

Programme Specification

LLB Law with Criminology

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: M190

UFLAWCR

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Bar Standards Board
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Law and Criminology

Programme information and content

The aim of the LLB is to provide legal education not only in the core areas of English law required to be awarded a qualifying law degree (QLD) but also in a variety of specialisms that enrich the student's experience and understanding of how law is used to solve disputes or achieve change. The overarching educational aim of this course is to not only impart legal knowledge but: to situate the law within wider global, national policy and practice contexts; to equip students with skills necessary for research, critical analysis, and application of law in a range of issues; and to provide opportunities for students to start developing the skills crucial to legal practice.

Students will encounter a variety of legal, sociological and criminological concepts, approaches and methodologies in ways that will assist the development of a critical understanding of 'crime' and 'criminal justice' and the relationship of these with the law. They will acquire the foundational knowledge necessary to produce and understand socio-legal and criminological research.

Part 1:	In Part 1, you will be supported in developing legal skills, and will be introduced to the teaching methods and expectations applicable to higher legal education. You will study four key areas of English law: contract, tort, criminal and public law, and practise applying the law to hypothetical scenarios to provide targeted advice to fictitious clients, as well as developing your ability to analyse the law from a critical perspective. Part 1 also provides students with an introduction to the core concepts of criminal justice.
Part 2:	In Part 2, you will study the compulsory subjects in the qualifying law degree. You will also be able to choose one optional module from Criminology. You will continue to develop your legal skills and ability to work with primary legal resources, to research the law and justify your conclusions. Additionally, you will

	be introduced to the core module of criminology and its interaction with socio-legal study skills.
Part 3:	In the final year, students must choose one of the independent research-based modules to demonstrate mastery of legal writing, legal research and the construction of a legal argument. In addition, the School offers a wide range of option law and criminology modules that give you a greater opportunity to focus your study on the areas that interest you most. You will have to select two optional Law modules – one per semester and two optional Criminology modules – one per semester.

Programme Learning Outcomes - LLB Law with Criminology

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate an understanding of legal principles and skills essential in a range of sectors for a law graduate with the additional skills of understanding key concepts and theoretical approaches within criminology.
2	Appraise the fundamental doctrines, theoretical debates and concepts of contemporary law and practice.
3	Analyse the context and boundaries of application of the law in the national and international context.
4	Evaluate legal problems and propose workable and amicable solutions coupled with key concepts from the criminal justice system and how these impact on society.
5	Critically assess sources and materials to construct arguments. Summarise and analyse quantitative and qualitative empirical data on crime, harm, deviance and victimisation.
6	Apply information management and application skills.
7	Develop analytical, problem-solving and applicative approaches to interpretation of law as well as evaluating social problems and their correlating theories of crime.
8	Produce coherent and convincing legal arguments and to engage in critical thinking and debates. Explain and evaluate complex social problems in terms of criminological theories of crime, class, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance.
9	Through a range of effective research skills for both law and criminology, critically assess the weight of sources and utilise legal/socio-legal materials in the development of well-constructed arguments.
10	Communicate effectively in written and various other communication mechanisms.
11	Develop personal and professional strategies to lead and work in teams.

12	Acquire holistic knowledge, and relevant professional skills required of a successful law graduate, with a solid grounding in criminology and socio-legal theories.
----	---

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:
N/A

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Part 1 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW1CON	Contract	20	4
LW1CRI	Criminal Law	20	4
LW1ELS	English Legal System and Skills	20	4
LW1ICJ	Introduction to Criminal Justice	20	4
LW1PL1	Public Law 1	20	4
LW1TOR	Tort	20	4
Part 2 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW2ETR	Equity and Trusts	20	5
LW2EUL	EU Law	20	5
LW2ICR	Introduction to Criminology	20	5
LW2LND	Land Law	20	5
LW2PL2	Public Law 2	20	5
Remaining credits will be made up of one optional module which must be taken from the Criminology optional modules in semester two.			
If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.			
Part 3 Modules:			

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW3DUG	Dissertation	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules which should be chosen as:

2 optional Law modules – one per semester

2 optional Criminology modules – one per semester

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials, depending on the modules you choose. Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is around 220 hours.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

Please note that the School of Law intends that the LLB will be a UK qualifying law degree (QLD), where still relevant, for all students and will make any necessary changes to the degree programme to ensure it stays a QLD or continues to satisfy any modified professional requirements for the academic stage of training stipulated by the professional bodies. All other aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of different types of assessments including more traditional methods such as written examinations and coursework (including through presentations and podcasts) as well as, for example, participation in advocacy or negotiation, writing client letters and writing reflectively about learning experiences. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) obtain an overall average of 40% across all credits taken for which a numerical mark is awarded in Part 1; and

- (v) obtain a pass of at least 40% in LW1ELS, LW1CON, LW1CRI, LW1PL1, and LW1TOR. Students who achieve a threshold performance only at Part 1 will be eligible for transfer to LLB Legal Studies.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and

- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) obtain marks of at least 40% in LW2EUL, LW2LND, and LW2PL2 and LW2ETR
- Students who achieve a threshold performance only at Part 2 will be eligible for transfer to LLB Legal Studies.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, you may wish to budget between £150 to £200 a year.

Reading lists are provided for each individual module.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus, but essential costs in this area will be low as coursework and exams will be submitted electronically.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

LLB Law with Criminology for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

4 July 2025

© The University of Reading 2025