

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

Award Title and Internal Code:

LL.M Law (Full-time 7116)

LL.M Law (Part-time 7117)

Date of Approval: May 2021

**Final Approved Version for
September 2022**

1. **LL.M Law**

Final award title: LL.M Law

Level 7 Intermediate award titles: PGCert and PGDip

UCAS code: N/A

HECOS code: 100485

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

The LL.M Law programme offers the opportunity to acquire and consolidate in-depth, specialist legal knowledge and the practical skills necessary to conduct legal research, combined with advanced appreciation of legal theory.

Flexible study

Reflecting student need for flexible learning environments, the LL.M Law offers the opportunity for full or part-time study and combines in-person, class based activity with high-quality on-line support. Following key core modules devoted to developing knowledge and practical skills in legal theory and research methods, students are offered the opportunity to select two elective modules of interest, and to undertake a substantial piece of research to produce a Dissertation in a legal area of their choice.

Delivery blends on-campus, face-to-face interaction with peers and academic staff, with on-line learning. The latter is supported through the use of the University's Digital Learning Environment (DLE), including its Moodle platform, offering ease of access to a wide range of materials and supporting resources. On-line opportunities may include, for example, live events including group discussions and forums, supporting recordings, use of interactive Moodle tools and advanced research legal database training and certification.

Research-led teaching research collaboration

The LL.M Law programme provide an opportunity to learn from and interact with experienced and research-active academic staff, who produce outward facing, impactful research reflecting both domestic and global contemporary legal contexts and challenges. This includes on Environmental Law, Marine and Heritage Law, Intellectual Property Law, Legal Theory, Family and Child Law and Youth Justice.

Research collaboration

For over a decade, we have published the [Plymouth Law Review](#) included in the GALE LegalTrafic database of major Law journals. Published annually, it promotes legal scholarship on a wide range of issues and contains a variety of articles and reports from both academic staff and students, often on matters of contemporary and topical interest. The PLR's editorial board will invite LL.M students, in collaboration with academic staff, to submit for publication. Masters students are also encouraged to interact with our post-graduate research student community, to participate in research events including staff seminars and external expert speakers, and to collaborate in research outputs such as for the ESRC Festival of Social Science and the UK Environmental Association.

Extra-curricular opportunities for practical legal volunteering experience and career development

Appreciating the significance of a rich student experience beyond the classroom, we encourage our postgraduate students to immerse themselves in a lively and diverse culture. This includes volunteering in our [Law Clinic](#). The Clinic is co-ordinated by students and supervised by staff and practitioners. It runs a variety of pro bono projects and offers advice and representation to real clients, making a genuine difference to people's lives and the community. A multi-award winner of the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards, the Clinic works in close collaboration with a range of partners, including the British Red Cross, Citizens Advice, Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service, Plymouth and Devon Race Equality Council, and the Environmental Law Foundation and has close links with the regional professional community.

We also encourage postgraduate students to join our proactive [University of Plymouth Law Society](#). UPLS, with academic support and that of a wide network of local law firms, chambers and professionals, undertakes a comprehensive programme of skills development and gives hands-on experience through competitions, including in mooting, debating, negotiation, client interviewing and mock trials. The Law Group and

the Society also offer a range of careers events throughout the year, including Expert Panels, Alumni Presentations and an annual Cheese and Wine Networking Evening.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

There is no Masters QAA Benchmark Statement for Law. For the UG Law Subject Benchmark Statement (4th Edition, November 2019) see

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-law.pdf?sfvrsn=b939c881_18

6. Programme Structure

Module Code and Title	Core or Elective	Credits
LAW721 Legal Theory: Themes and Debates	Core	30
LAW722 Research Methods in Law	Core	30
2 electives from:	Elective	30
LAW723 Challenges in the Digital Economy		
LAW724 Children, Rights and the State		
LAW725 Contemporary Themes in Environmental Law and Policy		
LAW726 Independent Research Portfolio in Law*		
LAW727 International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law		
CRIM747 Global Inequality, Vulnerability and Justice**		
LAW720 Law Dissertation	Core	60

*This elective may replace a LAW elective module where the timetable or insufficient numbers means one of the stated LAW elective modules is not available for delivery. It is designed to only offer the opportunity to study that elective's subject-matter and thus cannot be studied in this format if being studied, or has already been studied, as a delivered module

**This elective is only available if previous completed study (e.g. at UG level) includes Criminology/ Criminal Justice – requests to select the module will be considered by the Programme Leader and relevant Module Leader. Please note:

- This module is delivered in a distance learning mode and cannot be selected by Tier IV students. For further information on delivery, please see the Module Record.
- Part-time students can only select this module in their second year of study.

LL.M Law Programme Full-time

LL.M Law Full-time (one year) shading indicates core modules		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3/ Summer
LAW721 Legal Theory: Themes and Debates (30 credits)	1 elective (30 credits) from list above	
LAW722 Research Methods in Law (30 credits)	1 elective (30 credits) from list above	
	LAW720 Law Dissertation (60 credits)	

LL.M Law Programme Part-time

LL.M Law Part-time (two years) shading indicates core modules			
Year 1	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3/ Summer
	LAW721 Legal Theory: Themes and Debates (30 credits)	1 elective (30 credits) from list above*	
Year 2	LAW722 Research Methods in Law (30 credits)	1 elective (30 credits) from list above	
		LAW720 Law Dissertation (60 credits)	

*excluding CRIM747

7. Programme Aims

The LL.M aims to inspire students to engage critically with the law from various perspectives, including theory, policy, application, practice, regulation and potential transformative reform.

Specifically the programme aims to:

- be informative, challenging and rigorous, to establish a knowledge base suitable for specialist application (**Knowledge**)
- integrate the key postgraduate competencies of synthesis and problem solving to produce transformative solutions (**Intellectual skills - problem solving**)
- extend research competencies through engagement with contemporary relevant applied research methodologies and interaction with the professional and research expertise of academic staff as well as external bodies and partners (e.g.

legal-professional, regulatory, NGO and third sector organisations) (**Research and professional partnerships**)

- integrate ethical appreciation of legal regulation through the context of multiple dimensions including environmental, social, economic and cultural (**Ethical base**)
- encourage and support students whilst they develop and apply technical and generic skills that facilitate continuing professional development and life-long learning (**Personal and professional developmental skills**)
- produce postgraduates who are autonomous learners, self-motivators and who can make a significant contribution to their professional field be that as practitioner, researcher and/or policy maker (**Professional employability skills**)

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

These learning outcomes are constructed to align to [SEEC Level 7 Descriptors](#) (2016); and the [QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) (2014, Section 4). They follow-on from the undergraduate [QAA Benchmark Statement for Law](#) (4th edition, November 2019).

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) A comprehensive understanding of research methodologies and theories appropriate to the advanced study of law
- 2) A comprehensive, systematic and critical understanding of theories, principles, frameworks and contemporary issues at the forefront of the academic discipline of law, both national and international

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The skills to offer informed critical analysis and evaluation of complex legal principles, regulation and policy and to suggest innovative solutions and approaches based on that critique
- 2) The ability to synthesise law, policy and practice to novel areas of enquiry to generate and present transformative solutions
- 3) The ability to problem solve through creative application of the law to novel and/or complex situations
- 4) The ability to design and implement research to investigate a contemporary and/or significant issue in legal theory, policy and/or practice

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Independently recognise issues and problems arising in various complex settings and formulate practical solutions
- 2) Incorporate understanding of ethical dimensions to legal theory and/or practice and manage the implications of ethical dilemmas

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to critically reflect on personal performance and professional attributes and to act autonomously exercising personal initiative and responsibility
- 2) The skills and capabilities to communicate effectively in various contexts and to a variety of audiences

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to engage independently in decision-making, reflect on recommended courses of action, and accept responsibility for actions
- 2) The skills to conduct autonomous research and to selectively access, analyse, evaluate and apply a range of IT skills and resources, including appropriate legal databases

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

Admission will comply with the [University Policy for Admissions to Taught Programmes of Study](#) and be determined by the Law Admissions Tutor in conjunction with the LL.M Programme Leader.

The normal entry qualifications are: an Honours degree in Law with a minimum of a 2:2 classification from a UK university. An Honours degree with some inclusion of Law or in a related discipline, such as Criminology or other social science, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

International applicants should view the [country specific pages](#) for further information regarding the equivalency of their degree, which if a non-Law degree will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants who do not have English as a first language are required to provide proof of proficiency in English, in which case they are required to attain minimum test scores of 6.5 (and minimum 5.5 in writing) for IELTS or 575 paper-based, 90 internet-based and 232 computer-based for TOEFL.

Applicants who do not have appropriate Higher Education qualifications may be admitted to the programme on the basis of relevant prior experience if they can demonstrate the potential to successfully complete the programme. The Admissions Tutor/ Programme Leader may require such applicants to provide further evidence to support their application and undertake an interview.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

See Section A Academic Regulations

10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

As per University Regulations (see Section E Academic Regulations)

11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

Appendix

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT) module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

- 1. LLM FULL-TIME**
- 2. LLM PART-TIME**

1. LLM Full-time

Module	Credits	Core Elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)										Compensation Y/N*	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical				
			8.1 Knowledge & understanding		8.2 Cognitive & intellectual skills				8.3 Key & transferable skills		8.4 Employment related skills				8.5 Practical skills			
			1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2			1	2		
Legal Theory: Themes and Debates	30	C	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		N	C1 (100%)
Research Methods in Law	30	C	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		N	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 60 credits (PGCert)			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Challenges in the Digital Economy	30	E		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			✓		Y	C1 (100%)
Children, Rights and the State	30	E		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓		✓		Y	C1 (70%) P1 (30%)
Contemporary Themes in Environmental Law and Policy	30	E		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		Y	C1 (100%)
Independent Research Portfolio in Law	30	E		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓			✓		Y	C1 (100%)
International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law	30	E		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓		✓		Y	C1 (80%) P1 (20%)
Global Inequality, Vulnerability and Justice	30	E		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓							Y	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 120 credits (PGDip)			✓	✓	✓	**	**	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Law Dissertation	60	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	N	C1 (100%)
Confirmed Award LOs 180 credits (LLM)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		

*as per University regulations, modules that can be compensated will be so only where the module mark is no more than 5% less than 50%; maximum compensation is 0 credits PGCert; 30 credits PGDip; and 30 credits LLM

**depends on elective modules selected

2. LLM Part-time

Module	Credits	Core Elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)												Compensation Y/N*	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical	
			Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills		Employment related skills		Practical skills				
			1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	1	2			
Year 1 (one elective Semester 2)																	
Legal Theory: Themes and Debates	30	C	✓		✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	N	C1 (100%)
Challenges in the Digital Economy	30	E		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓		Y	C1 (100%)
Children, Rights and the State	30	E		✓	✓					✓	✓		✓		✓	Y	C1 (70%) P1 (30%)
Contemporary Themes in Environmental Law and Policy	30	E		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		Y	C1 (100%)
Independent Research Portfolio in Law	30	E		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		Y	C1 (100%)
International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law	30	E		✓	✓	✓						✓		✓		Y	C1 (80%) P1 (20%)
Global Inequality, Vulnerability and Justice	30	E		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓						Y	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 60 credits (PGCert)			✓	✓	✓	**	**	✓	**	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Year 2 (one elective Semester 2)																	
Research Methods in Law	30	C	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	N	C1 (100%)
Challenges in the Digital Economy	30	E		✓	✓			✓				✓		✓		Y	C1 (100%)

Children, Rights and the State	30	E		✓		✓				✓	✓			✓		✓	Y	C1 (70%) P1 (30%)
Contemporary Themes in Environmental Law and Policy	30	E		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	Y	C1 (100%)
Independent Research Portfolio in Law	30	E		✓		✓				✓				✓			Y	C1 (100%)
International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law	30	E		✓		✓	✓				✓			✓			Y	C1 (80%) P1 (20%)
Global Inequality, Vulnerability and Justice	30	E		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓						Y	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 120 credits (PGDip)				✓	✓	✓	**	**		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Law Dissertation	60	C	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		N	C1 (100%)
Confirmed Award LOs 180 credits (LLM)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

*as per University regulations, modules that can be compensated will be so only where the module mark is no more than 5% less than 50%; maximum compensation is 0 credits PGCert; 30 credits PGDip; and 30 credits LLM

**depends on elective modules selected