

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	LLM Qualifying Law Degree (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Cert (60 Credits) and PG Dip (120 Credits)
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	Law Department
Location of delivery	Central London/online
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (2 years) Part-time (3 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Bar Standards Board Solicitor's Regulation Authority (relevant for students who began their degree before 01 September 2021)
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMLLAWIP_C (on-campus study) TMLLAWMX_C (flexible study) TMLLAWON_C (online study)*see below
HECoS Code	100485
Start date of programme	Autumn 2013
Date of programme approval	Summer 2012
Date of last programme amendment approval	July 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	08/08/2025

*Note this programme includes in-person assessments for all routes of study.

Admissions requirements

- Applicants should have at least a 2:2 or equivalent in their first degree. Admission is at the discretion of the admissions tutor.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet the College's English language requirements.
- Credit for previous equivalent law studies may allow transfer into Year 2 at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

The LLM QLD is designed both for those who wish to pursue a career in Law as well as those with an academic interest in the subject - providing a comprehensive grounding in the seven foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas.

Professional Qualification

The programme satisfies the first stage (academic) of professional qualification laid down by the Bar Standard's Board (<http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/>) and the Solicitor's Regulation Authority (for those who began their degrees before 01 September 2022) (<http://www.sra.org.uk/home/home.page>). It also provides a foundation for the functional legal knowledge tested on the Single Qualifying Exam (Part One) set by the Solicitor's Regulatory authority.

Students who successfully complete study of the LLM/QLD are guaranteed progression to the University of Law, which provides short and long courses to prepare students for sitting the Single Qualifying Exam (parts one and two).

Academic

The LLM QLD will provide students with a rigorous academic experience satisfying the requirements of the University of London at the master's level. More specifically the programme aims to:

- provide postgraduate degree programmes which give a comprehensive grounding in foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas;
- provide students with a deep understanding of major legal concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system, legislation and case law;
- provide a broad appreciation of the range of possible approaches to legal scholarship;
- promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law at masters level, which enables students to make use of theoretical frameworks developed in law, the humanities and social sciences;
- place the study of law within its historical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context;
- provide students with knowledge of a representative range of contemporary debates in law informed by an awareness of how the law has developed over time;
- bridge the gap between students' understanding of the theory and practice of law; enable students to identify, locate and appraise legal materials
- provide students with a range of subject specific and transferable skills which develop their capacity to learn, meet the needs of the wider society and prepare students for employment or further studies. These include IT literacy and the ability to work independently and in a group.

Distinctive Features

The LLM QLD course has two distinctive features. The first feature is that it is a qualifying law degree at postgraduate level. The conventional qualifying law degree programme in the UK is an LLB, which is at undergraduate level. Another route to qualification is the GDL, a one-year conversion course that teaches postgraduates students the basic rules of law in preparation for the courses and examinations set out by the relevant regulatory bodies. Our LLM QLD programme both gives students a rigorous theoretical understanding of law, deeper than a GDL course would, while preparing them to enter into the legal profession as practitioners. The second feature is its structure of teaching is designed for students who need to balance study with paid work, family or other commitments but desire to study in an environment led by academic staff with extensive research expertise and publications in the field of study. Specific features include:

- All compulsory classes are taught between 6pm and 9pm, Monday –Thursday
- Flexible pathways of study, enabling completion within a minimum of two and a maximum of three years.
- Choice of studying in-person, or online.
- The option to complete a supervised Research Project
- Access to optional modules in the fields of human rights, criminal justice, commercial and legal practice as well as to a range of distinctive optional subjects relating to the research of academic staff.
- For online students, the course offers enhanced flexibility, whereby students may study at their own pace during the week.

Note: the programme includes in-person assessments for all routes of study.

Course structure

(All compulsory modules are available in-person and online)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp/ Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time - 2 years					
Year 1					
6	LALA158S6	Legal Systems and Methods (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-2
6	LADD060S6	Constitutional and Administrative Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-2
6	LADD058S6	Contract Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-2
7	LADD062S7	Criminal Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T2-3
Year 2					
7	LADD063S7	Tort Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-2
7	LALW098H7	Foundations of Property (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T1
7	LALW099H7	Land Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T2
7	LALW100H7	Trusts Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T1
7	LALW067H7	Law of the European Union (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T3

7	Various	Option Modules	60	Option	T1,2 or 3
Part-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
6	LALA158S6	Legal Systems and Methods (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
6	LADD060S6	Constitutional and Administrative Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
6	LADD058S6	Contract Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
Year 2					
7	LADD063S7	Tort Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
7	LADD062S7	Criminal Law (Senior Status)	30	Compulsory	T2-T3
	LALW098H7	Foundations of Property (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T1
7	LALW099H7	Land Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T2
Year 3					
7	LALW067H7	Law of the European Union (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T3
7	LALW100H7	Trusts Law (Senior Status)	15	Compulsory	T1
7	Various	Option Modules	60	Option	T1, 2 or 3
List of indicative optional modules					
7	LALW068H7	Adult Relations (Senior Status)	15	Option	T1
7	LALW069H7	Banking and Monetary Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T1
7	LALW070H7	Child Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T2
7	LALW071H7	Immigration Pt 1: Fundamentals of UK Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T2
7	LALW075H7	Law, History and Political Violence (Senior Status)	15	Option	T2
7	LALW125H7	Wills, Probate and Inheritance (Senior Status)	15	Option	T2
Indicative options expected to be offered in hyflex (available both online and in-person) (Note: this may vary by year.)					
7	LALA167S7	Research Project LLM QLD	30	Option	T2-T3
7	LALW071H7	UK Immigration Law	15	Option	T1
7	LALW119H7	Competition Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T1
7	LALW077H7	Evidence (Senior Status)	15	Option	T2
7	LALW101H7	Legal Argument and Language in Law (Senior Status)	15	Option	T1

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

The School of Law employs a variety of teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved. In particular we promote student learning through lectures (prerecorded and in person); seminars; virtual learning environments including online seminars; student led study groups facilitated by the school and made available to remote students; private tutorials; web based independent skills tutorials; weekend and pre-sessional skills workshops; public lectures and research seminars. We employ a diversity of assessment tools including independent research essays, in-person exams, group work, oral presentations, reflective journals and creative and critical thinking exercises.

For students studying the course online, all compulsory and optional modules will be taught through the same mixture of pre-recorded lectures and face-to-face live online teaching sessions as is the case with the in-person iteration of the course (ie., students will receive a minimum of 1.5 hours of face-to-face teaching per week for each course taught; although the 15 hours of face-to-face teaching per term per course may, for some modules, be delivered in more condensed teaching blocks). Please note that some modules on this programme include in-person assessments.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

- problem questions
- short critical essays
- seen and unseen in-person exams
- legal research essays
- workbooks
- group projects
- oral presentations and discussions
- reflective writing
- multiple choice exercises
- critical thinking exercises
- focused legal skills exercises

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Subject-specific skills

On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify, explain and critically assess, orally and in writing, the main characteristics of the legal system, including general familiarity with its institutions and procedures
- Demonstrate a cogent and nuanced understanding of the detail of the law and its context, in and beyond the seven foundational subjects: Constitutional and Administrative Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Tort, Law, Property Law, Equity and Trusts, and Law of the European Union
- Interpret, analyse and apply legal rules and principles, orally and in writing, to factual scenarios
- Distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and evaluate the strength of legal argumentation in decided cases and academic commentary
- Identify, retrieve and use legal sources and sources of academic commentary selectively and judiciously, including the ability to distinguish between authoritative legal and scholarly sources and unreliable sources
- Interrogate these materials in terms of their legal meaning, authority and effects in different contexts. This may include empirical, analytical, and/or theoretical methods, and/or the critical apprehension of methods for understanding legal knowledge and techniques
- Identify and critically analyse contemporary legal debates
- Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and critical analysis of a range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules, and an ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of particular areas
- Identify and demonstrate depth of knowledge of some of the political, economic, commercial, social and cultural factors that inform and underlie legal theory and doctrine
- Understand and explain complex aspects of the problems, tensions and contradictions within certain legal theories and doctrines
- Critically discuss contemporary public and scholarly debates about legal issues
- Compose cogent argumentative analyses of and arguments about the law in writing that is clear, well-reasoned and persuasive
- Expound and defend cogent arguments about the law in oral communication that is clear, well-reasoned, confident and persuasive
- Apply the above abilities independently in spontaneous written and oral communication including in time-constrained contexts
- Conduct in-depth legal research on specific legal topics that demonstrates legal and scholarly understanding and judgment
- Write in-depth, well-composed legal analyses which exhibit detailed legal scholarship and clear, well-reasoned and persuasive argumentation
- Defend, elaborate and interrogate arguments about law in spontaneous oral dialogue that is clear, well-reasoned, confident and persuasive
- Display appropriate independence, agility and depth of thought in respect of the above abilities and contexts

General/transferrable skills and capacities that are essential to law

On successful completion of the course, you will have developed the following:

- Intellectual independence, including the ability to ask and answer cogent questions, identify gaps in their knowledge and acquire new knowledge, and engage in critical analysis and evaluation
- Problem-solving, including initiative, imagination and pragmatic judgment
- Adeptness in conducting independent research, including accurate recognition of issue(s), the identification, retrieval and evaluation of accurate, current and relevant information from a diverse range of appropriate sources, and their appropriate application
- Ability to work with a range of data, including textual, numerical and statistical
- Clear, effective and precise oral and written communication in responding appropriately and sensitively to a range of differing positions and arguments
- Digital literacy in finding, managing, creating and communicating information, including the informed and judicious use of emerging AI tools
- Self-management, including an ability to reflect on their own learning, make effective use of feedback, a willingness to listen to advice and to acknowledge and correct errors
- Willingness and ability to work collaboratively
- Engagement with their own personal and professional development, including appreciation of the core values of professional honesty and academic integrity
- Understanding of ethical conflicts that may arise and how to make reasoned, balanced judgements to resolve them
- Development of personal integrity and an awareness of the potential ethical impacts of decision-making

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in the legal profession, or use the degree to develop their existing career, further their academic skills, or prepare for a research degree. Many of our graduates go on to vocational training and obtain solicitors' training contracts and pupillages in barristers' chambers. Possible professions include:

- barrister
- solicitor
- patent attorney
- barrister's clerk.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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