarship, brings together scholars and policymakers in law and finance and influences the development and application of commercial law and financial regulation in practice through research projects, conferences, teaching and publications.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW

The LLM International Commercial Law provides an overview of the main commercial law issues that arise in a multiplicity of transactions. It covers those aspects of law that practitioners could expect to encounter on a regular basis, including employment law, competition law, and intellectual property law. The overarching aim of this LLM programme is to facilitate the recognition and appreciation by students of international commercial law and permits detailed study of some aspects of law. This programme will be relevant to graduates or professionals aspiring to work in law firms, multinational corporations, government agencies, international financial institutions, the judiciary and academia (subject to further study).

All students selecting a pathway will study Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law and International Corporate Finance and the Law, together with the specified module(s) for your chosen pathway, and a written project related to that area of law.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH BANKING LAW AND FINANCIAL REGULATION

This pathway addresses financial regulation and supervision with a specific emphasis on banking and securities. The programme tackles regulatory and legal control of financial markets and financial intermediaries including banks (commercial banks and investment banks), as well as securities firms, insurance undertakings and other more specialist types of service provider, and financial conglomerates. You will take compulsory and optional modules at the School of Law and ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, having the opportunity to develop a holistic perspective of the legal and financial issues and to enhance your employability prospects in the financial sector.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH INSOLVENCY AND CORPORATE RESCUE

This is a unique opportunity for you to join one of the few programmes addressing corporate insolvency issues in the UK. Studying International Commercial Law with Insolvency and Corporate Rescue will enable you to gain a detailed understanding of the legal, financial, economic and governance issues underpinning debt finance. This pathway invites you to explore the complex web of legal, financial, economic and governance issues underpinning the insolvency system, and also encourages you to attain advanced knowledge of the theoretical and practical issues underpinning globally recognised formal and informal debt restructuring mechanisms.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ARBITRATION)

Coming with accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), the LLM International Commercial Law with International Dispute Resolution enables you to gain a detailed knowledge of alternative mechanisms which have become indispensable to the resolution of international commercial disputes. This pathway is designed to develop your understanding of the theoretical and practical issues that arise in the sphere of international commercial arbitration. Students on this pathway have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the arbitration system by studying Investment Treaty Arbitration, which is specifically designed for transactions with State entities. Students also have the option of taking modules including World Trade Organisation, and International Economic Law amongst others.

Understanding of the theory and practice of the capital markets and financial regulation in a comparative context.

The aim of this pathway is to analyse the different aspects of corporate finance from an international perspective. This LLM programme will provide the tools to recognise the key elements to implement a successful financing technique by means of the analysis of theoretical issues and actual case studies. You will develop an understanding of the basic corporate framework at the national, regional and trans-national level. You will be aware of different financing techniques and have a broad
The LLM International Commercial Law with Competition Law and Regulation offers you the opportunity to study the application of competition law to different commercial transactions (e.g., mergers and acquisitions, horizontal and vertical agreements) as well as to explore the interface of competition law and regulation in a number of key sectors of the economy (financial services, telecommunications, energy). The pathway offers the opportunity to explore the process of internationalisation of competition law and policy, the interaction between trade and competition, the interface between competition and industrial policy considerations, the competition rules of developing countries and the challenges for competition law enforcement in a multi-jurisdictional environment. All courses rely extensively on case studies drawn from amongst others, the EU, US, Chinese, ASEAN competition law regimes as well as some selected jurisdictions in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil).

**LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND MANAGEMENT**

Intellectual property has a central role in the enhancement of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercial growth in the modern economy. The first and only LLM in the UK offering Law and Management of Intellectual Property, this pathway is designed to respond to the emergent demand for professionals who have studied intellectual property to a high level. This pathway will also provide you with the opportunity to develop an advanced understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of intellectual property law and an ability to critically assess and provide practical solutions to problems of the type commonly encountered in intellectual property law. You will be able to identify the key challenges for organisations involved in the production or distribution of cultural products and services, and analyse the various ways in which organisations have responded to these challenges in different commercial and cultural contexts.

**LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LAW AND COMMERCE**

The LLM International Commercial Law with Information Technology and Commerce addresses the legal and regulatory issues emerging in the online environment. This innovative and intellectually engaging legal specialization offers you the opportunity to study the laws that govern commercial transactions on the internet (e.g., intermediary liability, data protection, intellectual property law, contract law, privacy and freedom of speech). You will gain a thorough understanding of the interplay between law and the internet (cybersecurity, ubiquitous computing and surveillance; plus other key emergent topics).

**LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH OIL AND GAS LAW**

This multidisciplinary pathway is designed to address the cross-border elements of the oil and gas industry and respond to the demand for highly qualified professionals. It offers a unique combination of knowledge and understanding of the core issues related to the legal aspects of the Oil and Gas Industry, built on a foundation of the concepts in International Commercial Law. This pathway is designed to increase the analytical and research skills of students in terms of their ability to collect and analyse information relating to legal, economic and environmental problems related to the oil and gas industry. You will have access to a wide choice of modules offered by the School of Law, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, School of Geography and Environmental Science and the Henley Business School.

**LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH ENERGY LAW AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

The aim of this pathway is to provide you with a strong commercial awareness to arrange deals and understand the impact of regulations and the fast growing area of energy dispute resolution. You will learn about how climate change policy is affecting the business of energy and how environmental policy is driving impact change in renewables and in the global energy architecture. The pathway enables you to develop an understanding of law and commercial dimensions with applications to clean tech and the proliferation of energy disputes taking place. You will be well equipped to understand the brave new world of energy and be in a strong position to secure jobs in this fast growing global area. This is useful for students interested in renewables, and other core power generation areas, as well as oil and gas. Students will learn about deal making, dispute resolution, and other core aspects.
A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The School of Law thrives on the lively academic environment developed from cross cultural collaboration, and both our student and staff community is made up of people from all around the globe. If you are joining us from another country, we want to make your transition as easy as possible.

A recent survey by the independent education research company i-graduate asked international students at the University about their learning experience. The School of Law has achieved a 90% overall learning satisfaction score*. Individual learning element ratings favorably included expert lecturers, academic English, multicultural environment, research and course organisation.

At the School, we offer pre-arrival support, a specialised induction programme, dedicated library, careers sessions and language teaching to all our international students. We recognise that our students’ learning styles vary greatly, so we ensure that you are supported by a range of teaching methods, learning styles and opportunities to give you the best possible chance to excel during your studies.

Our course on “Academic writing for LLM students”, run in conjunction with the International Study and Language Institute (ISLI), will help you to enhance your skills in essay writing, with the addition of language support if you are an international student.

DOUBLE MASTER’S OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to offer our Double Master’s Programmes in Commercial Law with leading universities around the world. Students undertake postgraduate study at two institutions in the form of a double master’s programme, completing two master’s programmes in two years.

We offer double master’s courses with a range of leading partner universities worldwide, including ALBA Graduate Business School in Greece, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and Lomonosov Moscow State University in Russia, Thammasat University in Thailand and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Indonesia. The double master’s opportunity is only available to students studying at our partner universities. Students from our partner universities who are joining our Commercial Law master’s programmes may be eligible for a discount on the University of Reading tuition fees.

*International Student Barometer 2018

I chose to study at the University of Reading as I got the opportunity to study with two leading universities simultaneously, without the necessity to enrol in each university separately. Although teaching and learning in the UK is quite different from Russia, the lecturers here are very supportive and you can always ask your dedicated academic tutor for advice. I would definitely recommend the School of Law to enhance your understanding of British and international law.

Elizaveta Guznova, LLM International Commercial Law graduate – double master’s with the University of Reading and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)
At the School of Law, our master’s by research course aims to provide you with an advanced set of skills that will serve you well within legal research or a wide range of other careers.

MA BY RESEARCH IN LEGAL HISTORY

Our MA by Research in Legal History is an interdisciplinary programme that equips graduates with a sophisticated understanding of legal and historical approaches to social, cultural and political phenomena, advanced skills in archival research, and the ability to undertake high-level analysis of law and legal issues.

The programme allows students to undertake detailed research in some aspects of legal history and is primarily undertaken through guided research and writing, with each candidate’s programme tailored to best reflect their needs, interests and goals. Students will be closely associated with the Law School’s Forum for Legal and Historical Research.

This programme is particularly suited to those entering the legal profession or who wish to pursue a PhD in history, law or related areas. Pursued part-time, it is also of great value to people already undertaking academic research or members of the legal profession, especially barristers, who wish to build their skills in legal and historical analysis to contribute to the literature upon which superior courts, parliamentary bodies and law reform agencies frequently rely.

MRES LAW AND MRES LAW & SOCIETY

The Master of Research programmes are suited for students who wish to pursue career paths in research-based positions in national or international government or non-government institutions. The courses also appeal to those who are interested in professional research in law or the administration of justice, or those who wish to pursue a PhD in law or related areas. These degrees equip students with high-level analytical skills and a strong grasp of research methods, research design and research project management skills.

Some of our very best master’s level students follow these programmes each year, frequently going on to become PhD candidates. The MRes Law & Society emphasises socio-legal research, the study of law in context, and the interplay of legal and social theory. The MRes Law is suitable for candidates who are less focused on the pursuit of interdisciplinary links and who are primarily interested in the study of law as a discrete domain of knowledge and practice.

"Studying at the University of Reading was an incredibly enriching and intellectually stimulating experience. The depth of discussions, small class sizes, development of important skills and the guidance and insights imparted by supervisors proved exceptionally helpful."

Tom Innes
MRes graduate
Engage in cutting-edge research in your chosen area of law. The School of Law offers a vibrant research culture and welcomes high-quality applicants from all over the world to join a recognised centre of excellence in both doctrinal and socio-legal research across a wide range of areas.

The School of Law offers two main postgraduate research degrees: PhD (3 years full-time or 4–6 years part-time); LLM by thesis (1 year full-time or 2 years part-time).

As a research student, you will join a dynamic and thriving community of postgraduate researchers and you will play an integral part in the life of the School. You will have excellent facilities and support, including research training programmes, informal lunches, faculty seminars, financial support for conferences and career development strategies.

All of our law students have access to the University’s Graduate School where there is 24-hour access to study space and a range of up-to-date facilities for the exclusive use of postgraduate research students.

All students embarking on a PhD have regular meetings with their supervisors who are experts in their field, and annual independent monitoring panels ensure that progress is on track and provide additional assistance and support.

The School of Law offers an annual PhD proposal writing workshop. This provides potential applicants with hands-on advice and support to enable them to submit strong research proposals with a view to being offered a place on the doctoral programme and to provide help in securing studentship funding.

FIND YOUR PhD

The School of Law has provided unwavering support throughout my years of study, including arranging for external supervision and providing a research fund which has allowed me to attend some conferences in Europe. As well as ensuring a comfortable study environment, I have also gained teaching experience in a core law module and have supervised master’s students. I have also had the opportunity to present at the Regional Doctoral Conference, within which the University of Reading plays a key role, and have presented yearly to the School of Law. Such experience is invaluable when applying for jobs in academia. I would highly recommend the University of Reading School of Law if you are thinking of undertaking postgraduate studies.

Rosalynd Roberts, PhD