

LLB Law with French Law

UCAS code: M121

Awarding Institution: The University of Reading
Teaching Institution: The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group: Law
Faculty: Economic and Social Sciences
For students entering Part 1 in October 2002
Programme length: 4 years
Date of profile: July 2002
Programme Director: Head of School of Law
Programme Advisor: Director of Studies, European programmes, School of Law
Board of Studies: Law
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 guarantees that the LLB will be a qualifying law degree (QLD) for all students entering in October 2002, 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. In addition, an understanding of aspects of French law and legal technique is anticipated.

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 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. Students will also have excellent skills in written and spoken French and be familiar with the ways of French life.

Programme content

Students must take 120 credits in each Part of the degree programme.

1. In Parts 1 and 2 all modules are compulsory (but see Part 1); in the Year Abroad and in Part 3 there are optional and compulsory modules.

Part 1 (three terms)

The following Part 1 modules are open to students registered for Part 1 of the LLB (Law with French 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
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Optional modules:

Students must take one of three options:

EITHER

1.

French Studies		40
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OR

2.

WCF181	Writing Credit L1	10
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and

LW1A02	Criminal Law	30
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OR

3.

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

Students will be advised as to which of these options is appropriate based upon their existing standard of French language (oral and written) at the beginning of Part 1 by the Programme Advisor.

Progression requirements

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

- (a) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all law modules and, where taken, French;
- (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 or French module, except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits in a non-law or French 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 with French 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 in Higher Education.

Part 2 (three terms)

The following modules are compulsory for students registered for Part 2 of the LLB (Law with French Law) degree. All Part 2 modules, other than French Law, 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
LW2A13	Introduction to French Law	30

Progression requirements

In order to proceed from Part 2 to the Year Abroad and to Part 3 of the LLB (Law with French 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 the Year Abroad or Part 3 of the LLB (Law with French Law) degree is entitled to a Diploma in Law with French 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.

Year Abroad (three terms)

This year is spent abroad at a university in a French-speaking country, generally, but not necessarily, the University of Paris X with which we have long-standing links. Students must study and pass modules equivalent to 120 credits offered by the host university. A student who offers and passes the equivalent of 120 credits at the University of Paris X will be awarded a Diploma in Law by the

University of Paris X. A student may choose to study more than 120 credits in order to obtain a French national qualification but only 120 credits need be passed in order to satisfy the progression requirements of the University of Reading. Credits undertaken in France are deemed to be at Intermediate Level.

Compulsory modules		Credits
LW3A98	Law Year Abroad: Semester I	60
LW3A99	Law Year Abroad Semester II	60

Progression requirements

In order to proceed to Part 3 of the LLB (Law with French Law) degree a student must satisfactorily complete the year abroad. A student who has successfully completed Part 2 of the LLB (Law with French Law) degree but who fails satisfactorily to complete the year abroad may, with the approval of the University of Reading, transfer to the LLB (Law) degree programme.

Part 3 (three terms)

The following modules are open to students registered for Part 3 of the LLB (Law with French 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 with French Law) must take:

Law Options	100
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Part 3 Options

All optional modules offered by the School of Law in Part 3 are at HE3 (Honours – H) level and are 20 credits except for a Dissertation which is 40 credits.

- Administrative Law
- Advanced Criminal Law
- Civil Liberties
- Child Law
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Leases
- Company Law
- Comparative Law
- Computer Law
- Conflict of Laws
- Construction Law
- Criminal Justice
- Discrimination Law
- Dissertation (40 credits)
- EC Competition Law
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- EU Law
- Evidence
- Family Law
- French Law
- Gender and the Law
- Human Rights Law
- Intellectual Property
- International Law
- Jurisprudence
- Landlord and Tenant
- Medical Law
- Practical Legal Studies

Residential Leases

Revenue Law

A further module in Law offered for the present session with the approval of the Head of School
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, either at Reading or at an approved university within the European Union must be a module in EU 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 an examination. Some modules may require assessed written work or other forms of assessed work (for example a presentation) in addition to an examination. Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms. Examinations during the year abroad will be conducted in accordance with the rules and practices of that institution and are likely to include oral examinations.

A student who performs at a high level during the Year Abroad may be awarded a degree with Distinction in French Law.

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) including French. An A or B grade in A level French is usually required. A subject cannot be counted at A and A/S level.

Scottish Highers: ABBBB. An A in French is required.

Irish Highers: AABBB. An A in French is required.

International Baccalaureate: 32 points (including French at Higher level with a grade of 6 or 7).

All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the Department may vary these requirements if it sees fit. In particular we welcome applications from fluent French speakers who have not taken A level French. However, we seek to ensure that applicants without A level French are capable of studying French law in French and may impose a special entrance requirement to test language competence.

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 (70% or more 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. This degree programme requires a year to be spent abroad and you must ensure your circumstances are compatible with this requirement.

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. We are happy to accept French students and qualified students from other francophone countries onto this degree programme

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 Jane Mills who can be contacted by:

Telephone – 0118 931 8018 (44 118 931 8018 for callers from outside the UK) or
Email – j.mills@reading.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 has several hundred computers 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 as 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 (not merely France), 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 European Commission, the UK civil service and other branches of public service attract others. Lawyers believe they can do anything and frequently they are right.

Opportunities to Study Abroad

We have links with universities in most EU countries but most of our students on this programme spend their third year at the Universities of Paris X (Paris 10). However, students have also attended other universities most recently the University of Geneva. See details under Part 3 above.

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 and French 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.
6. Aspects of French law and legal culture.

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. French law is assessed both in the university and during the year abroad.

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.
5. Use the correct legal French, orally and in writing, and analyse problems in French law.

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. 5 is assessed both in the university (written French only) and during the year abroad.

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. Work and survive in another European country.
9. 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 and 8. 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 reasonable 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 module can be found in module and programme handbooks.